

The Building is Closed. Do Not Enter the Building
We are unable to answer the phones or check messages due to high call volumes

Please email info@needhamdrivingschool.com or Paul@needhamdrivingschool.com to connect

After a 3 month shut down the state permitted driving schools to start in car instruction on June 8th. All of us at Needham Driving School understand that getting a driver's license is a huge milestone in a teenager's life. Many students and parents have made plans contingent on having a license by a certain time and we realize that these delays are painful.

We are trying to let people schedule in the fairest way possible. All driving schools are facing the challenge of a backlog that has occurred because of a 3-month shutdown. The state of Massachusetts RMV has stated that there are no plans to waive road tests or driving lessons at this time.

Needham Driving School has prioritized students who had 6 or less lessons left and those who had lessons scheduled in our system in March and April when the pandemic began. Scheduling for these students took place June 1st - 14th.

Phase 2 of rescheduling began on June 15th. At that time, we opened driving hours online to people who enrolled before the pandemic and 1 week later for those who enrolled after the pandemic.

Phase 3 of scheduling is now taking place. We are currently booked through August for on road instruction. Our online scheduling system will now allow you to book up to 90 days in advance. That means everyday new hours will be available on the student portal 90 days out. Students will be **limited to one 2 hour block per 7 days**. For example on June 22nd you will be able to see appointments through September 20th. The next day June 23rd, appointments for September 21st will appear and so on.

The state has waived observation hours until further notice.

Most lessons on the schedule are 2 hours of driving. The 2 hour blocks are designed to let students progress through the program and limit exposure to our driving instructors. If you have an odd number of lessons please email info@needhamdrivingschool.com with your availability and we will manually schedule the 1 hour block.

The reality of this pandemic has and will cause delays in the driver education and licensing process for at least several months and we feel this is the fairest way to schedule. Needham Driving School is taking steps to alleviate the backlog but there is no quick solution to this unprecedented event. We will be adding instructors, cars and limiting new enrollments.

We have a plan to get back on track in the coming months. Needham Driving School is hiring, training and licensing new instructors and looking to have them working by mid July. We

also have some of our current instructors looking to come back once child care arrangements can be made. Follow us on Twitter @needhamdriving to stay posted on when new hours become available.

For your safety, hiring new instructors must be done with care. All new instructors need to be background checked, trained and licensed by the state of Massachusetts to teach Driver's Education. The training requires observation of driving hours and supervised active teaching. We plan on hiring at least 5 new instructors and have them on the road in a month or less. This means as time goes by, hours will be added to the system. The best way to stay informed is to follow us on Twitter @needhamdriving.

As we start up again, please be patient. We have been shut down for 3 months and will need several months to recover and catch up. There is no way to avoid a major backlog. We understand that the demand will be high, summer plans will be disrupted because of delays, and people will be anxious to schedule. We are all anxious to get back to work and get back on track as well. This pandemic has been stressful, unpredictable, tragic and caused changes in all aspects of our lives. There will be delays in scheduling lessons, road tests and permit tests. Throughout this process I ask that you are kind to our staff as we tackle this unprecedented time together. We will do our best to be fair, upfront, accommodating and positive. All we ask is to return the favor and be patient.

Most of our current staff is starting on June 9th however some of our instructors will be delayed in returning because of childcare and high-risk health concerns. I know it is a cliché by now, but we are all in this together.

*Future updates will always be posted on Twitter @needhamdriving and our website. Follow us on Twitter to be alerted of cancelations and when new hours are posted.

Needham Driving School's ROAD LESSON COVID-19 PREVENTION PROTOCOL

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Windows will be kept down(weather permitting)

Only 1 student is allowed in the car at a time(Observation is being waived)

Students responsibilities when taking an on road lesson

- 1) You must provide your own personal protective equipment (PPE). A mask is required to be worn at all times. This includes approaching the vehicle and at all times in the vehicle. If you do not have a mask the lesson will be cancelled.
- 2) At minimum, a mask must be worn, Additional PPE (examples include, but are not limited to disposable non-latex gloves, face shield) may be used at your discretion. This includes anyone accompanying you who will have contact with NDS staff, a parent/guardian for example.
- 3) Instructors will clean and sterilize the car before and after each day of lessons and throughout the day as needed. Students must wipe down high touched components of the vehicle before and after their lesson. The instructor will have a checklist of high touch areas that must be cleaned and make sure that each component is cleaned before and after each lesson. If possible we ask that you bring your own wipes and cleaner so as to not cross contaminate our supplies by having every student touch them. Needham Driving School will provide cleaning supplies if needed but we are asking if possible that you bring your own disinfectant.
- 4) Before lessons can be scheduled an Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19 will have to be signed and returned to info@needhamdrivingschool.com Before scheduling lessons you will have to sign this waiver and return it. Then we will activate your account.
- 5) If you are sick, or showing any symptoms of being sick, or have been exposed to someone in the last 14 days that has confirmed case of COVID-19 please cancel the lesson. Each student will be interviewed regarding coronavirus infection symptoms and/or exposure prior to getting into the vehicle.
- 6) All students should wash their hands prior to entering the vehicle.

How lessons will be conducted in the new normal

- 1) Instructors will wear, at minimum, a mask and additional PPE (examples include, but are not limited to disposable non-latex gloves, face shield) at their discretion.
- 2) You will be interviewed regarding exposure to corona virus and possible symptoms. These include, but are not limited to : fever, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste and/or smell. You will also be asked about your possible exposure to someone diagnosed with Covid-19 within 14 days. If you are symptomatic or have a known exposure risk the lesson will be cancelled with no cancellation fee.
- 3) The Instructor will ask you to approach him/her for visual screening and non contact thermometer reading, a reading above 99 degrees will be considered a high temperature. If you are symptomatic the lesson will be cancelled.
- 4) Before starting the lesson the student will disinfect with alcohol wipes **the steering wheel, door handles, dashboard controls, gear shifter , handbrake, seat controls mirror controls and rear view mirror.** . Your hands must be sanitized and washed before entering the vehicle.
- 5) Upon completion of lesson follow Instructor's directives regarding discarding any disposable PPE
- 6) Instructors will not go to work if they are showing any symptoms of being sick, or have been exposed to someone in the last 14 days that has a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Failure to follow protocol and/or directives will stop the lesson.

Thank you,

Paul Caminiti

3rd generation Driving Instructor

Owner

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