



RESPONSES TO COVID-19:

AGENCY OVERVIEWS, UPDATES, AND CHANGES IN SERVICE

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Sonja Nowakowski

MONTANA MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION

ONLINE AND MAIL IN SERVICES

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic and at the request of Attorney General Fox, and under a directive from Governor Bullock, a number of extensions and changes remain in place providing driver and vehicle service alternatives to customers.

The Department of Justice's Motor Vehicle Division and County Treasurers' Offices continue to offer services while implementing social distancing and restricting public access.

MVD and Counties are continuing to service customers and MVD encourages Montanans to use the online or mail-in renewal options.

- Online renewal is available for Class D driver licenses, the most common license held by Montanans, expiring in the next six months or are within the three-month grace period. Online renewal is available for commercial driver licenses expiring in the next six months or are within the three-month grace period.
- Mail-in renewal is available for Montana driver licenses, including Class D and CDL, expiring in the next 6 months or expired on or after March 16, 2019.
- April 1 to July 31, 8,072 Montanas utilized the mail-in renewal service and 1,721 Montana's utilized the online renewal system.
- Certain requirements for online or mail-in driver license renewals are also suspended. Montanans who need to renew a driver's license may self-certify their ability to drive instead of requiring forms signed by medical and vision professionals. Online and mail-in renewals are valid for a maximum of two years and will be offered for the duration of the declared state-of-emergency.
- Vehicle renewals can be handled online and by mail. Vehicle registration renewals may be completed online up to 30 days past the month shown on the vehicle's registration tab. The Division provides information on online and mail-in renewals on the <https://dojmt.gov/driving/vehicleservices/>

Keep up-to-date with updates in service at:
<https://dojmt.gov/driving/mvd-service-updates/>

DRIVER SERVICES

While Toole County temporarily closed a driver license station for one day, all stations are now open for in-person visits, including drive tests.

For noncommercial driver licenses with April, May, and June expiration dates, the expiration dates were extended for an additional 90 days. Driving records will report these licenses as valid in the system but the physical card will show expired.

In addition to the renewal extensions, new Montana residents have a 90-day extension for securing a Montana driver license.

The number of Out-of-State License Transfers have fluctuated due to COVID-19. June saw the highest increase with a 36% jump.

STATEWIDE OSL	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
	29%	11%	-14%	-29%	-16%	36%	-4%
2020 TOTAL	1,778	1,435	1,415	1,253	1,488	2,237	2,021
2019 TOTAL	1,380	1,298	1,649	1,759	1,764	1,642	2,106

FEDERAL WAIVERS FOR COMMERCIAL DRIVERS

The Federal Motor Carrier Administration (FMCSA) continues to grant waivers to assist commercial drivers. The Governor’s directive authorized MVD to administer commercial driver licensing consistent with these waivers.

Montana is using the waivers to:

- Generally, extend the expiration dates of commercial driver licenses (CDL), commercial learner permits (CLP), and medical examiner’s certificates (MEC) to September 30, 2020, with certain terms, conditions, and restrictions.
- MVD system will report expiration dates as follows:
 - Up until August 28, 2020, driving records will report these licenses as valid in the system but the physical card will show expired.
 - After August 28, 2020, driving records will show all licenses with a previous expiration date as expired.
- Commercial drivers who want a hazardous materials endorsement (HME) must have a TSA assessment before they are able to test for the HME. The expiration dates for the CDL and HME are the same. MVD is generally extending the hazardous materials endorsement (HME) to match the extension of the CDL expiration date. However, commercial drivers must have a current TSA assessment to renew their CDL with a HME and must renew in person at a driver license station.

OTHER SERVICES

MVD created a dedicated email at MVDcovid19@mt.gov to handle inquiries from the public.

The Interlock Program continues to operate under alternative operational parameters, including an extension on the calibration cycle, mail-in calibration services, and a remote resetting of an equipment lockout.

VEHICLE SERVICES

For vehicle title work, owners have a 90-day extension to title and register vehicles transferred after March 16, 2020. Dealerships also have a 90-day extension to submit a customer's paperwork to county offices.

Additionally, new Montana residents have a 90-day extension to register and title vehicles.

Many county offices are conducting business under altered services and MVD has compiled information outlining special conditions by county. An overview of all 56 counties is available <https://dojmt.gov/driving/mvd-service-updates/>.

OTHER ACTIONS

Offices are in compliance with the Governor's directive requiring face coverings in public spaces, practicing social distancing. A limited number of customers are allowed in waiting rooms and spaces are wiped down hourly and after each customer. Plexiglass guards are installed at all permanent stations.

At MVD Headquarters, employees who are able continue to work from home. To maintain social distancing, staff workspaces are spread throughout the building to keep occupancy between 50-75% of capacity. Employees continue to conduct meetings by phone or online resources. Socializing and movement between workspaces and floors in the building is limited.

REAL ID

On March 26, President Trump announced that the REAL ID enforcement date would be postponed until October 1, 2021 due to COVID-19. Montanans are not required to get a REAL ID compliant license or ID. However, a Montana REAL ID compliant license or ID or other form of federally recognized identification will be required to fly domestically or access federal facilities by October 1, 2021. As of July 31, 2020, Montana has issued 90,652 REAL ID compliant licenses or IDs.

For more information on REAL ID, go to <https://mtrealid.gov>.