

Phased Resumption of NDLS Services and Licence /permit expiry date extensions and other Covid19 related measures

Q1. Are all NDLS offices open?

NDLS offices have re-opened countrywide. You must book an appointment to attend one of these offices. See [here](#)

Please note that there is no walk-in service available.

The part time NDLS offices in Belmullet and Clifden are expected to re-open in the coming weeks.

Q2. Can I walk into an NDLS centre to make an application for a driving licence or learner permit or do I need to make an appointment to attend an NDLS centre to make an application?

Due to public health measures in place to tackle the spread of the Covid -19, walk-in appointments are no longer available. Booking an appointment is required in order to attend an NDLS centre. You must book an appointment [here](#)

Q3. When I attend an NDLS centre to make an application can I pay my application fee in cash or do I have to use a credit or debit card?

Credit/Debit card payments only will be accepted as payment method. Cash/cheques/Postal Orders will not be accepted.

Q4. What measures have been implemented in the NDLS centres to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19?

NDLS centres have been assessed and measures have been put in place to align with the Government's *Return to Work Safely Protocols*. Appropriate signage, sanitation and handwashing, and social distancing measures such as reduced seating in waiting areas and customer touchpoint cleansing have been introduced. Customers will be accompanied into and out of centres and required to adhere to necessary health and safety guidelines.

Q5. I'm not feeling well and may have symptoms of COVID-19. I have an appointment booked to attend an NDLS centre. Can I attend?

If you are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms on the day of your NDLS appointment or at any point in the previous 14 days, you must not attend for your appointment. Please cancel your NDLS appointment [here](#)

Q6. What are the arrangements about wearing a face mask or gloves when attending an NDLS centre?

Customers may wear gloves and/or a face covering while attending an NDLS centre. Face masks/covering, or gloves will not be provided in the NDLS centre. Please be aware however, that you will be asked to safely remove the face covering for the purposes of authentication and the taking of your photograph.

Q7. I tested positive for Covid-19 and I recently attended an NDLS centre, who do I need to inform?

Contact tracing will be initiated by the HSE in such case. You can call HSELive on 1850 24 1850 for further guidance.

Q8. My driving licence is due for renewal, when / how can I renew?

Note that the validity period of a driving licence expiring from 1 March to 30 June 2020 was extended by four months. e.g. if your driving licence expired on 20 March 2020 its validity period has automatically been extended until 19 July 2020. This extension was not displayed on the licence but was reflected on the driver record. Further information on the extension rules can be found [here](#).

NOTE: You can only apply for a renewal of your driving licence if it is within 3 months of its new expiry date.

See table below for examples of the revised renewal dates for extended driving licences:

Original Driving Licence Expiry Date (ie. as shown on Permit)	Automatic Four Month Extension (Extended Expiry Date)	Earliest Renewal Date
20 th March 2020	20 th July, 2020	21 st April 2020
8 th May 2020	8 th September 2020	9 th June 2020
30 th June 2020	30 th October 2020	31 st July 2020

You may renew from any NDLS office by making an appointment [here](#). You should also check if you can apply online see Question 10 below.

Q9. My learner permit is due for renewal, when / how can I renew?

Learner permits which would have expired from 1 March to 30 June, 2020 were extended by four months..

For permits expiring between **1 July and 31 October, 2020** (including those already extended), the validity period of those permits will be automatically extended for a **further** four month period.

NOTE: You can only apply for a renewal of your driving licence if it is within 3 months of its expiry date.

See table below for examples of the revised renewal dates for learner permits with extended expiry period/s:

Original Learner Permit Expiry Date (ie. as shown on Permit)	Automatic Four Month Extension (Extended Expiry Date)	Further Four Month Extension (Newest extended expiry date)	Earliest Renewal Date
15 th March 2020	15 th July, 2020	15 th November, 2021	16 th August, 2020
8 th May, 2020	8 th September, 2020	8 th January, 2021	9 th October, 2020
12 th July, 2020	N/A	12 th November, 2020	13 th August, 2020
5 th September, 2020	N/A	5 th January, 2021	6 th October, 2020

Further information on the extension rules can be found [here](#).

You may also renew from any NDLS office by making an appointment [here](#). You should also check if you can apply online see Question 10 below.

Q10. Can I renew my driving licence/learner permit without attending an NDLS centre?

Yes, if you are renewing a driving licence or learner permit, and you are under 70 years and you do not have a truck or bus category on your driving licence/learner permit, you may be able to apply online [here](#)

You must be the holder of a Public Services Card (PSC) and Verified MyGovID to make an application online. See further information [here](#) about obtaining a PSC and a MyGovID account.

Q11. What type of NDLS applications cannot currently be made online?

