

**RESTATED ORDER #4 OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH UNDER  
SECTION 32 of the *HEALTH PROTECTION ACT* 2004, c. 4, s. 1.**

December 22, 2021

Update Log:

December 22, 2021: Sections 1, 2, 13, 13.2-13.3.2, 13.5-13.6, 13.8-13.12, 16, 16.1-16.2, 16.2.2, 16.3.3, 17, 17.8 and 17.14-17.19 (amended) and Sections 13.7, 16.2.3-16.2.5, 16.3.7, 17.1.1-17.1.2, 17.14.1-17.14.3, 17.16.1-17.16.2, 17.18, and 18-19 (new)

- TO: 1.) All persons residing in or present in the Province of Nova Scotia;**
- 2.) All not-for-profit and for-profit businesses and organizations operating or carrying on business in Nova Scotia;**
- 3.) Such other persons or entities as may be identified by the Chief Medical Officer of Health or otherwise as set out in this Order.**

**ORDER made pursuant to Section 32 of the *Health Protection Act* (Nova Scotia)**

**WHEREAS** Section 32 of the *Health Protection Act* states:

**32 (1)** Where a medical officer is of the opinion, upon reasonable and probable grounds, that:

- (a) a communicable disease exists or may exist or that there is an immediate risk of an outbreak of a communicable disease;
- (b) the communicable disease presents a risk to the public health; and
- (c) the requirements specified in the order are necessary in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health presented by the communicable disease,

the medical officer may by written order require a person to take or to refrain from taking any action that is specified in the order in respect of a communicable disease.

**WHEREAS** COVID-19 has been identified as a communicable disease that presents a risk to public health as defined under s.4(b) of the *Health Protection Act*, and;

**WHEREAS** I am the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Province of Nova Scotia and am of the opinion, upon reasonable and probable grounds, that

- (a) a communicable disease (COVID-19) exists; and that there is an immediate

risk of an outbreak of the communicable disease;

(b) the communicable disease presents a risk to the public health; and

(c) the requirements specified in the order are necessary to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health presented by the communicable disease, and;

**WHEREAS** as the Chief Medical Officer of Health, I have determined it necessary to issue this Order to the Class of Persons to decrease the risk to public health presented by COVID-19.

**Please be advised that:**

I, Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health, **order** the following:

## **PART I DEFINITIONS**

1. In this Order,

“Adult Day Program” means a planned program of activities in a professional care setting designed for older adults or persons with disabilities who require supervision during the day, or those who are isolated and lonely. Adult day care centers enable seniors and persons with disabilities to socialize and enjoy planned activities in a group setting, while still receiving needed health services. At the same time, they offer family caregivers respite from caregiving duties while knowing that their loved one is in a safe place.

“enclosed” insofar as a public place means a public place that is surrounded or closed off on one or more sides.

“fully vaccinated” means receipt of 1 dose of a vaccine authorized as a 1 dose vaccine series such as Janssen plus 14 days, or 2 doses of a vaccine authorized as a 2 dose vaccine series such as Pfizer, Moderna or AstraZeneca plus 14 days (mixed series acceptable), a complete series of any other World Health Organization authorized series of COVID-19 vaccine such as Covaxin, Sinopharm or Sinovac plus 14 days, or a single dose of a WHO authorized vaccine and a single dose of a Health Canada authorized vaccine plus 14 days.

“fraudulent proof of vaccination” means the falsification of proof of vaccination documentation that does not comply with the requirements set out in the COVID-19 Protocol for Proof of Full Vaccination for Events and Activities, located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-proof-full-vaccination-events-activities-en.pdf>.

“illegal in-person gathering” means an in-person gathering that does not comply with the gathering restrictions of this Order, including the attendance limits applicable to indoor and outdoor in-person gatherings, proof of full vaccination for non-essential events and activities as set out in the COVID-19 Protocol for Proof of Full Vaccination for Events and Activities, located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-proof-full-vaccination-events-activities-en.pdf>, and masking requirements.

“informal in-person gathering” means a gathering of persons except where hosted by a business or organization.

“mask” means a commercial medical or non-medical mask or a home-made mask made as per the PHAC instructions located at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/sew-no-sew-instructions-non-medical-masks-face-coverings.html>, that covers the nose and mouth.

“medical exception” means an exception granted by the Chief Medical Officer of Health or his delegate from the requirement to self-quarantine on entry into Nova Scotia or from the requirement to provide proof of vaccination to participate in events or activities under the COVID-19 Protocol for Proof of Full Vaccination for Events and Activities.

“not fully vaccinated” means no receipt of any vaccine dose or receipt of 1 dose of a vaccine authorized as a 2 dose vaccine series.

“non-essential event or activity” means an event or activity hosted by a person, business or organization that does not require participation in or access to necessities of life such as those set out in the COVID-19 Protocol for Proof of Full Vaccination for Events and Activities, located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-proof-full-vaccination-events-activities-en.pdf>.

“organization” means:

(a) a public body, body corporate, society, company, firm, partnership, trade union or municipality, or

(b) an association of persons that:

(i) is created for a common purpose,

(ii) has an operational structure, and

(iii) holds itself out to the public as an association of persons.

“proof of vaccination” means documentation issued by the Government of Canada, a Provincial or Territorial Government or government of another country other than Canada, or their delegate that sets out a person’s vaccination status of being fully vaccinated and includes:

- (a) the person's name;
- (b) the brand name of vaccine received;
- (c) indication that the person received all required doses for the vaccine;  
and
- (d) the date on which the person received their final vaccine dose.

“public place” means the part of the following places accessible to the public, insofar as it is enclosed:

- (a) a retail business, a shopping centre, or a building or room of a business where personal care services are provided;
- (b) a food establishment or a liquor licensed establishment, including the kitchen and preparatory space of a food establishment or a liquor licensed establishment;
- (c) a place of worship or faith gathering;
- (d) a place where activities or services of a cultural or entertainment nature are offered;
- (e) a place where sports are played, fitness, recreational or leisure activities are carried on;
- (f) a rental hall or other place used to hold events, including conventions and conferences, or to hold receptions;
- (g) a place where municipal or provincial government services are available to the public;
- (h) a common area, including an elevator, of a tourist accommodation establishment;
- (i) a lobby, reception area or elevator in an office building;
- (j) a common area or public space on a university or college campus;
- (k) a train or bus station, a ferry terminal, or an airport;
- (m) common areas of a multi-residential building;
- (n) all common areas of municipal and provincial government, and private indoor workplaces;

(o) municipal and provincial government, and private indoor workplaces where:

- (i) there are interactions with the public;
- (ii) there are areas with poor ventilation; or
- (iii) physical distancing cannot be achieved.

“retail business” means a business operating on an ongoing basis at a fixed location primarily selling goods or products for use or consumption by individual purchasers.

“rotational worker” means a person who lives in Nova Scotia and travels to work in another Canadian province or territory outside Atlantic Canada on a regular schedule.

“self-isolate” means the requirement of any person who has COVID-19 to remain separate from others in such places and under such conditions to prevent or limit the direct or indirect transmission of COVID-19.

