



## **DOT Requirements for Employees Who Drive Large Wheelchair-Accessible Vans Frequently Asked Questions**

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### **Will this change the type of driver's license I have? Will I need to become CDL certified?**

No, you do not need to get a new driver's license, nor does this change your driver's license. CDL certification is not required.

### **Can I opt out of being a DOT-certified driver?**

To continue supporting the people who choose our services and their opportunities to be a part of their community, we must comply with New York State Department of Transportation regulations and have DOT-certified drivers. We understand that change can feel inconvenient, but this step is part of our shared commitment to our mission and values.

### **Why don't other agencies have to do this?**

NYS DOT requirements apply to vehicles over 10,000 pounds, so it could be that the agency does not drive a vehicle of that size, or that the agency is not aware of the requirements. We have reached out to our community partners to increase awareness of the NYS DOT requirements.

### **Why do only employees who were issued their driver's license after Jan. 1, 2004, need to complete a DOT medical exam and obtain a medical certificate to drive large wheelchair-accessible vans?**

The New York State Department of Transportation determined this cutoff date for drivers.

### **May I have my primary physician complete my DOT medical exam?**

No, physicals must be completed by a DOT-certified medical provider, such as WellFit. Heritage Christian Services will cover the \$85 fee for employees if they complete one of the scheduled physicals with WellFit.

### **Do I have to complete the medical exam if I have a current CDL license?**

No, if you already have a valid medical certificate on file with the NYS DMV, and it hasn't expired, you do not need to complete the medical exam. However, you will need to provide HCS with a copy of your valid medical certificate.

### **Will I get paid for time spent at my physical with a DOT-certified medical provider?**

Yes, please log your time in ADP. If you can't clock in and out, ask your manager to enter the time on your timecard using the paycode TRG (training), with a comment of "DOT physical."

### **How long will the DOT medical exam take?**

It should take approximately 15 minutes.

### **Will I need to complete a health questionnaire for the DOT medical exam?**

Yes, there will be paperwork that will need to be completed in advance and provided directly to the medical exam provider. Heritage Christian Services will not have access to this questionnaire.

### **Will the health results or any HIPAA information be shared with HCS?**

No, HCS will not have any access to health information from the DOT medical provider, but the agency will need to retain a copy of the medical certificate received after the exam.

### **How often will I have to get a DOT medical exam?**

It depends. At the end of your exam, you'll receive a medical certificate, with an expiration date that may range from three months to two years.

### **Why do I have to complete a new road test?**

The NYS DOT has prescribed formats for road tests that vary slightly from our agency protocols. A certificate will be issued after completion.

### **Will I get paid for the time spent taking a new road test?**

Yes, please log your time in ADP. If you can't clock in and out, ask your manager to enter the time on your timecard using the paycode TRG (training), with a comment of "DOT road test."

### **When do I have to complete the road test?**

More details will be shared soon.