

NAPT – Transfinder Webinar

Questions and Answers

1.) Our state wants to get information out sooner rather than later, do we have an estimated time frame when some information will go out? Even if it is in phases vs. waiting for all of it to be put into a whitepaper?

Tim A – The target date for release is early July recognizing that many districts will have school starts within six weeks of that time frame.

2.) Will there be guidance about a best practice/means to survey parents to gauge what will more likely be the true number of students requesting/requiring transportation for this school year? This will allow efforts to focus on a more real number of students after home schooled/parent transports are eliminated for initial consideration. The number will be fluid but probably only increase slowly as parent comfort increases. This may also help with possible bigger than usual driver shortage due to at-risk drivers.

Tim A – As part of our data collection efforts, the Communications, Advocacy, and Public Relations (CAP) Sub-committee will gather information on opt-in processes in the various states to provide sample language to districts that are considering the establishment of opt-in processes.

3.) At this time many contractors have decided not to renew contracts as so many districts right now do not have contracts in place. How is this going to affect our openings?

Tim A – Failure to engage a service provider will be a significant disruption to the delivery of educational services. The unfortunate consequence is that everyday without a service provider in place is a day where specific plans on coronavirus responses cannot be designed, tested, revised, and implemented. As a result, every effort should be made to create a provider relationship as soon as feasible to ensure that the development of strategies and practices can begin as soon as possible.

4.) When this webinar comes to our email do we have permission or can we get permission to print off the slides of guidance from today to share with our BOE?

Tim A – posted on the Transfinder site. <https://www.transfinder.com/resources/Best-Practices-Recorded-Webinars>

5.) Is there a taskforce in each state or one for all states? How do we know who to contact inside our closet or local task force?

Tim A – there are task forces in a number of states, but only one STARTS task force. If you want to find out more please contact your State Director or the head of your local Association for Pupil Transportation chapter.

6.) Are their members on the task force such as nurses for health & safety, a communication Director for communications & PR, to provide their input which may provide a viewpoint that a transportation employee may not be able to recognize?

Tim A – not specifically. However, individuals on the committees do have a range of skills that address each of the specific concerns of the committees. Additionally, the committees will be tasked with reaching out to designated resources to support their individual mandates.

7.) Where can we find the results of the task force's research?

Tim A – the results of the Task Force research will be made available through the final deliverables including the detailed report and associated resources.

8.) We start special needs transportation 6/12. Are there any updates on guidelines for social distancing, drivers wearing glasses required to wear masks, air conditioning vs. open windows?

Tim A – This is a highly localized question and would likely be provided through a Department of Education or Public Health.

9.) Maintaining a safe haven for students and drivers seems not to be an issue, PPE, Cleaning of buses and Health and well checks for drivers. The main issue as I see it is capacity. Due to social distancing some medical professionals have said if students come from the same home and are deemed healthy they may sit 2 in a seat. Also, I have seen when necessary a row may not be skipped. Are the CDC guidelines an absolute rule in this?

Tim A – This is a highly localized question and would likely be provided through a Department of Education or Public Health. The guidelines provided by the CDC are just that, guidelines. They have no force of law or regulations and consequently, by themselves, are not an absolute rule. However, it will be necessary to determine whether a particular state or district has utilized the guidelines to formulate a specific rule or mandate.

10.) Would Sneeze guards in front of seats on buses allow us to put on student to a seat without skipping rows? We have reached out to CHP if its legal. Would other districts consider this?

Tim A - This continues to be a common question. The decision will initially be a local one, but as Curt mentioned during the webinar a role of the CAP is to determine what additional topics the organizations should lobby elected and administrative officials to address for changes to existing rules, regulations, and administrative guidelines.