“self-quarantine” means the requirement of any person who has been exposed or may have been exposed to COVID-19 during its period of communicability to restrict that person’s activities in order to prevent disease transmission during the incubation period for this disease.

“serious adverse event” means an event that is life-threatening, requires in-patient hospitalization or prolongs an existing hospitalization, results in persistent or significant disability/incapacity, or in a congenital anomaly/ birth defect.

“vaccine” means a vaccine against COVID-19 that has been approved by either the Public Health Agency of Canada or the World Health Organization.

“Valid Medical Contraindication for COVID-19 Vaccination letter” means a letter completed and signed by a person’s physician or nurse practitioner attesting that the person (their patient) has a valid medical contraindication from receiving the vaccine, and the effective time period for the medical contraindication.

“Valid Medical Contraindication” means one of the following medical reasons that a person cannot receive a vaccine:

- (a) a history of severe allergic reaction (e.g. anaphylaxis) after previous administration of a COVID-19 vaccine using a similar platform (mRNA or viral vector);
- (b) an allergy to any component of the specific COVID-19 vaccine or its container (polyethylene glycol for the Pfizer-BioNTech and the Moderna vaccines);
- (c) a history of major venous and/or arterial thrombosis with thrombocytopenia following vaccination with the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine;

- (d) a history of capillary leak syndrome following vaccination with the AstraZeneca vaccine;
- (e) a history of myocarditis and/or pericarditis after a first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTechdec or Moderna); or
- (f) experienced a serious adverse event after receiving a first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine.

“vehicles providing transportation to the public” means:

- (a) any municipally operated public transit, including municipally operated buses and ferries;
- (b) any public passenger vehicle licensed under the *Motor Carrier Act*, including community transit vehicles, commercial vehicles (shuttle vans), and vehicles providing charters and/or tours;
- (c) any school buses licensed under the *Motor Carrier Act* and any vehicles of any capacity operated by private schools recognized by the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development;
- (d) commuter vehicles and courtesy vehicles as defined under the *Motor Carrier Act*, vans, mini-buses, or buses of any passenger capacity providing services to the public;
- (e) any vehicles serving residents and staff of facilities listed in section 20.1; and
- (f) taxicabs regulated by municipalities under the authority of the *Motor Vehicle Act*.

## **PART II ENTRY, ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS**

2. Effective 6:00a.m. December 22, 2021, all persons are prohibited from entering Nova Scotia, except as stated herein or set out elsewhere in this Order:

- (a) persons travelling to Nova Scotia from another Canadian province or territory; and
- (b) persons travelling to Nova Scotia from outside Canada who are eligible to enter Canada in accordance with the Federal Orders in Council 2021-0904, 2021-0903 and 2021-0902, as amended.

2.1 Where any person travels into Nova Scotia in contravention of this Order, a peace officer is hereby authorized and directed to return that person to an interprovincial border and require the person to leave the Province immediately or at such a time as may be

directed, and in doing so, may exercise authority under section 46 of the *Health Protection Act*.

2.2 Effective 8:00a.m. November 17, 2021, all persons seeking entry into Nova Scotia must:

(a) apply through the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in form and complete daily digital check-ins, located at: <https://travel-declaration.novascotia.ca/en>, except:

(i) persons who reside in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, or Prince Edward Island (the “Atlantic Provinces”) and are required to travel between Nova Scotia and one of the Atlantic Provinces on a regular ongoing basis to work, attend a school or post-secondary institution, or access essential veterinary services, and adheres to the COVID-19 Protocol for Atlantic Travel Protocol located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-Atlantic-Canada-Travel.pdf>;

(ii) persons who reside in the Atlantic Provinces and are required to travel between Nova Scotia and one of the Atlantic Provinces on an occasional basis for work, school, or to complete other tasks that cannot be accomplished virtually (“quick trips”), and adhere to the Atlantic Travel Protocol, located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-Atlantic-Canada-Travel.pdf>;

(iii) persons who reside in the Atlantic Provinces and are traveling for child custody drop offs, pick ups or frequent routine visits and adhere to the COVID-19 Protocol for Self-isolation Related to Child Custody located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-child-custody-en.pdf>;

(iv) professional truck drivers;

(v) persons who have received compassionate exceptions;

(vi) essential healthcare workers who travel to and from Nova Scotia and another province or territory to carry out their work duties on an ongoing regular basis or on a locum basis;

(vii) persons travelling to Nova Scotia from outside Canada in accordance with section 2(c) who submitted their travel information to the Federal Government via the ArriveCAN application; and

(viii) persons who have been granted a medical exception by the Chief Medical Officer of Health or his delegate,

(b) disclose to the Chief Medical Officer of Health or his delegate information related to their COVID-19 vaccination status, including:

- (i) whether they received a COVID-19 vaccine;
- (ii) the brand name of the vaccine that was administered;
- (iii) the dose received; or
- (iv) information pertaining to their application for a medical exception, including their Valid Medical Contraindication for COVID-19 Vaccination letter, and

(c) if they are fully vaccinated, provide the Chief Medical Officer of Health or his delegate proof of COVID-19 vaccination issued by the government or non-governmental entity that administered the COVID-19 vaccine, which must contain the following:

- (i) the name of the person who received the vaccine;
- (ii) the name of the government or the name and civic address of the non-governmental entity that administered the vaccine;
- (iii) the brand name or any other information that identifies the vaccine that was administered; and
- (iv) the dates on which the vaccine was administered.

2.3 For greater clarity, persons who:

(a) become age 12 between September 1, 2021 and November 1, 2021 have until March 1, 2022 to become fully vaccinated and until fully vaccinated, must be included on the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in form of the least vaccinated person who is age 12 or older in the group of persons that they are travelling with, or if travelling alone, then the parent or guardian must complete the form for the child prior to travel;

(b) become age 12 after November 1, 2021 have until 4 months from their birthday to become fully vaccinated and until fully vaccinated, must be included on the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in form of the least vaccinated person who is age 12 or older in the group of persons that they are travelling with, or if travelling alone, then the parent or guardian must complete the form for the child prior to travel;

(c) are age 12 and older must complete the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in form and complete daily digital check-ins set out in sections 2.2; and



(d) are age 11 or younger (“the child”) must be included on the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in form of the least vaccinated person who is 12 years or older that they are travelling with, and if travelling alone, then the parent or guardian must complete the form for the child prior to travel.

