

# TRAFFIC NEWSLETTER

DMV Administrator's Office □ 1905 Lana Avenue NE □ Salem, Oregon 97314  
[Vol. 32, No. 2, April 2020](#)

**COVID-19 Driver License Replacement Process**

**Effective April 17, 2020**

Due to COVID-19, DMV's process for issuing replacement driver licenses is being temporarily altered. This notice is to request that law enforcement exercise discretion when encountering members of the public who are driving without a physical driver license.

Current DMV process requires individuals to visit a DMV field office in order to apply for and obtain a replacement driver license. Due to DMV field office closures, customers are unable to comply with this requirement.

DMV is continuing to reinstate driving privileges and update driving records. However, during the time that DMV field offices are closed, in lieu of issuing a driver license, an advisory letter will be sent to individuals with the following language:

***"A replacement of your Oregon driver license cannot be issued while the state is operating under Executive Order No. 20-12, Governor Brown's "Stay Home, Save Lives" state of emergency order.***

***Keep this letter with you and present it to law enforcement if requested, the same as you would your driver license.***

*Under the governor's Executive Order, DMV has placed limitations on public access to Oregon DMV offices. Please note that DMV field offices are currently not issuing non-commercial licenses.*

*Your driving record has been updated to display your current driving privileges and restrictions. Law enforcement is able to view the current status of your driving privileges electronically.*

- *If you currently have an identification card in your possession, carry it in addition to this letter at all times while driving.*
- *If you do not have an Oregon driver license or identification card, carry this letter at all times while driving.*
- *Your driving privileges are valid as of the date of this letter. Your driving record will be updated should any change in your driving privileges occur.*
- *This serves as temporary proof of driving privileges. You will need to apply for a replacement license when services become available.*

*DMV has requested Oregon law enforcement agencies exercise discretion in their enforcement of failure to carry or present driver licenses during this current state of emergency. Carry this advisory letter with you at all times while driving.*

***Please follow the governor's guidelines once the Executive Order has been lifted.  
We recommend that you visit our website [OregonDMV.com](http://OregonDMV.com)***

**COVID-19 Hardship Permit Process****Effective April 17, 2020**

Due to COVID-19, the process in which DMV issues and the requirements regarding hardship permits will need to be temporarily altered. This notice is to request that law enforcement officers exercise discretion when encountering members of the public who are driving with a hardship permit.

Upon issuance of a hardship permit letter (issued from DMV Headquarters), current DMV process requires individuals to visit a DMV field office in order to obtain a license with a "J" restriction on it. Due to the field office closures, customers who have been issued a hardship permit are unable to comply with the requirement to obtain a restricted driver license.

DMV is continuing to issue hardship permit letters and update driving records. However, during the time that DMV field offices are closed, an advisory letter will be sent to individuals with the following language:

***"Your hardship permit has been issued while the state is operating under Executive Order No. 20-12, Governor Brown's "Stay Home, Save Lives" state of emergency order.***

***While your hardship letter may indicate otherwise, you do NOT need to take this hardship letter to a DMV field office to obtain a driver license with a "J" restriction during this state of emergency. Keep this letter with your hardship permit letter and present it to law enforcement with your hardship permit letter if requested.***

*Under the governor's Executive Order, DMV has placed limitations on public access to Oregon DMV offices. Although we have issued you a hardship permit letter outlining your restrictions and informing you that you need to visit a DMV field office to obtain a driver license with a "J" restriction, please note that DMV field offices are currently not issuing non-commercial licenses.*

*Your driving record has been updated to display your current driving privileges and restrictions. Law enforcement is able to view the current status of your driving privileges electronically.*

- If you currently have an Oregon driver license or identification card in your possession, carry it in addition to this letter and your hardship permit letter at all times while driving within your restrictions.*
- If you do not have an Oregon driver license or identification card, carry this letter and your hardship permit letter at all times while driving within your restrictions.*
- As of the date your hardship permit was issued, you have valid but restricted driving privileges. Your driving record will be updated should any change in your driving privileges occur.*

*DMV has requested Oregon law enforcement agencies exercise discretion in their enforcement of failure to carry or present driver licenses in conjunction with a hardship permit. Carry this advisory letter with your hardship permit letter at all times while driving within your restrictions.*

***This guidance is in effect only during the "Stay Home, Save Lives" period. Please follow the governor's guidelines once the Executive Order has been lifted. We recommend that you visit our website, [OregonDMV.com](http://OregonDMV.com), to learn more after this period has ended.***

*Once your suspension and hardship permit has ended, please contact DMV Customer Assistance at 503-945-5000 to fully reinstate your driving privileges."*

DMV requests that law enforcement use discretion when interacting with hardship permit holders who may not have a driver license with a “J” restriction or a physical driver license, due to DMV’s inability to issue replacement licenses at this time. To verify that a driver has a valid hardship permit, please refer to the LEDS hardship indicator.

<b>Read ID Process and Extension</b>	<b>Effective July 6, 2020</b>
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Beginning October 1, 2021, if you want to board a domestic commercial aircraft or access secure federal facilities such as military bases, you will need a federally acceptable form of identification. You will need a Real ID-compliant driver license, permit or ID card, or a passport or other federally acceptable ID. Oregon DMV will begin to issue optional Real ID-compliant driver licenses, permits and identification cards on July 6, 2020.

Real ID will be optional for Oregonians. Those who already have federally acceptable ID (such as a passport or military ID) or do not travel via commercial flights do not need Real ID, and are encouraged to wait until their regular renewal date before considering whether to get the Real ID option.

A Real ID is not proof of citizenship. Real IDs can be issued to citizens, legal permanent residents, and those with temporary lawful status. Applicants for Real ID must provide additional documentation, such as proof of Social Security number and two proofs of address, as well as pay an additional fee.

The visible difference between the Real ID and standard card can be found in the upper-right corner in the Oregon cutout. Real ID compliant cards will have a star in the upper right corner. Standard cards do not have the star, and beginning July 6, 2020, will have the language “Not for REALID Act” in the same place.

The standard license is no less secure than the Real ID version. Requirements for standard licenses, permits and ID cards are not changing. All applicants must prove identity, legal presence, age and Oregon residence. All Oregon driver licenses and ID cards contain many security features that make it very difficult to alter, counterfeit, duplicate or modify the card without detection. While the process required by the Department of Homeland Security to obtain a Real ID card is different than for a standard card, the standard cards will have the same security features.

For more information about Real ID in Oregon, visit [Oregon.gov/RealID](http://Oregon.gov/RealID).

DMV-related questions may be directed to (503) 945-5000 or (503) 299-9999 (Portland Metro Area). For more information about Oregon disabled parking permits, visit the DMV website at <https://www.oregondmv.com>.

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