

[Skip to content](#)

- [State of California](#)
- [State of California Department of Motor Vehicles](#)

[Menu](#)

Search to find a office, self-service kiosk, and community partners.

- [Online Services](#)
- [Translate](#)
- [MyDMV](#)
- [Vehicle Registration](#)
 - [Vehicle Registration Renewal](#)

Renew Your Registration

- [Vehicle Registration Renewal](#)

[Vehicle Registration Changes](#)

Registration Information Changes

- [Vehicle Registration Changes](#)

[Registration Fees](#)

Registration Fees

- [Registration Fees](#)

[New Registration](#)

New Registration

- [New Registration](#)

[License Plates, Decals, and Placards](#)

License Plates, Decals, & Placards

- [License Plates, Decals, and Placards](#)

[Smog Inspections](#)

Smog Inspections

- [Smog Inspections](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Titles](#)

Titles

- [Titles](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Insurance Requirements](#)

Insurance Requirements

- [Insurance Requirements](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Registration Card Replacement](#)

Registration Card Replacement

- [Registration Card Replacement](#)

Quick Links

- [Disabled Person Parking Plates, placards, decals and more](#)
- [Special Interest and Personalized License Plates Orders Need plates? Our online ordering system makes it easy.](#)
- [Driver License & ID Cards](#)
 - Sub Menu Toggle [Driver License or ID Card Renewal](#)

Driver License or ID Card Renewal

- [Driver License or ID Card Renewal](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Driver Licenses](#)

Driver Licenses

- [Driver Licenses](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [REAL ID](#)

REAL ID

- [REAL ID](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Knowledge and Drive Tests Preparation](#)

Knowledge & Drive Tests Preparation

- [Knowledge and Drive Tests Preparation](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Driver License or ID Card Changes](#)

Driver License or Identification Card Changes

- [Driver License or ID Card Changes](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Driver License or ID Card Duplicate](#)

License Or Identification Card Replacements

- [Driver License or ID Card Duplicate](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Instruction Permits](#)

Instruction Permits

- [Instruction Permits](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Commercial Driver Licenses](#)

Commercial Driver Licenses

- [Commercial Driver Licenses](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [AB 60 Driver Licenses](#)

AB 60 Driver Licenses

- [AB 60 Driver Licenses](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [ID Cards](#)

Identification Cards

- [ID Cards](#)

Quick Links

- [Driver License / ID Card Application Apply for a license or ID card \(including REAL ID\)](#)
- [AB 60 License Checklist What documents do you need to get an AB 60 license?](#)
- [Vehicle Industry Services](#)
 - Sub Menu Toggle [Occupational Licensing](#)

Occupational Licensing

- [Occupational Licensing](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Motor Carrier Services](#)

Motor Carrier Services

- [Motor Carrier Services](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Vehicle Industry Services Contact Information](#)

Vehicle Industry Services Contact Info

- [Vehicle Industry Services Contact Information](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Vehicle & Occupational Licensing Industry News Memos](#)

Vehicle Industry News Memos

- [Vehicle & Occupational Licensing Industry News Memos](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Vehicle Industry Services Resources & Links](#)

Vehicle Industry Svcs. Resources

- [Vehicle Industry Services Resources & Links](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Autonomous Vehicles](#)

Autonomous Vehicles

- [Autonomous Vehicles](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Business Partner Program](#)

Business Partner Automation Program

- [Business Partner Program](#)

Quick Links

- [Motor Carrier Permitting Renew, reinstate, or apply for a motor carrier permit.](#)
- [Occupational Licensing Status Information System Look up the status of an active MCP holder.](#)

- [Driver Education & Safety](#)

- Sub Menu Toggle [Educational Materials](#)

Educational Materials

- [Educational Materials](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Safety Guidelines & Actions](#)

DMV Safety Guidelines & Actions

- [Safety Guidelines & Actions](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Driver Training Schools](#)

