A close up of a sign

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May 5,2020

To all students and parents,

As some of you may have heard this morning the State of Wisconsin has amended the procedure for students to obtain their drivers licenses. Beginning May 11,2020, Road tests for students who have completed the classroom and behind the wheel instruction (BTW)will now be allowed to get their license without the road test requirement as long as the parents sign a waiver form. The states reasoning behind this is that they were over 16,000 road tests behind due to Gov Evers shelter order. Each week they fall an additional 2,100 behind. Details will be listed below in copy of email that DOT sent to us.

With that being said, they are eliminating the backlog by waiving the road requirement and burying us in the process. I have spoken to several other driving schools who also are upset at the process. DOT has taken a great teaching tool we had to make sure students pay attention to details and have thrown it out the window. They also implied at start of shut down that they would be backlogged with tests therefore our backlog would take place aside of theirs. By both being alleviated at the same time it would not burden schools anymore than the DMV centers.

This morning, I have already taken over a dozen phone calls since the public announcement at 9am seeking appointments for students so they can finish. The biggest huddle is we still CAN NOT start behind the wheel lessons yet. We are allowing students to schedule through June now so the day we can re-open we can start with scheduled students. We will priority to students looking to schedule their 1st lesson and those scheduling their 4th,5th, or 6th lessons in the following manner.

8-10 am slots- 1st, ,5th or 6th lessons only

1015-1215 slots-, 2nd, 3rd or 4th lessons

Any afternoon spot open to all

If open spot less than 5 calendar days away-all can sign up

We can not yet resume behind the wheel lessons. Everyone needs to understand all schools including ours will be way behind and working to eliminate the backlog with part time instructors. My instructors have stated they will put in additional hours to help reduce the backlog. As this is not normally a full-time job for most as we work around students normally being in school most of the day. We could not train more instructors or get them tested at DMV during the shutdown even if trained. The whole process of training testing and licensing through DOT normally takes 2-3 months. Because of this we can not quickly fix this situation by hiring more instructors. PLEASE be patient and bear with us. The requirements for student training on our end have not changed. Students under 18 still need to complete the 30-hr. classroom instruction and complete 6hrs driving BTW and 6 hrs. observation. The shutdown of our driving lessons was not our choice.

Below is a copy of the DOT email with links for waivers. If you have completed the classroom and need a MV3001 form to get your instruction permit send an email with name and DOB to [-john@openroadsdrivingschool.com](mailto:-john@openroadsdrivingschool.com). Testing for permits will resume on May 11,2020 without appointment. Road testing for those that are mot waiving will not resume until May 26,2020, so I assume BTW lessons will not likely resume until then as well. This could change depending on Supreme court ruling as case is being heard today. Here is email-----

As our partner in driver training, we understand the toll COVID-19 has taken on your community and on your business. Although the situation is changing daily, we want you to be among the first to know the steps DMV is taking to deal with the backlog of demand for skills testing and serve our customers effectively. Due to the pandemic, there is a backlog of about 16,000 road tests with an additional demand of approximately 2,100 new drivers each week.

We ask that you refrain from sharing the following information with your customers or local media until Tuesday, May 5 at 9 a.m. We are planning to make this information available to the public on that day. We would like to ensure all schools are informed and DMV staff are available to respond to questions. We hope this advanced notice will help you address any questions you have prior to it becoming public.

DMV created two pilot programs and enhanced safety features in DMV Customer Service Centers to safely provide needed services and help keep everyone safe. DMV will announce the following new pilots to the public on May 5:

       The first pilot program is a road test waiver for 16-17-year-old drivers who successfully completed an approved Driver Education Program, including Behind-the-Wheel. Beginning May 11, those under 18 years may be eligible to have their **road test waived if their parent or guardian agrees.**

       The second pilot program allows eligible drivers to **renew their driver license online** and receive their new card in the mail. Please visit [wisconsindmv.gov/renewDL](http://wisconsindmv.gov/renewDL) for more information

Other adjustments to Class-D driver training and testing include:

       DMV **road tests resume** on May26 by appointment only which should be scheduled [online](https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/online-srvcs/other-servs/duplicate-license.aspx)

       On May 7 at 5 p.m., DMV will reopen the ability to **schedule road tests to those who had a road test previously scheduled and then cancelled.** This should be done [online](https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/online-srvcs/other-servs/duplicate-license.aspx)

o   DMV will send an email/text to those affected on May 7 with instructions

        Beginning May 8, DMV will reopen the ability for anyone who doesn’t qualify for the road test waiver or whose parents or guardians prefer a road test to schedule it [online](https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/online-srvcs/other-servs/duplicate-license.aspx)

o   Road tests will be modified to adhere to current safety practices and provide a safe environment for the novice driver and examiner

       DMV will resume issuing **Instruction Permits** and conducting **Knowledge Tests** beginning May 11. This does not require an appointment

       DMV Service Hours are extended week of May 11 and May 18, Monday through Friday 7am-5pm

**Additional Road Test Waiver Information**

       Who qualifies? Any person 16 or 17 years of age who:

o   Successfully completed an approved Driver Training Education Course

o   Held instruction permit for a minimum of 6 months

o   Successfully completed Behind-the-Wheel

o   Have parent or guardian sign the waiver to receive the road test waiver

       Who does not qualify?

o   Any person 18 years of age or older

o   Any person who has not successfully completed an approved Driver Training Education Course

o   Any person who has not completed Behind-the-Wheel

o   Any person who has previously failed a road test

o   Any person whose sponsor does not agree to having the road test waived

       How to apply

o   Driver Training Schools will submit student records as normal. DMV records will show completion status of the Driver Training Education course and Behind-the-Wheel

o   Students who meet the requirements should apply online through the road test waiver page [wisconsindmv.gov/testwaiver](https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/online-srvcs/other-servs/duplicate-license.aspx)

o   Normal fees apply

o   Sponsor (parent or guardian) will acknowledge full responsibility and sign waiver

o   DMV will convert license status from Instruction Permit to Probationary License

  PDF copy of new probationary license card is emailed for immediate use

  The driver should receive the physical Probationary License card via mail in 7-10 days

  Driver should print pdf if possible, or present email to Law Enforcement if necessary until physical card arrives

       About the waiver

o   Parent or guardian agrees to accept responsibility and vouch for the safe driving abilities of the new student

o   Parent or guardian will sign electronic agreement

o   The parent’s or guardian’s driver license or ID card number will be entered into the online system and they will receive verification that our records indicate they approved the road test waiver   

**Additional Driver Training Information**

       Virtual classroom now available on temporary basis – please review the most recent [Driver Training School Newsletter here](https://conta.cc/2S67149)

       Please use your own judgment to safely operate your business in accordance to your legal counsel and local law enforcement authorities

       Beginning Tuesday, May 26, when road tests resume, new testing methods will incorporate protective gear to ensure the safety of driver and examiner

We appreciate your partnership in providing high-quality driver education to Wisconsin drivers. We ask that you refrain from sharing this with your local media or customers before the announcement. Follow us on WisDOT’s Facebook (@WisDOT) and Twitter (@WisconsinDOT) to repost this important information.

Again, it’s our privilege to partner with you to make the next generation of Wisconsin drivers safe and skilled behind the wheel. It is our goal to keep you up to date with the latest information as quickly as possible. We appreciate your continued support and flexibility.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Shaun Peterson

Program Supervisor

Driver Training and Records Unit