3.1 Effective 8:00a.m. November 1, 2021 the following requirements apply to all persons residing in or present Nova Scotia:

(a) persons have travelled outside Nova Scotia to another Canadian province or territory and who are not fully vaccinated:

(i) must self-quarantine on the day of entry into Nova Scotia, and continuing thereafter for 14 days; and

(ii) not cease self-quarantine unless they have completed at least 7 days of self-quarantine and they have received a negative COVID-19 test result on day 6 or 7, at which time they may exit self-quarantine,

(b) persons who are identified as a close contact of a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and who are not fully vaccinated, including persons identified as a close contact who have received a World Health Organization approved vaccine other than Pfizer, Moderna or AstraZeneca but have not received an additional dose of Pfizer or Moderna:

(i) must self-quarantine on the first day of close contact, and continuing thereafter for 14 days; and

(ii) must not cease self-quarantine unless they have completed at least 7 days of self-quarantine and they have received a negative COVID-19 test result on day 6 or 7, at which time they may exit self-quarantine but from day 8 to day 14 must exclude themselves from congregated high risk settings, specifically LTC, shelters, acute care facilities (except to receive essential medical care), and correctional facilities, and further must avoid contact with immunocompromised persons,

(c) persons who are identified as a person diagnosed with COVID-19, or have been tested for COVID-19 due to the presence of symptoms or as directed by public health and are awaiting their test results:

(i) must self-quarantine or self-isolate on the first day of symptoms, testing, diagnosis, and continuing thereafter for 10 consecutive days or as directed by a Medical Officer of Health.

3.2 Those persons required to self-quarantine or self-isolate in accordance with sections 3.1(a), (b) or (c):

(a) must, during their period of self-quarantine or self-isolation, conduct themselves in such a manner as not to in any way expose any other person to infection or potential infection from COVID-19; and

(b) must remain in their residence or residence grounds and otherwise remove themselves from the presence of others in public while they may be infectious during the quarantine or isolation period, so that all precautions necessary to protect others are in place. Specifically, such persons must not enter any buildings, public transportation, or other enclosed spaces (other than their residence) where other people are present; and

(c) must follow all infection control instructions given to them on the Government of Nova Scotia's website, at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>, or given to them by Telehealth 811 staff, public health staff or any other staff of a healthcare facility to which they may seek or receive treatment; and

(d) after the mandatory period of self-quarantine or self-isolation period has lapsed, they may cease self-isolation or self-quarantine if they do not exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.

### 3.3 Notwithstanding:

(a) section 3.1 (c), persons who receive a negative COVID-19 test result after being referred for testing by the online assessment tool due to the presence of COVID-like symptoms may cease self-quarantine on the date of receipt of the negative test result;

(b) sections 3.1 (a), (b) and (c), persons who are required to self-isolate or self-quarantine may leave their residence to undergo COVID-19 testing as directed by a Medical Officer of Health;

(c) sections 3.1 (a) and (b), persons who are required to self-isolate or self-quarantine may leave their residence for 1 outing per day for outdoor exercise within walking/running distance of their home or isolation site for a maximum of 1 hour,

(d) section 3.1(a), persons travelling to or returning to Nova Scotia from a Canadian province or territory must adhere to the following:

(i) persons who are fully vaccinated before arriving in Nova Scotia are not required to self-quarantine on arrival in Nova Scotia;

(ii) persons who are not fully vaccinated before arriving in Nova Scotia must self-quarantine for up to 14 days on arrival in Nova Scotia and must not cease self-quarantine until they have completed at least 7 days of self-

quarantine and they have received a negative result from COVID-19 test done on day 6 or 7, at which time they may exit self-quarantine; and

(iii) persons who have had COVID-19, have recovered from it in the last 12 weeks before entering Nova Scotia, have a letter from public health in a Canadian province or territory confirming their date of recovery and are not fully vaccinated must self-quarantine for 7 days on arrival into Nova Scotia but are not required to be tested,

(e) persons travelling to Nova Scotia from outside Canada who are eligible to enter Canada in accordance with the Federal Orders in Council 2021-0904, 2021-0903 and 2021-0902, as amended:

(i) who are fully vaccinated (the “fully vaccinated person” as set out in the Federal Orders in Council 2021-0904, 2021-0903 and 2021-0902) are not required to self-quarantine on arrival in Nova Scotia; and

(ii) who are not fully vaccinated are required to self-quarantine on arrival in Nova Scotia in accordance with Federal Quarantine requirements.

3.4 Effective 8:00a.m. November 17, 2021, persons travelling to or returning to Nova Scotia from a Canadian province or territory who:

(a) become age 12 between September 1, 2021 and November 1, 2021 have until March 1, 2022 to become fully vaccinated and until fully vaccinated, must adhere to the self-quarantine or self-isolation requirements of the least vaccinated person who is age 12 or older in the group of persons that they are travelling with, or if travelling alone, must adhere to the self-quarantine or self-isolation requirements based on their own vaccination status;

(b) become age 12 after November 1, 2021 have until 4 months from their birthday to become fully vaccinated and until fully vaccinated, must adhere to the self-quarantine or self-isolation requirements of the least vaccinated person who is age 12 or older in the group of persons that they are travelling with, or if travelling alone, must adhere to the self-quarantine or self-isolation requirements based on their own vaccination status;

(c) are age 12 and older must adhere to the self-quarantine or self-isolation requirements set out in sections 3.1 to 3.3 based on their own vaccination status; and

(d) are age 11 or younger must adhere to the self-quarantine or self-isolation requirements of the least vaccinated person who is age 12 or older in the group of persons that they are travelling with, or if travelling alone, adhere to the self-quarantine or self-isolation requirements based on their own vaccination status.

3.5 Notwithstanding Sections 2.2 and 3.1 to 3.4, persons granted a medical exception by the Chief Medical Officer of Health or his delegate to enter Nova Scotia:

(a) are not required to complete the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in form;

(b) are not required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination,

but

(c) must provide a Valid Medical Contraindication for COVID-19 Vaccination letter to the Chief Medical Officer of Health or his delegate.

4. Notwithstanding sections 2, 3.1 and 3.3, persons who are well and showing no symptoms of COVID-19 may enter Nova Scotia for the purposes of facilitating child sharing between parents under an order or agreement providing for joint custody, and in such instances, both the persons facilitating custody and children showing no symptoms of COVID-19 are exempt from the requirement to self-quarantine.

5. Further to section 4, parents and children entering or leaving Nova Scotia for the purposes of facilitating child sharing arrangements must adhere to the self-quarantine requirements established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, located at:

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-child-custody.pdf>.

6. Notwithstanding sections 2, 3.1 and 3.3, individuals who are well and showing no symptoms of COVID-19 and are engaged in a legal proceeding in Nova Scotia, whether the accused, victim, witness, party or lawyer in such proceeding, may enter Nova Scotia for participation in the legal proceeding and are exempt from self-quarantine if the person adheres to the COVID-19 Protocol for Exempt Travelers established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, located at:

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-exempt-travellers-en.pdf>.

7. An employer or contractor of any Temporary Foreign Worker entitled to enter Nova Scotia pursuant to the Federal Orders in Council 2021-0903 and 2021-0902, as amended, must first, before the Temporary Foreign Worker enters Nova Scotia, satisfy me, as Chief Medical Officer of Health, that the employer or contractor has made adequate provision for compliance with the Federal Quarantine requirements applicable to the Temporary Foreign Workers in the Agriculture and Seafood Sector.

7.1 In addition, the employer or contractor and the Temporary Foreign Worker must, for the duration of the entire work period in Nova Scotia:

(a) adhere to all applicable terms and conditions of this Order; and

(b) adhere to the COVID-19 Protocol for Temporary Foreign Workers employed in Agriculture and Seafood Sectors established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocolfortemporaryforeignworkers-agriculture-and-seafood-sectors-en.pdf>.

