



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Beverly Neth
Director

PRESS RELEASE

July 10, 2009
For Immediate Release

CONTACT:
Beverly Neth, Director DMV
(402) 471-3900

DMV Rolling Out New Driver Licenses

The Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) today announced that on Monday, July 20, a number of new driver license security initiatives will be introduced. These new initiatives include a new driver licensing system, capturing an applicant’s photo at the beginning of the process, requiring proof of residence, and producing driver licenses and identification cards from a secure, centralized facility. These initiatives are authorized by state law and are designed to improve the security and integrity of the driver license.

“I’m excited about the new technology to help reduce fraud and identity theft,” DMV Director Beverly Neth said. “The new system also allows us to produce a card that is highly resistant to tampering and puts up roadblocks for counterfeiters.”

In order to launch the new system, many driver-licensing offices will be closed on July 20 and 21. All of the DMV’s Omaha branch locations, Papillion, both Lincoln offices, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Lexington, North Platte and Gering will remain open. Driver licensing services in DMV offices and the county treasurer’s offices will be suspended in all other locations across the state, with a staggered reopening starting July 23 and continuing until July 30 when statewide implementation will be complete. Motor vehicles services will not be interrupted and will be available in all county offices throughout this time period.

“We recognize that the disruption of services may cause some inconvenience, but we cannot operate both the old system and the new system at the same time,” Neth said.

Beginning on July 20, applicants will be required to present two documents as proof of their Nebraska principal address. One of these documents can be the renewal notice that is mailed to existing cardholders by the DMV. Other documents include a utility bill less than 90-days old, a credit card bill, a financial institution statement or pay or an earnings statement. Also allowed are vehicle or voter registrations, insurance policies or mortgage/lease/rental agreements. Those who have recently moved will want to ensure they bring documents reflecting their new address. A complete list of documents and requirements may be viewed at www.dmv.ne.gov. For applicants under the age of 18 unable to provide this documentation, proof of a parent or guardian's principal residence will be accepted.

Nebraska will join 17 states issuing driver licenses from a single location, with several others implementing central card systems later this year. "This does not mean the we are placing our data in a multi-state database" explained Neth, "It simply means that driver licenses and ID cards will be produced from one secure location, rather than in each county." Cards will be mailed within five to seven business days. Customers will be issued a 30-day interim document that looks very similar to a driver license or ID card. The 30-day document will clearly state that the holder has driving privileges, or in the case of an ID that no driving privileges exist.

The DMV worked with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) to secure assurances that the interim document would be accepted as identification to board commercial aircraft. "TSA representatives were very accommodating and easy to work with. They assured us that we had incorporated a sufficient number of security features into the interim document to meet the TSA requirements," said Neth. "Nevertheless, it's always a good idea to travel with at least two other forms of identification, one of which has a photo."

In addition to working with county treasurers and federal officials in preparing to launch the new system, DMV has also worked with law enforcement, the banking industry, retailers and the Liquor Control Commission to educate end-users on the new card designs and the 30-day interim document.

DMV and county office reopening information and brochures that depict the new card designs can be found on the DMV website at www.dmv.ne.gov.