

# COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

## Office of the Sheriff

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Laurie Smith  
Sheriff

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Staff

**FROM:** COVID-19 Incident Command Center

**SUBJECT:** ICC Directive 21-01 (DMV CDL, CLP, and Med. Cert. Extension)

**DATE:** January 4, 2021

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Sheriff's Office Personnel,

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) announced it has extended the expiration date of Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs) and Commercial Learners Permits (CLPs). Originally, the waiver was set to expire December 31, 2020; the extension of the waiver will be effective through February 28, 2021. CDL endorsements and special certificates are also extended. In addition, valid CDL and CLP holder's medical certifications will have an extension until February 28, 2021. California law enforcement personnel are asked to honor the waiver mentioned above and to recognize that CDLs and CLPs are extended with or without a physical paper extension.

Please refer to the attached LEM 20-16 Memo issued by the DMV for further information.



**LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION MEMO: 20-16**  
**SUBJECT: COVID-19 Commercial Driver License,**  
**Commercial Learner's Permit, and**  
**Medical Certificate Extension**  
**Memo Date: December 31, 2020**

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**Purpose**

To notify California law enforcement agencies of a possible delay for customers renewing an expired or expiring commercial driver license (CDL) or commercial learner's permit (CLP), and/or medical certification on record.

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**Background**

On March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency due to an outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

On March 24, 2020, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) granted a waiver from certain regulations applicable to interstate and intrastate CDL and CLP holders and to other interstate drivers operating commercial motor vehicles (CMVs). On June 15, 2020, and again on September 18, 2020 FMCSA announced extensions of the waiver. FMCSA initiated this action in response to the President's declaration of a national emergency under 42 U.S.C. § 5191(b) related to COVID-19.

On April 14, 2020, DMV Director Gordon issued Director's Order 2020-03 to extend the expiration date for CDLs and CLPs that would have expired March 2020 through June 2020. Based on the extension issued by FMCSA, Director's Orders 2020-08 and 2020-11 were issued. DMV extended the expiration date of CDLs and CLPs that were set to expire in March 2020 through December 2020, until December 31, 2020.

On April 16, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-52-20, waiving the timeframes set forth in Vehicle Code section 12804.9(c) for current CDL holders whose medical certificates expired on or after March 1, 2020 until June 30, 2020. On June 30, 2020, Executive Order N-71-20 was issued authorizing DMV to act upon and any subsequent extensions issued by FMCSA.

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**New Information**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, certain populations have been advised to stay home due to the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Some Californians are required to visit a DMV field office in order to renew their CDL and may be unable to do so at this time.

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**New  
Information  
Continued**

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On December 15, 2020 FMCSA announced an additional extension of the waiver which was set to expire as of December 31, 2020. The extension of the waiver will be effective January 1, 2020, through February 28, 2021. FMCSA indicated the extension was issued because several states continue to experience greater than normal employee absences or have closed offices of their State Driver Licensing Agencies resulting in many CDL and CLP holders being unable to complete the necessary application process.

Pursuant to Director's Order 2020-13 which supersedes Director's Order 2020-11, DMV has extended the expiration date of CDLs and CLPs that have or are set to expire in March 2020 through February 28, 2021, until February 28, 2021. CDL endorsements and special certificates are also extended.

Pursuant to Executive Order N-71-20, current, valid CDL and CLP holders whose medical certification expire on or after September 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021 have an extension until February 28, 2021, to obtain and submit a new, valid medical certificate in accordance with applicable state and federal requirements.

Californians with a suspended driver license are not eligible for the temporary extension.

**Note: While DMV has taken action to extend licenses and permits, the department will not update driver license records to reflect this extension. For those with expired medicals during this time period, eligible cardholder licenses and permits remain valid to operate a CMV. A message indicating "LICENSE VALID PENDING REVIEW" status has been added to the record of eligible commercial drivers.**

Due to this emergency, California law enforcement personnel are asked to honor the waivers mentioned above, recognize that CDLs and CLPs are extended (with or without a physical paper extension), accept a record with "license valid pending review" as valid, and are encouraged to exercise flexibility and discretion when reviewing DL records. Please disseminate this information to all interested persons and agencies within your jurisdiction.

**Contact**

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Questions regarding the information contained in this memo or changes to the email distribution list may be directed to the Information Policy and Liaison Section at (916) 657-7732 or via email at [jaglaw@dmv.ca.gov](mailto:jaglaw@dmv.ca.gov).

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SONIA HUESTIS  
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