Driver Training Schools

- [Driver Training Schools](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Special Interest Driver Guides](#)

Special Interest Driver Guides

- [Special Interest Driver Guides](#)

Sub Menu Toggle [Medical Conditions and Driving](#)

Medical Conditions & Driving

- [Medical Conditions and Driving](#)

Quick Links

- [Handbooks Learn the laws and rules of the road in preparation for your drive and knowledge tests.](#)
- [Sample Driver License Knowledge Tests Preparing for a standard, commercial, or motorcycle knowledge test? Practice here.](#)
- [Forms](#)
- [Locations](#)
- [Home](#)
- [News and Media](#)
- DMV allows customers to avoid coming to a DMV office for 60 days

DMV allows customers to avoid coming to a DMV office for 60 days

[Spanish](#)

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[Follow DMV](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 2020

Alerts California law enforcement that some Californians may have delayed renewals for expired licenses and registration

Sacramento – In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) today asked California law enforcement to exercise discretion for 60 days in their enforcement of driver license and vehicle registration expiration dates beginning March 16, 2020. The DMV is taking this action so that at-risk populations, including seniors and those with underlying health conditions, can avoid required visits to DMV field offices for driver license or vehicle registration renewals.

This 60-day period for driver license and vehicle registrations is intended to protect the health and safety of DMV customers who would otherwise have to come to a DMV office to take care of business, but are concerned during this coronavirus pandemic.

Those transactions that require a DMV office visit include new driver license, duplicate driver license, some driver license renewals, new license plates, complex vehicle registrations or title transfers and off-highway permits.

Those Californians who will benefit from this action include the elderly, those with compromised immune systems and those who are ill.

Transactions that fall within this action include driver license renewals for those:

- 70 years of age and older, who are required to take a knowledge test
- Individuals who are required to renew in the office (last DMV visit was 15 years prior)
- Individuals subject to vision testing
- Individuals with complex driving history

The 60-day period also applies to vehicle registration renewals for customers who are not eligible to use an alternative service channel because of the following reasons:

- Outdated insurance information
- Registration expired for 90 days or more
- Smog issues
- Recent transfer

Dozens of DMV tasks can easily be taken care of through other channels including online, through the mail, through the 365 kiosks statewide or in our business partner locations.

California law enforcement is encouraged to exercise flexibility and discretion when reviewing driver license or identification and vehicle registration records. If applicable, DMV may waive vehicle registration penalties.

All DMV offices remain open at this time to process those transactions that must be taken care of in an office, including REAL ID. The DMV has implemented many process improvements and incorporated technological solutions to increase access to DMV outside of the office and decrease the amount of time someone has to spend at a DMV office.

For REAL ID, the federal government requires an office visit. REAL ID customers can fill out the online application before going into an office. In 23 offices throughout the state, customers can upload their REAL ID documents before their office visit. This option will be statewide by June.

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Alerts: https://www.emailalert.dmv.ca.gov/DMVEmail_Alert/

- [About](#)
 - [The History of the Department of Motor Vehicles](#)
 - [Department of Motor Vehicles Strategic Plan: 2016-2021](#)
 - [Rulemaking Actions](#)
 - [Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program](#)
- [Customer Service](#)
 - [Vehicle or Driver Records Requests](#)
 - [Payments & Refunds](#)
 - [Interpreter Services](#)
 - [Issues or Complaints](#)
 - [Natural Disaster Assistance](#)
 - [Customer Surveys](#)

- [Research & Reports](#)
 - [Research Studies & Reports](#)
 - [Reports to the California Legislature](#)
 - [Department of Motor Vehicles Field Office Wait Times Reports](#)
 - [Department of Motor Vehicles Performance Reports](#)
- [Online Services](#)
- [Virtual Field Office](#)
- [Appointment Scheduling](#)
- [News & Media](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Contact](#)



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- [Accessibility](#)

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