

04 November 2020

Dear MiDAS Organisation,

We've been getting a lot of enquires about different aspects of MiDAS so thought we'd write you all individually just in case you'd find this information helpful. Of course, if you have any questions, we love hearing from you so please email training@ctauk.org. We're a little busy at the moment but will get back to you.

MiDAS face-to-face assessments

We've had a number of enquiries about MiDAS assessments in England given DVSA have suspended driving tests from 4th Nov-2nd Dec through our advice line and to Tracy le Roux, our Administrator directly.

MiDAS guidance for face-to-face MiDAS assessments are determined by:

- The approach to driving tests set by DVSA and DVA (Northern Ireland) [which can be found here](#).
- What the trainer/training agent's personal circumstances are. Some trainers may need to continue shielding or are clinically vulnerable so would need to take extra precautions.
- The MiDAS organisation's risk assessment (taking into account regional/local restrictions).
- The trainer's risk assessment (taking into account their personal circumstances).

From today (04 November), England will be going into a second lockdown and the DVSA are suspending driving test from 5th November to 2nd December. Parts of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have had different levels of restrictions in a tiered system.

CTA's guidance on MiDAS assessments is:

- Follow what's happening with DVSA and DVA in your country
- If completing an assessment is possible under the MiDAS organisation and trainer's risk assessment, then the MiDAS assessment can go ahead

As the national delivery organisation for MiDAS, it's going to be very difficult for us to give more specific guidance because it will vary vastly in each region and over time. We hope using the above 2 rules of thumb will give you the confidence and flexibility you need to make the right decision for yourselves.

How do I book in training and assessments in a COVID secure way?

It's important as soon as local restrictions allow, that you provide MiDAS induction or refresher training to your drivers to maintain good driving and passenger support practices across the sector.

Depending on where you are and local restrictions in place, the following options are available to you, if restrictions allow:

- Organise socially distanced and COVID secure face-to-face training and assessment
- Organise online training with a COVID secure assessment same day/week
- Organise online training for now and book in a COVID secure assessment within 3 months, when you think restrictions will allow
- Organising online training only and no assessment (note – your certificates will not be extended/granted without an assessment)

Not all MiDAS trainers are doing online training, but more and more of them are starting to offer this so it's worth checking.

MiDAS certificate extensions

Since March 2020, we've been asking people to fill [the following form](#) to ask for an extension and these have been 'automatically' granted because of COVID. By March 2021 it will have been a full year of drivers not being able to access induction or refresher training and assessment.

We're having a think at CTA and discussing with the owner of MiDAS, Hampshire County Council about whether we will need to put back into the extension request process, you telling us details of when your training and assessment will take place. In most cases, asking for an extension is the only option.

However, it's likely there will be 'windows' as local restrictions are eased or relaxed, when you'll be able to get your drivers through assessments, and it's important you make use of them to maintain good practice and high standards in the sector. Our recommendation is that you line up a training/assessment date with your trainer that you think will work and review this closer to the time. You can re-arrange if restrictions change and it won't be possible to have the training/assessment and ask for an extension to certificates in that case.

We don't want you to worry about this, we'll tell you before Christmas what the plan will be for certificate extensions from March 2021, but it's worth you finding out from your trainers whether they could do online training, whether they could book you in. In some instances, you may not be able to find a trainer who can do what you need, in which case, please talk to us and we'll see if we can help.

Best,

Maxine van den Bergh – Director of Operations and Resources

Tracy le Roux – Senior Administrator

Annessa Mahmood – Director for Member Services

