

VISION SCREENING

DRIVER'S LICENSE RENEWAL GUIDE

Starting January 1, 2025, all Kentuckians must undergo a vision screening to renew their driver's license. Multiple states have adopted mandatory vision screenings to ensure drivers have the visual acuity required to operate a vehicle safely.

This new requirement, enacted during the 2021 General Assembly, aims to promote highway safety by ensuring that all drivers maintain good vision throughout their driving career. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is responsible for administering the vision requirement law for drivers seeking to renew their license.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Drivers have two options for vision screenings when renewing their license:

OPTION 1:

Vision screenings may be completed for free at any KYTC Driver Licensing Regional Office at the time of renewal.

OPTION 2:

Drivers may ask their vision specialist or KYTC-credentialed osteopath, physician or advanced practice registered nurse for a vision screening. Drivers who pass will receive a Driver Vision Testing Certification Form from their provider to bring when renewing their license.

The vision screening and Driver Vision Testing Certification Form must be completed within 12 months of a driver's license renewal visit at a regional office.

IF DRIVERS DO NOT PASS

Drivers **who do not pass** their vision screening at a Drivers Licensing Regional Office will be referred to a vision specialist for secondary vision examination and any corrective lenses.

If vision is corrected, vision specialists may fill out and sign a Driver Vision Testing Certification form, confirming their patient can safely operate a vehicle and proceed with license renewal. Drivers will then bring their certification form to the Driver Licensing Regional Office when renewing their license.

KYTC will begin accepting vision testing certification forms on January 1, 2025.

Q. Do I have to make an appointment at a Driver Licensing Regional Office for a vision screening?

No. You may request a vision screening when you renew your Kentucky driver's license in person. While appointments are strongly encouraged, walk-in customers are welcome and will be served on a first-come, first-served basis.

Q. When can I renew my license?

Kentuckians may renew their driver's license up to 180 days (roughly 6 months) before their card expires. We strongly encourage Kentuckians to renew early should they need corrective vision measures if they do not pass the screening before their card expires.

Q. Are first-time Kentucky permit or driver's license holders still required to perform a vision screening when applying?

Yes, new drivers must pass a vision test performed by the Kentucky State Police during their written permit testing appointment.

Q. Is there a cost to get a vision screening?

The vision screening at Driver Licensing Regional Offices is performed at no cost to applicants. Vision specialists and Transportation Cabinet credentialed medical specialists will charge for their services.

Q. Can I upload a vision screening form when renewing my license online?

Forms will be accepted for online renewal applicants beginning January 1, 2025. More information will be available on the online renewal portal.

Q. Where can I get a form if I recently had an eye exam?

Vision specialists and credentialed medical specialists will receive the driver certification form this fall and the Transportation Cabinet will begin accepting it in January 2025. In 2025, you may call your specialist's office to ask if they can complete a form if you had an eye exam within 12 months of your license renewal visit. Specialists may request a Driver Vision Testing Certification form from the Transportation Cabinet if they do not have the form after January 2025.

Q. Can I wear glasses to take the vision screening exam at a regional licensing office?

Yes, you may wear glasses during the screening. If you test wearing glasses, and a corrective lens restriction is not already noted on your license, it will be added to your license.

Q. What are the minimum vision requirements needed to renew a license?

Drivers must have a visual acuity of 20/40 or better. They must also have a horizontal visual field of at least 30 degrees to both the left and right of fixation, and a vertical visual field of at least 25 degrees above and below fixation in their better eye.

VISION SCREENING RESOURCES



Public
Transportation
Providers



Bioptic Driving
Program



Kentucky
Lions Eye
Foundation