(c) comply with any direction issued by me, as Chief Medical Officer of Health, or a Medical Officer of Health with respect to the Temporary Foreign Worker and their employment in Nova Scotia.

7.2 For greater certainty, a Temporary Foreign Worker in the Agriculture and Seafood Sector, on arrival in Nova Scotia, is required to quarantine in accordance with the Federal Quarantine requirements unless they are assessed as exempt from quarantine in accordance with Federal Order in Council 2021-0904.

8. Notwithstanding sections 2, 3.1 and 3.3, persons who are required to travel to Nova Scotia or outside Nova Scotia for essential health services, with accompanying support persons as permitted by health authority policy, are exempt from the requirement to self-quarantine but must adhere to the COVID-19 Protocol for Exempt Travelers established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-exempt-travellers-en.pdf>.

9. Notwithstanding sections 2, 3.1 and 3.3, rotational workers must adhere to the self-quarantine and COVID-19 testing requirements established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Directive-on-Exceptions-for-Rotational-Workers.pdf>.

10. Notwithstanding sections 2, 3.1 and 3.3, specialized workers who are:

(a) needed for urgent work on critical infrastructure that cannot be done by individuals from within the Province and such work is crucial to the functioning of the Province; or

(b) needed for urgent work that cannot be done by individuals from within the Province and are necessary to preserve the viability of one or more Nova Scotia businesses,

are permitted to enter Nova Scotia from any Canadian province or territory outside Atlantic Canada. A list of critical infrastructure included in this definition is available at: <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/ntnl-scrtr/crtcl-nfrstrctr/esf-sfe-en.aspx>.

10.1 Specialized workers permitted to enter Nova Scotia in accordance with section 10 must adhere to self-quarantine and COVID-19 testing requirements established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Directive-on-Exceptions-for-Specialized-Workers.pdf>.

11. Notwithstanding sections 2, 3.1 and 3.3, fish harvesters required to enter Nova Scotia from any Canadian province or territory to perform the commercial or licensed activity of catching fish and other seafood for market or other approved activities, excluding recreational fishing, must adhere to self-quarantine requirements established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-fish-harvesters-en.pdf>.

12. Notwithstanding sections 3.1 and 3.3, workers who are essential to the movement of people and goods, and who must enter Nova Scotia as part of their duty requirements, are exempt from the requirement to self-quarantine, particularly:

- (a) healthy workers in the trade and transportation sector who are employed in the movement of goods and people across the Nova Scotia border by land, air, or water, including truck drivers, crew, maintenance and operational workers on any plane, train or ship;
- (b) Canadian Military and Defence Team personnel, Coast Guard, RCMP, Canadian Border Services Agency, and Canadian Security Intelligence Service;
- (c) first responders, including police, fire, EHS paramedic workers;
- (d) essential healthcare workers who travel to and from Nova Scotia and another province or territory to carry out their work duties on an ongoing regular basis or on a locum basis; and
- (e) airline crew employed in the movement of people and goods and who are required to travel to Nova Scotia or from Nova Scotia to carry out their work duties,

but must adhere to the COVID-19 Protocol for Exempt Travelers established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, located at:  
<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-exempt-travellers-en.pdf>.

12.1 Persons exempt under section 12 must follow all public health recommendations, closely self-monitor and must self-isolate or self-quarantine should they exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms as set out in the online assessment.

**PART III  
PHYSICAL DISTANCING,  
GATHERING RESTRICTIONS  
AND  
MASKS REQUIREMENTS**

13. Effective 6:00a.m. December 22, 2021, except where otherwise stated in this Order the physical distancing and gathering restrictions and mask requirements apply to all persons present and residing in Nova Scotia.

13.1 All persons present and residing in Nova Scotia must maintain physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet).

13.2 Notwithstanding sections 13.1, persons may gather together for informal in-person gatherings indoors or outdoors with up to a maximum of 10 persons from:

- (a) their immediate family members residing in the same household, or

(b) a consistent social group,

and they are not required to:

(c) verify proof of vaccination;

(d) practice physical distancing; or

(e) wear a mask, unless they are in a public place where masks are required in accordance with section 14.

13.3 Persons may not engage in and persons, business and organizations may not host the following events and activities in-person, whether indoors or outdoors:

(a) special events;

(b) festivals;

(c) arts and culture events; or

(d) sports, recreation and physical activity events,

but may host these events virtually while adhering to the following:

(f) a maximum of 10 persons indoors or 25 outdoors performing in one location event (not including staff);

(g) ensuring with physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) and masking of staff, and masking is recommended for performers where they cannot maintain physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet), and

(h) their COVID-19 Workplace Prevention Plan to carry out virtual production in accordance with section 17.3.

13.3.1 Persons may engage in and persons, businesses and organizations may host the following events and activities in-person, whether indoors or outdoors:

(a) weddings (excluding receptions);

(b) funerals (including visitations but excluding receptions); and

(c) regular faith services and drive-in or parking lot faith services,

while adhering to the following:

(a) when informal weddings and informal faith gatherings are not hosted by a recognized business or organization, a maximum of 10 persons from the same household or consistent social group as set out in section 13.2, plus one officiant may attend in-person and in such informal gatherings, persons in attendance are not required to:

- (i) practice physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet);
- (ii) wear a mask except in indoor public places; or
- (iii) provide proof of full vaccination,

(b) when weddings, faith gatherings and funerals (including visitation) are hosted by an existing business or organization legally operating in Nova Scotia, then the business or organization may host up to 25% of legal capacity of the establishment in which the event or activity is held, indoors or outdoors to an overall maximum of 50 persons; and persons in attendance:

- (i) must practice physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet), except persons gathered in accordance with section 13.2; and
- (ii) must practice masking requirements set out in section 14 unless exempt under section 14.3;
- (iii) are required to provide proof of full vaccination for weddings and funerals (including visitation);

but

- (iv) are not required to provide proof of full vaccination for regular faith gatherings,

(c) one soloist may sing in-person but must maintain 2 metres (6 feet) physical distance from participants while performing;

(d) virtual performances are permitted but no choirs or congregational singing is permitted; and

(e) if attending a drive-in or parking lot faith service, all persons in attendance must adhere to the following:

- (i) the service is conducted over speakers or by remote radio broadcast;
- (ii) there is no contact between cars and no transfer of things between cars;



(iii) participants remain in their respective vehicle while “attending” the service, unless accessing a washroom facility and while doing so, must adhering to protocol for gathering limits, physical distancing, and masking requirements set out in this Order;

(iv) participants practice physical distancing among vehicles, such that vehicles must be at least 2 metres (6 feet) apart from each other; and

(v) participants in the same car adhere to the gathering limits of sections 13.2(a) or (b).

13.3.2 Persons, businesses or organizations may also host any of the events listed in section 13.3.1 virtually while adhering to:

(a) a maximum of 10 persons indoors or 25 outdoors performing in one location (not including staff);

(b) ensuring with physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) and masking of staff, and masking is recommended for performers where they cannot maintain physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet), and

(c) their COVID-19 Workplace Prevention Plan to carry out virtual production in accordance with section 17.3.

