

Per the Governor's Executive Order in car driving lessons cannot resume until phase 2 of the business reopening process. This means the earliest we can resume driving lessons is June 8th. The exact date will be determined by the official start of the phase 2 reopening. The start of phase 2 will be determined by the governor.

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. Needham Driving School has the supplies, protocols and procedures in place to safely resume and meet regulations once we receive permission from the state to resume on road instruction. We are also planning to let people schedule lessons in the fairest way possible starting the first week of June.

No lessons are booked in our system at this time and online scheduling has been temporarily disabled. 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 will be prioritizing students who have 6 or less lessons left and those who had lessons scheduled in our system in March and April when the pandemic began. Starting the weeks of June 1st - 14th we plan on starting to reschedule these students by phone and or email. Lessons will tentatively be scheduled for June 9th and on.

Phase 2 of rescheduling will occur on or before June 15th. At that time, we will open driving hours online to people who enrolled before the pandemic and 1 week later for those who enrolled after the pandemic. Please follow us on Twitter @needhamdriving to receive an alert when this goes live. We will also update our website when scheduling goes live.

Please do not ask us to deviate from this policy. 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.

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. Once driving lessons resume, 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.

Once we start up again, we will have been shut down for 3 months. This means 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 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.

*Full details on what we are doing to keep you safe will be posted next week. New protocols and procedures are being put in place with the help from the MA RMV, CDC, NSC and the MA Advisory Board.

All students will be required to provide their own mask and wear a mask during lessons. Other safety protocols and procedures will be emailed to students who book lessons.

Permits and Road Tests

The RMV has stated that they are suspended until further notice and are working on plans to resume. We will post updates on Twitter @needhamdriving and our website as soon as updates are received. My best guess is it will be part of phase 2 reopening (June 8th the earliest).

Thank you,

Paul Caminiti

3rd generation Driving Instructor

Owner

paul@needhamdrivingschool.