



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

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*Commissioner and Chair*

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## ***Vision Zero Safety Bulletin: Back to School 2020***

To all trade waste licensees and registrants:

The City of New York's public schools will begin full-day teaching and learning on Monday, September 21, 2020. The academic school year will include blended learning, a combination of in-person and remote learning. Children will be walking to school and our city's streets will be filled with buses and passenger vehicles dropping off children at schools.

When operating trade waste trucks, safety is the top priority. We must ensure the safety of all school-age children. All licensees and registrants – including drivers and helpers – must operate with this principle in mind.

### **REMEMBER:**

- *Slow down – especially near schools, parks, and intersections.* Although the City speed limit is 25 MPH, designated “school zones” often have signs indicating a lower speed limit and/or other safety measures such as speed bumps to reduce speed. Driving 20 MPH or less in these areas can make the difference in a crash. Before turning, drivers must pause, use turn signals, scan for pedestrians and cyclists, double-check their mirrors and be aware of the vehicle's obstructed vision spots. Remember, the City has expanded its school-zone speed camera [program](#) and reduced the speed limit on nine major corridors.
- *Encourage drivers and helpers to stay well rested.* Drivers need adequate rest to safely operate trade waste collection vehicles. The National Football League season can pose a challenge in that regard. A 2017 study showed that waste collection vehicle drivers were involved in more drowsy-driving-related incidents during the first four months of the football season compared to the rest of the year. The study analyzed video telematics from 33,000 drivers working for five of the largest private waste companies in the U.S. from 2012 to 2016. The NFL season began on September 10, 2020. Drivers must be sure to get a proper amount of rest prior to reporting for work.

- *Consider voluntary sleep apnea screening and testing.* Even drivers who get the recommended seven to eight hours of sleep still may not be getting enough rest due to sleep disorders, like sleep apnea. Sleep apnea disrupts sleep and is the leading cause of excessive daytime sleepiness. Yet, it often goes undiagnosed. Testing drivers for sleep apnea is another way of helping to keep our streets safe.
- *Combat drowsy driving:* The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the following fact sheet highlighting signs of drowsy driving and ways to prevent it: <https://www.cdc.gov/Features/dsdrowsydriving/drowsy-driving-infographic.pdf>

Safety is everyone's concern. Together, we can help achieve the City's Vision Zero goal of ending traffic-related deaths and injuries in New York City.



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*The 2020 Census is ending on September 30 and it is critical that all New Yorkers are counted. New York City stands to lose billions of dollars in federal aid every single year for schools, hospitals, health clinics, affordable housing, transportation, and more, as well as our representation in Congress and in Albany if we do not achieve a complete count.*

*The census is easy, safe, and confidential. It can be completed online or by phone; it is just 10 simple questions that can be answered in under 10 minutes. By law, all responses are completely confidential and cannot be shared with anyone. Go to [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) or call 844-330-2020 to complete your census today. New York City's future depends on it.*