13.4 Persons, businesses and organizations are prohibited from:

(a) organizing an illegal in-person gathering, including requesting, inciting, or inviting others to attend an illegal in-person gathering;

(b) promoting an illegal in-person gathering via social media or otherwise; or

(c) attending an illegal in-person gathering of any nature, whether indoors or outdoors.

13.5 Any person, business or organization that hosts an event authorized by sections 13.3 or 13.3.1 is responsible for maintaining oversight of the gathering and for ensuring that all persons in attendance comply with the requirements of this Order.

13.6 Notwithstanding sections 13.3, players, participants, and officials:

(a) may engage in organized sport practice and training (recreational, amateur, and professional) up to a maximum of 10 participants indoors or 25 outdoors (including staff and officiants), with masking recommended where physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) cannot be maintained;

(b) may engage in organized arts and culture (amateur and professional) rehearsals and virtual performances, up to a maximum of 10 participants indoors or 25 outdoors (including staff and officiants), with physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) and masking of staff, and masking recommended for performers where they cannot maintain physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet),

but

(c) may not engage in sports (recreational, amateur, and professional) games and tournaments, or arts and culture (amateur and professional) in-person performances and competitions; and

(d) no spectators are permitted to attend the organized sport practice and training (recreational, amateur, and professional), nor the organized arts and culture rehearsals (amateur and professional).

13.7 Notwithstanding sections 13.3, and 13.6, one artist or musician (professional or amateur) may perform in-person at a food establishment, liquor licensed establishments, liquor boutiques, distilleries, breweries, and wineries while adhering to the following:

(a) wear a mask as defined in section 14 except while singing or playing a wind instrument; and

(b) maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres (6 feet) from patrons while singing or playing a wind instrument.

13.8 Notwithstanding sections 13.3 and 13.6, effective 8:00a.m. December 1, 2021 until 11:59p.m. January 15, 2022, no person, business, or organization may convey or arrange to have conveyed outside Nova Scotia a person aged 11 years or under (a “young person”) for the purpose of:

(a) the young person’s participation in an organized sports game, competition, or tournament (recreational, amateur, or professional); or

(b) the young person’s performance in an organized arts or culture in-person performance.

13.9 Notwithstanding sections 13.3 and 13.6, effective 8:00a.m. December 1, 2021 until 11:59p.m. January 15, 2022, no person, business or organization may convey a young person into Nova Scotia for the purpose of:

(a) the young person’s participation in an organized sports game, competition, or tournament (recreational, amateur, or professional); or

(b) the young person's performance in an organized arts or culture in-person performance.

13.10 Notwithstanding sections 13.3 and 13.6, effective 8:00a.m. December 1, 2021 until 11:59p.m. January 15, 2022, no person, business or organization may host a young person from outside Nova Scotia:

(a) as a participant in an organized sports game, competition, or tournament (recreational, amateur, and professional); or

(b) as a performer in an organized arts or culture in-person performance.

13.11 For greater clarity:

(a) provincial and municipal governments;

(b) private businesses and organizations;

(c) first responder organizations;

(d) organized clubs; and

(e) mental health and addictions support group meetings,

may host meetings and training:

(a) up to 25% of legal capacity of the establishment in which the meeting or training is held, to an overall maximum of 50 persons; and

(b) all persons in attendance must adhere to the physical distancing requirements set out in section 13.1 and the masking requirements set out in section 14 unless exempt under section 14.3.

13.12 Recognized businesses and organizations:

(a) may host day camps, indoors or outdoors, while adhering to the following:

(i) up to a maximum of 15 persons per group (including staff and volunteers) without distancing, or in multiple groups of 15 persons with physical distancing between groups;

(ii) masking requirements set out in section 14, unless except in accordance with section 14.3; and

(iii) must follow the COVID-19 Return to Day Camp Guidelines established by the Chief Medical Officer of health, located at:

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Return-to-Day-Camp-Guidelines.pdf>.

13.13 Notwithstanding section 13.11, the physical distancing requirements set out in section 13.1 and the person limit rule set out in section 13.2 does not apply to the following municipal, provincial and federal entities and their contractors when carrying out their work duties:

- (a) First responders, including police and fire services;
- (b) Compliance and Building Officials;
- (c) Officials engaged in Housing and Homelessness initiatives;
- (d) Parks and Recreation staff;
- (e) Road Maintenance and Repair;
- (f) Government building construction and/or repair;
- (g) Public Works; and
- (h) Enforcement or compliance officers authorized by their statutory appointments or delegated authority to inspect, investigate and/or enforce provincial legislation while carrying out their powers pursuant to the relevant statutory authority.

13.14 Notwithstanding section 13.11 the physical distancing requirements set out in section 13.1 and the person limit rule set out in section 13.2 does not apply to the following organizations, activities, persons, or places:

- (a) hospitals as defined in the *Hospitals Act* and a health authority as defined in the *Health Authorities Act*;
- (b) profit, not-for-profit or government operated Department of Community Services funded organizations or representatives that are covered under the *Homes for Special Care Act* and the *Children and Family Services Act* including places of safety for children and youth, and customized placements for persons with disabilities;
- (c) profit or not-for-profit Department of Seniors and Long term Care funded long-term care facilities licensed under the *Homes for Special Care Act* or home care agencies funded under the *Homemaker Services Act*;
- (d) persons providing care under the self-managed care program, supportive care program, caregiver benefit program funded by the province of Nova Scotia;

(e) persons providing support under the Independent Living Support, Supported Apartment and Supervised Apartment Programs funded by the Department of Community Services;

(f) homeless shelters receiving operational grants from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and those operated by religious and other voluntary organizations;

(g) unlicensed child-care facilities;

(h) a place designated or established under the authority of the *Correctional Services Act* or the *Youth Criminal Justice Act (Canada)* for the supervision or custody of offenders and includes community-based correctional services;

(i) any administrative tribunal, arbitration proceeding or court operating essential services in the Province under the authority of any provincial or federal enactment, including but not limited to, a justice centre or courthouse under the authority of the *Judicature Act* or a provincial court under the authority of the *Provincial Court Act* or the *Family Court Act*;

(ia) notwithstanding clause (i), the Labour Board must still comply with section 13.1 when conducting a vote under the *Trade Union Act*.

(j) Emergency Medical Care Incorporated;

(k) persons providing, servicing or repairing medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, red cross beds/equipment, home oxygen equipment;

(l) private not-for-profit community transportation providers;

(m) food production plants; and

(n) fishing vessels.

14. All persons must wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth:

(a) while present in a public place; and

(b) while travelling on vehicles providing transportation to the public.

14.1 Persons, businesses and organizations must ensure that each person who enters the person's, business's or organization's premises adheres to the masking requirements set out in section 14 while the person is on the person's, business's or organization's premises, unless the person is exempt in accordance with section 14.3.

