

DMV extends driver license, vehicle tag grace period into 2021

Oregon residents with a vehicle registration, permit or driver license expiring between Nov. 1, 2020, and April 30, 2021, have up to three months after their expiration date without being cited by law enforcement for an expired license or tags.

The Oregon Department of Transportation and Oregon law enforcement agencies agreed to the new grace period as DMV catches up with a backlog due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Under the agreement, Oregon law enforcement officers will exercise more discretion for recently expired licenses and registration before choosing whether to write a citation.

Law enforcement can verify the status of a driver or vehicle registration electronically during a traffic stop.

A law enforcement moratorium under Senate Bill 1601 from an Oregon Special Legislative Session last summer will expire Dec. 31. Under that legislation, a police officer cannot issue a citation for the following DMV products if they expired between March 1 and Dec. 31, 2020:

- Driver license and identification cards
- Passenger vehicle registrations
- Commercial vehicle registrations
- Trip permits and temporary registrations
- Disabled parking permits

DMV offices are open by appointment — mostly those that require in-person visits such as driver license and other identification card-related services.

In some parts of Oregon, the first available appointment may be two months out, so don't wait until the last minute to schedule your appointment.

As DMV catches up with the backlog, more services will become available by appointment.

It does not know when walk-in services can resume, but some appointments for vehicle title and registration are available now.

Visit www.OregonDMV.com for a complete list of services available by office.

Many services are available online at DMV2U.Oregon.gov and more will be added soon. Those available now include:

- Renew your vehicle registration
 - Access your DMV profile
 - Schedule an appointment
 - Replace a lost, damaged or stolen license or ID card
 - Pay a reinstatement fee
 - Report your change of address
 - Report the sale of your car
 - Calculate vehicle fees to mail in title and registration applications
- You can also download

forms and complete many transactions by mail including vehicle title transfers.

Find detailed instructions at www.OregonDMV.com. The Oregon DMV is continually improving its website to help customers get what they need.

DMV has been increasing its capacity to provide services as safely as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal is to use its new system capabilities so customers get their DMV services from the comfort of their homes, and to hire more staff to help catch up with the backlog.

Among its current efforts to catch up on the current backlog:

- Hiring additional temporary staff for field offices and call centers.
- Authorizing overtime to process mailed-in transactions.
- Adding services online by successfully finishing a multi-year system replacement in July.
- Expanding capacity for appointments from 16,000 per week this summer to nearly 28,000 per week now.
- Adding new knowledge test machines to increase capacity.
- Increasing drive test appointments at DMV offices in addition to expanding the number of private drive-test providers — both using COVID-19 safety practices.



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Federal agencies warn of COVID-related fraud schemes

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) are warning the public about several emerging fraud schemes related to COVID-19 vaccines.

The FBI, HHS-OIG, and CMS have received complaints of scammers using the public's interest in COVID-19 vaccines to obtain personally identifiable information (PII) and money through various schemes.

The FBI continues to work with law enforcement partners and the private sector to identify and prevent cyber threats and fraud in all forms.

The public should be aware of the following potential indicators of fraudulent activity:

- Advertisements or offers for early access to a vaccine upon payment of a deposit or fee

Requests asking you to pay out of pocket to obtain the vaccine or to put your name on a COVID-19 vaccine waiting list

Offers to undergo additional medical testing or procedures when obtaining a vaccine

Marketers offering to sell and/or ship doses of a vaccine, domestically or internationally, in exchange for payment of a deposit or fee

Unsolicited emails, telephone calls, or personal contact from someone claiming to be from a medical office, insurance company, or COVID-19 vaccine center requesting personal and/or medical information to determine recipients' eligibility to participate in clinical vaccine trials or obtain the vaccine

Claims of FDA approval for a vaccine that cannot be verified

Advertisements for vaccines through social media platforms, email,

telephone calls, online, or from unsolicited/unknown sources

Individuals contacting you in person, by phone, or by email to tell you the government or government officials require you to receive a COVID-19 vaccine

Tips to avoid COVID-19 vaccine-related fraud:

Consult your state's health department website for up-to-date information about authorized vaccine distribution channels and only obtaining a vaccine through such channels.

Check the FDA's website (fda.gov) for current information about vaccine emergency use authorizations.

Consult your primary care physician before undergoing any vaccination.

Don't share your personal or health information with anyone other than known and trusted medical professionals.

Check your medical

ills and insurance explanation of benefits (EOBs) for any suspicious claims and promptly reporting any errors to your health insurance provider.

Follow guidance and recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other trusted medical professionals.

General online/cyber fraud prevention techniques:

Verify the spelling of web addresses, websites, and email addresses that look trustworthy but may be imitations of legitimate websites.

Ensure operating systems and applications are updated to the most current versions.

If you believe you have been the victim of a COVID-19 fraud, immediately report it to the FBI (ic3.gov, tips.fbi.gov, or 1-800-CALL-FBI) or HHS-OIG (tips.hhs.gov or 1-800-HHS-TIPS).



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