

Frequently Asked Questions Licence/Permit expiry date extensions and other Covid-19 related measures

Driving Licences

Q1. Has the validity period of driving licences been extended?

Yes, driving licences with expiry date between 1 March and 31 August 2020, have been automatically extended by seven months in total. The expiry date is to be found in the column opposite the vehicle category on your driving licence. 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 driving licence will not be issued to you.

Q2. I was previously granted an extension to the validity of my driving licence, will the further extension announced on 7 August apply to me also?

Earlier this year driving licences, which were due to expire from 1 March to 30 June 2020, were extended for a four-month period, from their expiry date. In line with announcement of 7 August these licences will be further extended by three months. You will find further examples as to how the extension period works in the table in Q3 below. 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 driving licence will not be issued to you.

Q3. If the expiry date of my driving licence is extended when can I apply to renew it?

A driving licence can only be renewed within three months of its expiry date. This means that for example if your driving licence expired from 5 July 2020 it has been automatically extended to 5 February 2021 and you will only be able to renew it from 6 November 2020 onwards.

To check the expiry date and earliest renewal date of your licence see our [expiry date calculator here](#).

The Table below gives further examples relating to the extension and earliest renewal dates for driving licences. The expiry date is to be found in the column opposite the vehicle category on your driving licence.

Expiry date as shown on driving licence	Expiry date following initial four-month extension period (covering licences expiring 1-Mar – 30 June)	New expiry date following further extension (covering licences expiring 1 March – 31 August)	Earliest renewal date for these driving licence
20 March 2020	20 July 2020	20 October 2020	21 July 2020
8 May 2020	8 September 2020	8 December 2020	9 Sept 2020
10 July 2020	N/A	10 February 2021	11 Nov 2020
15 Aug 2020	N/A	15 March 2021	16 Dec 2020
1 Sept onwards	N/A	No extension will apply	2 June 2020

Learner Permits

Q4. Has the validity period of learner permits been further extended?

Yes, all learner permits expiring between 1 July 2020 and 31 October 2020 are having their expiry dates extended by four months; e.g. if your permit expires on 10 July 2020, 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.

Q5. I was already granted an extension to the validity of my learner permit, will the further extension announced on 26 June 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; e.g. a learner permit which expired on 5 March 2020 was extended by four months to 5 July 2020, its expiry date will now be further extended by another four months to 5 November 2020. You will find further examples as to how the extension period works in the table in Q6 below. 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.

Q6. If the expiry date of my learner permit is extended when can I apply to renew it?

A learner permit can only be renewed 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, i.e. from 6 August onwards. To check the expiry date and earliest renewal date of your permit see our [expiry date calculator here](#).

The Table below gives further examples relating to the extension and earliest renewal dates for learner permits. The expiry date is to be found in the column opposite the vehicle category on your learner permit.

Expiry date as shown on learner permit	Expiry date following initial four-month extension period (covering permits expiring 1-Mar – 30 June)	New expiry date following further extension (covering licences expiring 1 March – 31 October)	Earliest renewal date for these learner permits
20 March 2020	20 July 2020	20 November 2020	21 Aug 2020
8 May 2020	8 September 2020	8 January 2021	9 Oct 2020
10 July 2020	N/A	10 November 2020	11 Aug 2020
15 Aug 2020	N/A	15 December 2020	16 Sept 2020
12 September	N/A	12 January 2021	13 Oct 2020
26 October	N/A	26 February 2021	27 Nov 2020
1 Nov onwards	N/A	No extension will apply	2 Aug 2020

General Queries on Licence/Permit Extension

Q7. I have already booked an appointment with an NDLS office to renew my driving licence/learner permit and the new extended expiry date is more than three months away.

If the extended expiry date is more than three months away, you will not be able to renew. A driving licence/permit can only be renewed within three months of its expiry date. Please cancel the appointment [here](#) to make it available for others that need it.

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

- Apply in person at NDLS office - You must book an appointment [here](#)
- [Apply Online](#) – to check if you are eligible see Question 10 below.

Q9. My driving licence is valid for another five years; however, my bus/truck categories are expiring, were the expiry dates of those extended?

If categories on your licence (including bus or truck categories) expire from the 1 March to 31 August 2020 those categories will be automatically extended by seven months.

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

Yes, if you are renewing a driving licence or learner permit, you are under 70 years and you do not have a truck or bus category on your driving licence/learner permit, and have no medical condition you may be able to apply online. Check [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.

NDLS online is not currently available for a driving licence renewal, or a learner permit renewal if;

- 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.
- your place of birth and nationality are outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland

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 [booking an appointment here](#).

Q13. 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 31 August 2020 the validity period has been automatically extended by seven months therefore your penalty points will continue 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. 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.

Q14. 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 31 August 2020 has been extended by seven months therefore your penalty point period of disqualification will continue 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. 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.

Q15. My driving licence/learner permit was extended under the new rules – will my insurance company recognise this?

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.

Q16. 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 extensions given on learner permits and driving licences. The driver record, the National Vehicle Driver File has been updated to reflect the change in expiry date where applicable.

Q17. 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?

EU countries will recognise a driving licence whose period of validity has expired up to the end of the extension period granted by the issuing Member State. 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 Q3 for examples.

Q18. I am over 70 years of age and need to apply for a licence, will I need to submit a medical report?

Up to 31 December 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 three years.

Q19. Will I need to submit a medical report after 31 December 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 December 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

Q20. 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 at any NDLS office by [booking an appointment here](#). 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.

Q21. 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 [booking an appointment here](#). 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.

Q22. If I hold a learner permit, will rules be relaxed during the Covid-19 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 licensed 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. 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.

Q23. The information I am 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