



**The City of New York  
BUSINESS INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

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Noah D. Genel  
*Commissioner and Chair*

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***Vision Zero Safety Bulletin:  
COVID-19-Related Safety Concerns***

To all trade waste licensees and registrants:

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how we live and work in New York City in many ways, including creating new challenges regarding traffic safety. Safety is the top priority when operating trade waste trucks. The following are new or heightened safety concerns on City streets as a result of the pandemic, to be shared with your company's drivers, helpers and supervisors.

- **Narrower or closed streets as a result of Outdoor Dining:** As part of the City's Open Restaurants program, many restaurants and bars have created outdoor seating on public streets, which narrows the streets in those spots. Drivers must be aware of these areas and proceed with increased caution.
- **SLOW DOWN:** Speeding remains a significant factor in fatal crashes. During the pandemic, instances of speeding throughout the City have increased. (*See Mayor's Office Vision Zero press release, dated December 22, 2020*) ("the COVID-19 pandemic led to unsafe driving speeds on emptier city streets"). The press release is available here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/882-20/vision-zero-de-blasio-administration-increase-traffic-safety-measures-call-state-approve>. Drivers must adhere to all posted speed limits – including around school zones – yield to pedestrians, and follow all other traffic laws. Even a small difference in vehicle speed can make a big difference in safety – a pedestrian struck by a vehicle travelling at 30 MPH is twice as likely to be killed as one struck by a vehicle travelling at 25 MPH.
- **Increased number of cyclists and other micro-mobility users:** Since the start of the pandemic, more people are traveling on bicycles, e-bikes and e-scooters. Riders on such micro-mobility devices can move unpredictably, especially if they are new to commuting by this mode. Trade waste truck drivers must stay alert and proceed cautiously when encountering users on these vehicles. Drivers must be vigilant and aware of their surroundings and those around them at all times, even when stopped at a red light. Helpers should assist drivers in spotting vulnerable road users, including cyclists, e-bikes and e-scooters, on the street to avoid potential collisions.

- **Monitor for pedestrians:** Masks and other face coverings may obstruct pedestrians' vision. As a result, they may move unpredictably. Exercise additional caution when driving in areas dense with pedestrian activity. Again, helpers should assist drivers in spotting other road users, including pedestrians in the street.