NDLS online is not currently available to anyone applying for a first driving licence or first learner permit, also driving licence renewal or a learner permit renewal where

- the expiry date of your driving licence or learner permit is greater than three months from date of your application
- you hold a truck or bus category on your driving licence
- you are 70 years of age or over
- you are applying for your third or subsequent learner permit
- you have a [medical condition](#) which requires a medical report to obtain a driving licence or learner permit.

Q12. I am not currently eligible to renew online. Is there any other facility available to me?

The RSA continue to work on expanding the online facility to accommodate all driving licence and learner permit application types. When this facility becomes available we will update the NDLS website.

You may renew at any NDLS office by making an appointment [here](#).

Q13. I have a disqualification that is about to expire, however my driving licence had expired during the period of disqualification, how do I renew?

You may be able to renew online. Check [here](#) You may also renew from any NDLS office by making an appointment [here](#)

Q14. The information I'm looking for is not provided here, where can I get further information?

You should be able to get all the relevant information on www.ndls.ie or you can also email lqueries@rsa.ie

Licence/permit expiry date extensions and other Covid19 related measures

Q15. Has the validity period of learner permits been further extended?

Yes, all learner permits falling due between 1 July 2020 and 31 October 2020 are having their expiry dates extended. This means that if your permit expires on 10 July 2020 for example, its expiry date is being extended to 10 November 2020. You do not need to do anything to avail of the extension of the expiry date as your driver record will be automatically updated. A new learner permit will not be issued to you.

Q16. I was already granted an extension to the validity of my learner permit, will the further extension announced on 26 June now apply to me also?

Earlier this year learner permits, which were due to expire from 1 March to 30 June 2020, were extended for a four month period, from their expiry date. These will now benefit from the further extension announced on 26 June 2020. As an example, a learner permit which expired on 5 March was extended by four months to 5 July 2020 and its expiry will now be further extended to 5 November 2020. You do not need to do anything to avail of the extension of the expiry date as your driver record will be automatically updated. A new learner permit will not be issued to you.

Q17. If the expiry date of my learner permit is extended when can I apply to renew my learner permit?

A learner permit can only be applied for within three months of its expiry date. This means that if your learner permit was initially extended from 5 March to 5 July and is now further extended to 5 November 2020 you will only be able to renew it within three months of 5 November, ie from 6 August onwards.

The Table below gives further examples relating to the extension and earliest renewal dates for learner permits.

Expiry date as shown on learner permit	Initial four-month extension period announced 20 April 2020	Further extension announced 26 June 2020	Earliest renewal date for the learner permit
20 March 2020	20 July 2020	20 November 2020	21 August 2020
8 May 2020	8 September 2020	8 January 2021	9 October 2020
10 July 2020	N/A	10 November 2020	11 August 2020

Q18. Is the validity period of driving licences being extended?

No, only the validity period of learner permits is being extended.

Q19. My driving licence/learner permit is due for renewal, when can I renew?

You can renew your driving licence / learner permit up to three months before its expiry date. This includes the new expiry date if your licence/permit was extended by four months (see Q15/Q16).

Q20. My driving licence is valid for another five years, however, my bus/truck categories are expiring, were the expiry date of those extended?

Note that the validity period of a driving licence which was due to expire between 1 March and 30 June 2020 was extended by four months. This means that all categories that expired on your driving licence from the 1 March to 30 June 2020 were automatically extended by four months.

You may also renew from any open NDLS office by making an appointment [here](#)
 You should also check if you can apply online. Check [here](#)

Q21. I have penalty points on my record and my driving licence/learner permit is about to expire, will my penalty points count down for the period of extension as it states you must have a current licence for them to count down?

Yes, if your **driving licence** expired between the 1 March to 30 June 2020 the validity period was extended by four months therefore your penalty points continued to count down during that time.

Yes, if your **learner permit** expired from the 1 March to 30 June 2020 the validity period was extended by four months therefore your penalty points continued to count down during that time.

As per Q2 above, for learner permits expiring between **1 July and 31 October, 2020** (including those already extended), the validity period of those permits will be automatically extended for a **further** four month period. Penalty points will continue to count down during this period.

Q22. I am currently serving a penalty point disqualification and my driving licence/learner permit is about to expire, will it count down for that period as it states you must have a current licence for a penalty point disqualification to count down?

The validity period of all **driving licences** expiring from 1 March to the 30 June 2020 was extended by four months therefore your penalty point period of disqualification continued to count down during that period. It is important to note that you remain disqualified from driving until the period of disqualification has expired.