14.2 For greater certainty,

(a) a person must wear a mask while in a food establishment or liquor licensed establishment in accordance with section 14 except when consuming food or beverages, and must be seated while consuming food or beverages in the food establishment or liquor licensed establishment; and

(b) the owner or operator of a food establishment or liquor licensed establishment must ensure that patrons wear a mask in accordance with section 14 except when consuming food or alcohol, and must further ensure that patrons are seated when consuming food or beverages in the food establishment or liquor licensed establishment.

14.3 Notwithstanding sections 14(a), 14.1 and 14.2, a person is exempt from the requirement to wear a mask in a public place if the person:

(a) is less than 2 years of age or age 2 to 4 years and their caregiver cannot persuade them to wear a mask;

(b) for whom the wearing of a mask is not possible because of the person's medical condition;

(c) is reasonably accommodated by not wearing a mask in accordance with the *Nova Scotia Human Rights Act*;

(d) is in the public place receiving care or being provided a service or while participating in a physical or other activity requiring the mask be removed, in which case the person may remove the mask for the duration of the care, service or activity;

(e) removes the mask momentarily for identification or ceremonial purposes;

(f) is in a courtroom, jury room or secured area in a courthouse, or room where a proceeding or meeting of an administrative tribunal established by legislation is being held;

(g) is an officiant or performer in the course of performing activities requiring vocalization such as talking, singing or playing a wind instrument at the event or activity; or

(h) is 12 years of age or less, attending a day camp, overnight camp, or childcare centre.

14.4 Notwithstanding section 14(b),

(a) the following persons are exempt from the requirement to wear a mask while travelling on vehicles providing transportation to the public:

(i) a person is less than 2 years of age or age 2 to 4 years and their caregiver cannot persuade them to wear a mask;

(ii) a person for whom the wearing of a mask is not possible because of the person's medical condition;

(iii) a person who is reasonably accommodated by not wearing a mask in accordance with the *Nova Scotia Human Rights Act*; and

(b) a person may remove the mask momentarily for identification purposes when boarding any public transit.

14.5 For greater certainty, the requirement to wear a mask, as set in sections 14(a) and (b), is the minimum standard that persons, businesses and organizations must adhere to, and where the business's or organization's plan approved in accordance with section 17.3 of this Order imposes a greater standard, then that standard applies.

14.6 Directors, caregivers, staff and visitors of childcare facilities and family childcare homes regulated under the *Early Learning and Child Care Act* must wear a mask unless subject to one of the exemptions as set out in section 14.3.

#### **PART IV LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES AND OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

16. Effective 6:00a.m. December 22, 2021, except where otherwise stated in this Order, the restrictions on long term care facilities and other vulnerable populations apply to all persons present and residing in Nova Scotia.

16.1 All long term care facilities licensed by the Minister of Seniors and Long Term Care under the *Homes for Special Care Act* must comply with Schedule "A", "COVID-19 Management Long Term Care Facilities Directive Under the Authority of the Chief Medical Officer of Health", dated October 4, 2021, as amended from time to time and located at:

<https://novascotia.ca/dhw/ccs/documents/COVID-19-Management-in-Long-Term-Care-Facilities-Directive.pdf>;

16.2 All long term care facilities licensed by the Minister of Seniors and Long Term Care under the *Homes for Special Care Act* are open to volunteers and 2 fully vaccinated

visitors who must be the same 2 consistent visitors and includes but is not in addition to designated caregivers, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in Schedule “A”, “COVID-19 Management Long Term Care Facilities Directive Under the Authority of the Chief Medical Officer of Health”, dated October 4, 2021, as amended from time to time and located at: <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/ccs/documents/COVID-19-Management-in-Long-Term-Care-Facilities-Directive.pdf>.

16.2.1 Visitors to residents of long term care facilities licensed by the Minister of Seniors and Long Term Care under the *Homes for Special Care Act* must practice physical distancing set out in section 13.1, except for initial greeting with the resident, and must wear a mask and be fully vaccinated in accordance with the COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Protocol for High-Risk Settings (the “Protocol”), located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-mandatory-vaccination-high-risk-settings-en.pdf>.

16.2.2 Except for medical appointments, all residents in homes licensed by the Minister of Seniors and Long Term Care are not permitted to have community access in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in Schedule “A”, “COVID-19 Management Long Term Care Facilities Directive Under the Authority of the Chief Medical Officer of Health”, dated October 4, 2021, as amended from time to time and located at: <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/ccs/documents/COVID-19-Management-in-Long-Term-Care-Facilities-Directive.pdf>

16.2.3 Notwithstanding sections 16.2.2, all residents in homes licensed by the Minister of Health and Wellness may:

- (a) participate in drives by a designated caregiver or visitor; or
- (b) participate in bus rides in facility-owned vehicles,

but such outings must not include contact with other persons from outside the facility.

16.2.4 All long term care facilities licensed by the Minister of Seniors and Long Term Care under the *Homes for Special Care Act* are open to outside service providers for recreational activities and personal services for residents who either are fully vaccinated, or are eligible and have received a vaccine booster dose.

16.2.5 All residents in homes licensed by the Minister of Health and Wellness under the *Homes for Special Care Act* may:

- (a) attend faith services in the facility while adhering to the following,
  - (i) up to 25% of legal capacity of the indoor establishment in which the event or activity is held, to an overall maximum of 10 persons, may attend;



(ii) one soloist may sing who must be 2 metres (6 feet) from residents/attendees while performing but no choirs or congregational singing is permitted; and

(iii) residents/attendees must practice physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet), except persons gathered in accordance with section 13.2 and practice masking requirements set out in section 14 unless exempt under section 14.3.

16.3 All residents in homes licensed by the Minister of Community Services under the *Homes for Special Care Act* are open to 2 fully vaccinated visitors in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the “Covid 19 Management in DSP Licensed Homes- Guidelines” as amended from time to time.

16.3.1 Except for foster homes, all child caring facilities licensed, approved or operated by the Minister of Community Services under the *Children and Family Services Act* are open to 2 fully vaccinated visitors in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the “Coronavirus (COVID) Child Welfare Practice Guidelines” as amended from time to time.

16.3.2 Visitors to residents of homes licensed by the Minister of Community Services under the *Homes for Special Care Act* must practice physical distancing set out in section 13.1, except for initial greeting with the resident, and must wear a mask and be fully vaccinated in accordance with the COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Protocol for High-Risk Settings (the “Protocol”), located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-mandatory-vaccination-high-risk-settings-en.pdf>.

16.3.3 Except for foster homes, visitors of all child caring facilities licensed, approved or operated by the Minister of Community Services under the *Children and Family Services Act* must practice physical distancing set out in section 13.1, except for initial greeting with the resident, and must wear a mask and be fully vaccinated in accordance with the COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Protocol for High-Risk Settings (the “Protocol”), located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-mandatory-vaccination-high-risk-settings-en.pdf>.

16.3.4 Except for medical appointments, all residents in homes licensed by the Minister of Community Services under the *Homes for Special Care Act* are only permitted to have community access if they are fully vaccinated and as long as they comply with all general public health measures required under this Order.

