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Avoid long lines for a driver's license during the summer crush

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TOPEKA – The school year may be winding down, but business is gearing up at driver licensing offices statewide.

From May to September, Kansas Department of Revenue licensing offices will issue learner's permits and restricted licenses to about 35,000 novice drivers. That can mean long lines and frustration for parents and teens going through the process.

“While we can't eliminate all the lines, simply avoiding our busiest times and days can cut down the wait time and reduce frustration when getting a driver's license or permit,” Kansas Driver License Field Services Manager Robin Harris said.

Here are some tips to help make the process go a little bit quicker and smoother:

- Avoid the driver's license offices Tuesday and Friday, those are typically the busiest times, although early in the morning is your best option
- Try to visit between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m., Wednesday and Thursday
- If you need to simply renew or replace a driver's license or ID card, visit an office in a smaller neighboring city or county where the lines are typically shorter
- If you are applying for a driver's education permit, be sure to have the right documents including the pink permit form, birth certificate and proof of a Social Security number.

The large driver's license offices –such as Mission, Olathe, Topeka, Wichita, Lawrence and Andover – are open 7 a.m. to 5:45 p.m., Tuesday through Friday.

The department will also be offering Monday service at the Wichita and Olathe offices from July 15 through Aug. 19 to help reduce wait times during the busiest months. The offices will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The state four-day work weeks with longer office hours in its driver licensing offices in 1984, all other state offices continue to be open Tuesday through Friday.

Customers can get in line either from their home computer or cellphone using the QLess system for state offices in Manhattan, Mission, Olathe, Topeka, Wichita and Andover.

To sign in online visit: <http://www.ksrevenue.org/qless.html>, to sign in using your cell phone, text the name of the office you will be going to with “DL” after the city (for example Wichita DL or Mission DL) to 714-333-1234. The phone number accepts only text messages.

Customers are then placed in the line and will receive updates by text messages as their turn approaches.

For a list of driver’s license stations throughout the state visit:
<http://www.ksrevenue.org/dmvstations.html>