

Renewing Your Licence

Process for Drivers 80 Years of Age and Over

In order to renew their driver's licences, drivers 80 years of age and over must complete a vision and knowledge test and participate in a 90-minute group education session.

Now that the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has transferred driver examination services to a new service provider, **if you are a driver 80 years of age and over**, you should know that **the process has changed** for you.

The Old Process

Before September 2, 2003, drivers 80 years of age and over received their renewal notice in the mail. They would go to an MTO driver exam centre (DEC) at any time, without an appointment, to complete their vision and knowledge test. Once these requirements were complete, they would book their appointment for a group education session (held at a later date), either at the DEC or by calling the DEC later.

Ministry counsellors and driver exam staff often received comments from seniors on how they would prefer to complete all renewal requirements in one day. The transfer of driver examination services can now accommodate this request.

The New Process

The vision and knowledge test and the group education session will now be held on the same day. This is available by appointment only. Once you receive your renewal notice, you must contact the MTO Regional Scheduling Office in your area (or visit www.mto.gov.on.ca) **as soon as possible** to schedule an appointment for your tests and group education session. You should not go to a driver exam centre or an MTO office to book an appointment.

Appointments are available only by calling the numbers below.

Northern Region:

North of Severn Bridge, west to the Manitoba border and east to the Quebec border, including the districts of Haliburton, Muskoka and Nipissing

1-800-461-9548 or
705-497-5436

Eastern Region:

Port Hope east to Kingston and the Quebec border, and north to Pembroke including Peterborough and Ottawa

1-800-701-2171

Central Region:

Niagara Peninsula, Hamilton east to Toronto and Port Hope, and north to Lake Simcoe

1-800-396-4233 or

416-235-3579

Southwestern Region:

Windsor east to London and Brantford, Kitchener, and north to Lake Huron

1-888-276-7885 or

519-873-4276

The vision and knowledge tests and group education session take approximately three and one-half hours to complete. You should have your driver's licence number available when you call. It can be found on the application. Remember to bring your application with you when you attend the group education session.

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Once the renewal requirements are complete, your driver's licence must be renewed at a Driver and Vehicle Licence Issuing Office. A licence cannot be renewed at the same location where the tests were taken. Driver and Vehicle Licence Issuing Offices are listed in the Blue Pages of the phone book under Licences and Permits (Provincial), Drivers and Vehicles Licence Issuing Offices. Drivers may also be required to have their photo taken.

Some drivers may also be required to take a road test - the counsellor at your group education session will discuss this with you. Road tests are delivered by the new service provider at the DriveTest Centres. The counsellor can provide information regarding the closest DriveTest Centre. Once the driver completes the road test, the DriveTest Centre will refer the driver to a Driver and Vehicle Licence Issuing Office to renew their driver's licence.

Drivers 80 years of age and over are required to repeat this process every two years in order to renew their driver's licence.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please call toll-free 1-800-387-3445 or, in the Greater Toronto Area, you may call 416-235-2999.

See also:

- [Senior Drivers in Ontario](#) - FAQ
- [How's Your Driving? Safe Driving for Seniors](#)
- [Senior Driver: Driving Safety Cycle](#)
- [Senior Driver Group Education](#) - Curriculum

Senior Drivers in Ontario

What is the Senior Driver Renewal Program?

The Senior Driver Renewal Program requires that senior drivers, aged 80 years and over, pay the applicable licensing fee, complete a vision test and a knowledge test and take part in a group education session every two years. A small number of drivers may also be asked to take a road test to have their in-car skills assessed.

Why are seniors required to attend a Group Education Session?

This renewal process will help keep seniors mobile and independent longer, while ensuring that unsafe drivers are identified and appropriate actions taken.

While it is true that senior drivers are involved in fewer collisions compared to younger drivers, it is also true that they are involved in a larger number of collisions compared to the number of kilometres they drive. Some senior drivers have said that an annual road test was very stressful for them. Research and a pilot study conducted in Ontario have shown that a well-developed education session may improve senior drivers' awareness of potential traffic hazards and help them drive more defensively.

How does the program support road safety?

With the Senior Driver Renewal Program, older drivers may be required to complete four components: the knowledge and vision tests, the group education session, and a road test if required.

The Group Education Session will:

- give drivers information on driving
- give them the tools to assess how well they are driving
- outline changes which drivers can make to continue to drive safely

Senior drivers will be able to improve their driving performance. As well, the program will be able to more quickly identify drivers who are at greater risk of being in a collision. Most senior drivers will not be required to take a road test.

Who is required to take a road test?

All drivers are assessed by a trained counsellor. Drivers who have indications that they may pose a road safety risk will be required to take a road test. The counsellor at your Group Education Session will discuss this with you.

What type of information is provided to drivers to improve their driving skills during the Group Education Sessions?

Participants will be given:

- information to make senior drivers more aware of the effects of aging on driving
- information to increase their ability to assess risk factors when driving
- information on trip planning and preparation
- suggestions and strategies so senior drivers can minimize the risk of crashing

Are there other measures which senior drivers can take to improve their driving?

There are senior driver improvement programs such as "55 Alive" which are available through safety organizations and various driving schools.

As well, drivers are reminded that they can work at maintaining their driving performance by staying active and healthy (see [Senior Driver: Driving Safety Cycle](#)). Drivers are also encouraged to check with their doctor or pharmacist whether their medication may affect their performance. As with drivers of any age, senior drivers should stay alert behind the wheel, and not drive when tired or under a lot of stress.

Are drivers required to complete the knowledge and vision tests and participate in the Senior Driver Group Education Session on the same day?

The vision and knowledge tests will be completed at the same time and place as the Group Education Session. **An appointment is required** for the vision and knowledge tests and the Group Education Session. When you receive your renewal application in the mail you must contact the MTO Regional Scheduling Office in your area to schedule an appointment. Please have your driver's licence number available when you call. The numbers to call are:

- Southwestern: 1-888-276-7885 or (519) 873-4276
- Central: 1-800-396-4233
- Eastern: 1-800-701-2171
- Northern: 1-800-461-9548 or (705) 497-5436

How will senior drivers who do not speak English be able to participate in the program?

The ministry provides knowledge tests in 17 languages, including English and French. The Group Education Session is available in English and French, and senior drivers who have a valid reason, such as an inability to understand either of these languages, may take a road test. The ministry will authorize a DriveTest Centre to conduct the vision, knowledge and road tests. The driver must contact the [DriveTest Centre](#) to schedule the road test.

How will drivers who have a hearing impairment participate in the Group Education Session?

The ministry may authorize senior drivers with a hearing impairment to take a road test. The ministry will authorize a DriveTest Centre to conduct the vision, knowledge and road tests. The driver must contact the [DriveTest Centre](#) to schedule the road test.

How are senior drivers who spend part of the year outside Ontario accommodated?

The ministry currently allows early renewal, up to six months before the driver's licence expires.

A senior driver who cannot be accommodated by the ministry in a Group Education Session or a test before the licence expires may be issued a Temporary Driver's Licence.

How are drivers notified about their licence renewal?

Drivers are notified by mail approximately 60 days before their licence expires, and should contact the MTO Regional Scheduling Office in their area to make arrangements for their licence renewal. They must take the knowledge and vision tests and the Group Education Session so that they can complete them before their licence expires.

Where can people get more information about the program?

For further information please complete our online [feedback form](#), or contact the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Contact Centre at 416-235-2999 or toll free at 1-800-387-3445.