16.3.5 All Adult Day Programs are open.

16.4 For greater clarity, nothing in this Order prevents the:

(a) discharge of a COVID-19 patient from a hospital to a long-term care or residential care facility;

(b) transfer of a COVID-19 patient from community to a long-term care or residential care facility; or

(c) return of a COVID-19 patient who has left a long-term care or residential care facility for healthcare services back to that facility after receiving treatment at a hospital.

16.5 Employers and operators in high risk settings, as well as employees, outside service providers, volunteers, visitors and designated care givers therein must adhere to the COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Protocol for High-Risk Settings (the "Protocol"), located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-mandatory-vaccination-high-risk-settings-en.pdf>, and employers and operators must:

(a) verify proof of full vaccination from each employee, outside service provider, volunteer, visitor and designated care giver in accordance with the Protocol unless they have been granted an exception in accordance with the Protocol;

(b) only retain information collected under subsection (a) until the termination of this Order; and

(c) only use the information collected under (a) for the purpose of confirming that the employee, outside service provider, volunteer, visitor and designated care giver is fully vaccinated in accordance with the Protocol.

16.6 Effective October 12, 2021, visitors to the NHTSA and IWK health authorities are required to provide proof of vaccination before entering these facilities.

## **PART V BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS AND PROFESSIONS**

17. Effective 6:00a.m. December 22, 2021, except where otherwise stated in this Order, the restrictions on businesses, organizations and professions apply to all established businesses, organizations and professions carrying on business and operating in Nova Scotia.

17.1 The *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, 1996, c.7, s.1, is hereby incorporated by reference and must be followed by all employers, contractors, constructors, suppliers, owners and employees and each shall take every precaution that is reasonable in the circumstances to ensure the health and safety of all persons at or near a workplace.

17.1.1. Subject to limitations directed elsewhere in this Order, all not-for-profit and for-profit businesses and organizations operating or carrying on business in Nova Scotia may continue to operate but must implement physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) within all workplaces and meeting spaces, except where otherwise provided in this Order.

17.1.2 Any not-for-profit or for-profit business or organization carrying on business in Nova Scotia that cannot maintain the physical distancing requirements set out in section 13.1 of this Order must limit the number of customers or clients on its premises to no more than 10 persons at a time.

17.2 All not-for-profit and for-profit businesses and organizations operating or carrying on business in Nova Scotia may not carry out COVID-19 Point of Care Screening Tests (PCTs) unless the business or organization:

(a) has obtained prior approval from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health; and

(b) complies with any direction issued by me, as Chief Medical Officer of Health.

17.3 All not for-profit, for-profit businesses, organizations and professions named shall, as a requirement of their ongoing operations, develop and comply with a Workplace COVID-19 Prevention Plan, as amended from time to time, and this Plan must address the following:

(a) how to work and interact with customers or clients;

(b) cleaning;

(c) equipment;

(d) preparing employees to return to work;

(e) preparing for customers or clients;

(f) monitoring and communicating of plan; and

(g) physical distancing in the workplace.

for similar businesses or health professionals and must be made available for review by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

17.4 All businesses or regulated health professionals that are a member of an association may adopt their association's Workplace COVID-19 Prevention Plan or their own, which must be made available for review by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

17.5 In the case of conflict between a Workplace COVID-19 Prevention Plan and this Order, the more stringent provision applies.

17.6 Regulated and unregulated health professionals practicing may continue to practice and provide services within their scope of practice if they have a Workplace COVID-19 Prevention Plan.

17.7 Persons, businesses and organizations that host non-essential events and activities must adhere to the COVID-19 Protocol for Proof of Full Vaccination for Events and Activities, located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-proof-full-vaccination-events-activities-en.pdf>, and must:

(a) verify proof of full vaccination from each patron/participant before they engage in the activity or event, and each volunteer who hosts, leads or organizes the event or activity unless they have been granted an exception in accordance with the Protocol;

(b) only retain information collected under subsection (a) if the patron/participant or volunteer provides their consent and destroy it on the earlier of their withdrawal of consent or termination of this Order; and

(c) only use the information collected under (a) for the purpose of confirming that the patron/participant or volunteer is fully vaccinated prior to engaging in the event or activity in compliance with this Order and may not use it for any other purpose.

17.8 Notwithstanding sections 13.3.1(b) and 17.7, persons, businesses and organizations may host a funeral service without requiring proof of vaccination from attendees if it adheres to the following:

(a) a maximum of 10 persons may attend (excluding the officiant and funeral home staff);

(b) all persons in attendance practice physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) and wear a mask at the funeral service, both indoors and outdoors;

(c) all persons (staff and attendees) who are showing any symptoms of COVID-19 do not attend the funeral service; and

(d) any person, business or organization that hosts a funeral service outside the parameters set out (a) to (c) must adhere to the COVID-19 Protocol for Proof of Full Vaccination for Events and Activities, located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-proof-full-vaccination-events-activities-en.pdf>.

17.9 For greater certainty, no person, business or organization may allow a person to enter their premises beyond their immediate point of entry to participate in a non-essential event or activity unless the person, business or organization verifies that the person is fully vaccinated or has been granted a medical exception by the Chief Medical Officer of Health in accordance with the COVID-19 Protocol for Proof of Full Vaccination for Events and Activities, located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-proof-full-vaccination-events-activities-en.pdf>.

17.10 Persons who participate in a non-essential event or activity hosted by a person, business or organization must adhere to the COVID-19 Protocol for Proof of Full Vaccination for Events and Activities, located at:

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-proof-full-vaccinationevents-activities-en.pdf>.

17.11 For greater certainty, persons must not enter the premises of a business or organization beyond their immediate point of entry to participate in a non-essential event or activity unless they provide proof of vaccination in accordance with the COVID-19 Protocol for Proof of Full Vaccination for Events and Activities, located at:

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-proof-full-vaccinationevents-activities-en.pdf>, or have been granted a medical exception by the Chief Medical Officer of Health or his delegate.

17.12 No person, business or organization may produce, possess, sell, or distribute fraudulent proof of vaccination.

17.13 Notwithstanding section 17.7, persons who are granted a medical exception by the Chief Medical Officer of Health or his delegate to engage in a non-essential events and activities set out in the COVID-19 Protocol for Proof of Full Vaccination for Events and Activities:

(a) are not required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination to the business or organization hosting the discretionary, non-essential event or activity,

but

(b) must provide a Valid Medical Contraindication for COVID-19 Vaccination letter to the Chief Medical Officer of Health or his delegate, and the business or organization hosting the discretionary, non-essential event or activity.

