

Typically, we are only booked 2-3 weeks in advance for on road instruction and before the shutdown we were only scheduling 1 week in advance. As you know the state had our driving school closed for 3 months. This has created a 3-month backlog for lessons.

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. 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. All observation time with the school has been waived by the RMV. Students are now required to log 6 observation hours completed with their parents. You can log these hours on your Needham Driving School student portal.

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.

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 childcare 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.