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Upgrades in driver's license offices will enhance security and simplify the process Offices in Holton, Seneca, Manhattan, Garden City and Dodge City will be closed on day

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TOPEKA – Five Kansas driver's license offices will begin using new technology during the next two weeks that will help ensure people receiving a Kansas driver's license are who they say they are and simplify the process of getting a license.

From March 24 to April 5 the Kansas Department of Revenue Division of Motor Vehicles will be installing new equipment and software and training workers at driver's license offices in Seneca, Holton, Manhattan, Garden City and Dodge City.

The upgraded technology, which is already used at the department's driver's license office in the Docking State Office Building in Topeka, will scan and capture the documents people bring in as proof of their identity. While documents are already visually inspected at all driver's license offices when someone applies for a driver's license, the new technology will help verify the documents' authenticity.

"We are always looking for ways to make our license more secure and the process more convenient for Kansans," said Revenue Secretary Nick Jordan. "These model DMV offices are another step in the right direction."

People applying for a driver's license for the first time, who are new to Kansas but have a driver's license from another state or who are replacing a lost or stolen license are already required to present documents such as a birth certificate, passport or social security card to prove their identity and citizenship.

By mid-summer, the Revenue Department plans to have the new technology and software installed at all 111 county and state offices that issue driver's licenses.

The new technology will help make Kansas compliant with the federal Real ID Act which requires states to adhere to tighter security measures for issuing state identification cards by Jan. 2013. Among the new rules, states must document and verify an applicant's identity, date of birth, social security number and legal presence in the United States.

Due to the training and upgrade process, the driver's license offices will each be closed on day for training

The offices will be closed the following days:

March 24 – Holton

March 29 – Seneca and Manhattan

April 5 – Garden City and Dodge City