The validity period of all **learner permits** expiring from 1 March to the 30 June 2020 was extended by four months therefore your penalty point period of disqualification continued to count down during that period. As per Q2 above, for learner permits expiring between **1 July and 31 October, 2020** (including those already extended), the validity period of those permits will be automatically extended for a **further** four month period. Therefore, your penalty points disqualification will continue to count down during this period.

It is important to note that you remain disqualified from driving until the period of disqualification has expired.

Q23. My driving licence/learner permit was extended under the new rules – will my insurance company recognise this?

Insurance companies are private companies and the Government cannot give them directions on the terms of their policies. However, Insurance Ireland, the body representing the insurance industry, has indicated that it will recognise the extensions provided. You should however contact your insurer or broker for further details.

Q24. If I am stopped by the gardai and show an expired driving licence/learner permit, can they charge me with an offence of driving without a driving licence/permit, where it qualified for an extension due to the change in legislation?

The Gardai were advised of the change in legislation in relation to the four-month extension. The driver record, the National Vehicle Driver File has been updated to reflect the change in expiry date where applicable.

Q25. Can I drive a truck for commercial use and travel across the EU with the expired licence where it qualified for an extension due to the change in legislation?

Ireland have advised the EU Commission of the decision in relation to the extension of the validity of driver licences. Other EU countries will recognise a driving licence whose period of validity has expired up to the end of the extension period. It should be noted that various other EU countries also undertook measures around the extension of validity periods.

Responsibility for ensuring the validity of your driving licence is that of every individual driver. Please check the expiry date on your driving licence and renew as required. See Q1 for example.

Q26. I'm over 70 years of age and need to apply for a licence before 31 July 2020, will I need to submit a medical report?

Up to 31 July 2020 persons over 70 years of age can (under certain circumstance) apply to renew a licence without providing a medical report providing they do not have an identified or specified illness - details [here](#). The driving licence will be issued for a period of 3 years.

Q27. Will I need to submit a medical report after 31 July 2020 if I have declared I do not have a medical condition on my application, and I am age 70 and over?

The rule that a person aged 70 and over does not need a medical (under certain circumstances) has been introduced as a temporary measure on foot of the Covid-19 pandemic. After 31 July 2020 it is expected that all persons aged 70 and over will again have to provide a medical report, however this will be kept under review. For the latest information please go to www.ndls.ie

Q28. I passed a driver theory test nearly two years ago but did not make an application yet for a learner permit. It states on the driver theory test certificate that it is valid for two years. How do I apply for a learner permit?

You may renew from any NDLS office by making an appointment [here](#)

New regulations introduced by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in April extended the validity period of a driver theory test certificates that expired between 1 March and 30 June 2020 by a period of four months. This means if your theory test certificate expired between 1 March 2020 and 30 June 2020 the expiry date has automatically been extended by four months.

Q29. I passed a driving test nearly two years ago but did not make an application yet for a driving licence. It states on the driving test cert of competency that it is valid for two years. How do I apply for my driving licence?

You may renew from any NDLS office by making an appointment [here](#)

New regulations introduced by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in April extended the validity period of a certificate of competency that expired between 1 March and 30 June 2020 by a period of four months. This means if your cert expired between 1 March 2020 and 30 June 2020 the expiry date has automatically been extended by four months.

Q30. If I hold a learner permit, will rules be relaxed during the COVID outbreak so that I can drive unaccompanied?

No. It is important to clarify that a learner permit is not a licence, but a permit to allow a person to drive while learning. The purpose of the driving test is to set out the minimum level of knowledge, skill and competency that a learner must demonstrate in order to become a fully licenced driver. Until a learner can meet this standard and pass this test, they are not safe to take to our roads without appropriate supervision. Studies have repeatedly shown that unaccompanied learner drivers are markedly more likely to be involved in fatal collisions. For that reason, there can be no exceptions to the current laws in force around learner drivers. An unaccompanied learner driver who is stopped by An Garda Síochána may face penalty points, a fixed charge, seizure of the vehicle and possible prosecution.

Road safety remains paramount, and even more so during current circumstances. As of the 26th June 2020, there have been 73 fatalities on Irish roads, six more than for the same period in 2019. There are serious concerns about the additional pressure road crashes place

on first responders and emergency department health care workers who need to focus on dealing with the current COVID-19 pandemic. It is therefore vital that road safety measures that are there to protect learner drivers remain in place.

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and the RSA recognise the difficulty some individuals may have in making alternative arrangements; however, it is preferable to putting him or her at a risk. It is also worth noting that some people have suggested a relaxation of the learner rules for medical staff, but the risk to safety may be more acute for medical staff under severe pressure, given the added risks of driver fatigue.

Q31. The information I'm looking for is not provided here, where can I get further information?

You should be able to get all the relevant information on www.ndls.ie or you can also email queries@rsa.ie