

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is there a certain age where I have to give up my licence?

- ◆ No. As long as you can drive a vehicle safely you can renew your licence at any age. Driver medicals are completed to determine driving safety.

### Am I required to have a medical test or a road test at a certain age?

- ◆ Yes. For licence renewals (classes 5, 6, or 7) a medical report signed by your physician is required at:
  - 75 years, 80 years and every two years after 80 years.
- ◆ The Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan will pay for medical examinations for drivers who are 75 years or older.
- ◆ Your doctor may also recommend a road test or further testing before approving the medical form.

### Does Alberta Transportation discourage people from driving beyond a certain age?

- ◆ No. Our team at Alberta Transportation encourages you to drive as long as you can safely do so, regardless of your age.

### Do I have to report my medical conditions before I can renew my licence?

- ◆ Yes. All drivers, regardless of age, are legally required to report any medical conditions that may affect their ability to drive safely.

### Does my doctor have to report any medical condition that may affect my driving ability?

- ◆ Doctors are not legally required to report. However, they are protected from legal action should they do so.

### Can any doctor do a medical report or is there a list of approved doctors to go to?

- ◆ Most doctors can do driver medical reports.

### Why is testing required at certain ages?

- ◆ The age requirements are based on research that shows some medical conditions or cognitive challenges are more common at certain ages.

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## Information for Mature Drivers



## Will I be able to drive safely forever?

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Most of us depend on driving our own vehicles to meet our mobility needs. Driving allows us to get around, to get to work, and take part in various other activities. It gives us mobility, which is important for our quality of life.

Driving is a privilege that comes with the responsibility to ensure your safety and the safety of others. Driving is a complex activity that requires physical health, sound thinking and reasoning abilities, along with the necessary skills and knowledge. It is important that all Albertans— regardless of age —have the ability to drive safely on Alberta's roads.

Generally, as people age, they remain safe drivers. But over time, or under certain situations (e.g. changes in health), that can change. Certain health conditions can affect a person's ability to drive safely.

There is no set time when a person should begin to limit their driving or stop driving. **Age alone does not mean you need to stop driving. Knowing when to stop driving is about health and safety.**

## How could my health impact my ability to drive safely?

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On average, people in Alberta are healthier and living longer than in the past. Many drivers remain active and healthy, well into their senior years.

However, with age comes a higher chance that you will live with some kind of health condition. The effects of certain medical conditions, or the medication used to treat them, can affect your driving. Being aware of these will help you make decisions that will keep you, your family members and friends safe on the road.

Some medical conditions that may affect your driving include:

- \* **Vision changes**
- \* **Hearing loss**
- \* **Arthritis**
- \* **Diabetes**
- \* **Stroke**
- \* **Parkinson's Disease**
- \* **Dementia including Alzheimer's**

## What can I do to prepare for driving in the future?

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The first step in preparing for safe driving in the future is to be aware of the following warning signs. If you are experiencing any of these warning signs, it may be time to make some changes to your driving.

- ◆ You lose your way.
- ◆ You have less confidence when driving.
- ◆ You notice other drivers honk at you.
- ◆ You miss stop signs and traffic lights.
- ◆ You mix up the gas and the brake pedals.
- ◆ You have problems with lane changing or merging.
- ◆ You have minor collisions.
- ◆ Your family is concerned about your driving.
- ◆ You have difficulty turning to back up.
- ◆ You are riding the brake.
- ◆ You are easily distracted.
- ◆ You are signaling incorrectly.
- ◆ You are driving at inappropriate speeds.
- ◆ You have difficulty managing turns.
- ◆ You are experiencing increased frustration when driving.