17.14 Food establishments and liquor licensed establishments may provide in-person dining while adhering to the following:

(a) all food establishments may offer in-person dining to 50% of full legal capacity of the food establishment provided the operator:

(i) ensures no group of patrons shall have more than 10 persons at a Table;

(ii) maintains a minimum physical distance of 2 metres (6 feet) between tables, and barriers may only be used to achieve the 50% capacity and not exceed it;

(iii) ensures patrons wear masks except when consuming food or beverages, and are seated while consuming food or beverages in accordance with sections 14.1 and 14.2;

(iv) ensures staff (servers and kitchen) wear masks while carrying out their work duties;

(v) ceases in-person dining service to customers effective 11:00p.m.; and

(vi) closes to in-person dining customers by midnight, but may continue take-out, drive-thru and delivery after midnight,

and

(b) all liquor licensed establishments, including liquor manufacturers (as defined in the *Liquor Control Act*) may offer in-person dining to 50% of full legal capacity of food establishment provided the licensee:

(i) ensures no group of patrons have more than 10 persons per table;

(ii) maintains a minimum physical distance of 2 metres (6 feet) between tables, and barriers may only be used to achieve the 50% capacity and not exceed it;

(iii) ensures patrons comply with the physical distancing requirements set out in section 13.1;

(iv) ensures patrons wear masks except when consuming food or beverages, and are seated while consuming food or beverages in accordance with sections 14.1 and 14.2;

(v) ensures staff (servers and kitchen) wear masks while carrying out their work duties;

(vi) ceases in-person dining service to customers effective 11:00p.m.; and

(vii) closes to in-person dining customers by midnight, but may continue take-out, drive-thru and delivery after midnight.

17.14.1 Notwithstanding other provisions of this Order, food establishments, liquor licensed establishments, liquor boutiques, distilleries, breweries, and wineries may:

(a) have one artist or musician (professional or amateur) perform and the artist or musician must:

(i) wear a mask as defined in section 14 except while singing or playing a wind instrument; and

(ii) maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres (6 feet) from patrons while singing or playing a wind instrument,

and

(b) allow patrons to dance if patrons:

(i) wear a mask while dancing; and

(i) maintain physical distancing in accordance with section 13.1 while dancing, except those patrons residing in the same household as set out in section 13.2(a) or patrons within the social group of 10 as set out in section 13.2(b).

17.14.2 Liquor boutiques, distilleries, breweries, and wineries:

(a) may remain open but must, at all times, limit the number of customers to a maximum of 50% of capacity for retail purchase and sale for offsite consumption,

(b) may offer in-person tastings and samplings in accordance with their approved Workplace COVID-19 Prevention Plan set out in section 17.3, and in adherence to section 14.2; and

(c) may offer in-person dining in accordance with section 17.14(a).

17.14.3 Owner/operators of liquor licensed establishments and non-liquor licensed establishments, including community centres, charities, or organized clubs, may host activities such as darts, pool, cards, bowling and karaoke and in doing so, must adhere to requirements of the hosting establishment.

17.14.4 Owner/operators of liquor licensed establishments may host bingo and in doing so, must adhere to requirements of the hosting establishment. However, non-licensed establishments may not host bingo as this would constitute a special event in contravention of section 13.3.

17.15 All not-for-profit and for-profit fitness facilities such as gyms and yoga studios, sport and recreational facilities such as arenas, tennis courts, and large multipurpose recreation facilities may:

(a) operate at 50% indoor capacity, while ensuring 2 metres (6 feet) distance between instructors and participants of fitness classes,

(b) offer outdoor fitness classes and other recreational activities up to a maximum capacity of 25 persons; and

(c) operate pools up to a maximum of 50% capacity,

while ensuring:

(d) participants adhere maintain physical distancing requirements set out in section 13.1 except those participants residing in the same household as set out

in section 13.2(a) or participants in social groups of 10 as set out in section 13.2(b); and

(e) participants adhere to the masking requirements set out in section 14, except where the activity makes it impracticable to wear a mask.

17.16 Businesses and organizations that offer indoor recreation and leisure activities such as indoor play areas, arcades, climbing facilities, dance classes and music lessons at may operate at 50% capacity that can be achieved while adhering to the public health requirements set out in this Order, including but not limited to the physical distancing requirements set out in section 13.1 and the masking requirements set out in section 14, except during an activity that makes it is impracticable to wear a mask.

17.16.1 All not-for-profit and for-profit fitness facilities, recreation and leisure businesses, and organized clubs may host lessons for recreational activities or offer personal training, provided that:

(a) lessons or training are held on a one to one-person ratio for instructor and participant, while maintaining physical distancing where possible,

but

(b) the instructor and participant must wear a mask, except during an activity that makes it impracticable to wear a mask.

17.16.2 Movie theatres may operate at 25 % capacity to a maximum of 50 persons while adhering to the provisions of this Order, including ensuring that patrons practice the physical distancing and masking requirements set out in sections 13.1, 14, as well as be seated in a designated area while consuming food or beverages outside the room in which the movie is being viewed in accordance with section 14.2.

17.17 The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and all museums and public libraries may at 50% capacity that can be achieved while adhering to the public health requirements set out in this Order, including but not limited to the physical distancing requirements set out in section 13.1 and the masking requirements set out in section 14.

17.18A Casino Nova Scotia (Halifax and Sydney locations) may operate at 50% capacity while adhering to the following:

(a) cease food and beverage service to customers effective 11:00p.m.;

(b) close by 12:00a.m.;

(c) ensure that patrons adhere to the requirements of this Order, including physical distancing and masking requirements set out in sections 13.1 and section 14; and

(d) their approved Workplace COVID-19 Prevention Plan in accordance with section 17.3.



17.18 Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) may operate at maximum capacity while adhering to the following:

- (a) maintain at least 2 metres (6 feet) physical distance between VLT players;
- (b) where VLT players are not distanced as set out in (a), those VLT machines must not operate; and
- (c) those that hold a liquor license:
  - (i) cease food and beverage service to customers effective 11:00p.m;
  - (ii) close by 12:00a.m,

and

- (d) adhere to the masking requirements set out in section 14.

17.19 A retail business that engages in the retail sale, or rental, of items to the public may operate at 50% capacity while adhering to the public health requirements set out in this Order, including but not limited to compliance with the following conditions:

- (a) the number of persons occupying any retail space that is open to the public in the business does not exceed 50% of the allowable occupancy or 80 square feet per person of the particular retail space;
- (b) in accordance with section 13.1, members of the public must be able to maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) from every other person in the place of business, except those persons residing in the same household;
- (b) no patrons may be permitted to line up inside or line up or congregate outside of the establishment unless they are,
  - (i) maintaining a physical distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) from other persons inside or outside the establishment; and
  - (ii) wearing a mask or face covering in a manner that covers their nose and mouth, unless they are entitled to any of the exceptions set out in section 14.3,

- (c) in accordance with section 14, members of the public wear a mask, unless they are entitled to any of the exceptions set out in section 14.3.

and

- (d) the person responsible for the place of business must ensure that music is not played at the place of business at a decibel level that exceeds the level at which normal conversation is possible, and in any event no greater than 50 db.

18. Shopping malls shall comply with the following conditions:

- (a) in accordance with section 13.1, members of the public must be able to maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) from every other person in the shopping mall, except those persons residing in the same household;
- (b) no patrons may be permitted to line up inside or line up or congregate outside of the shopping mall unless they are,
  - (i) maintaining a physical distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) from other groups of persons inside or outside the shopping mall; and
  - (ii) wearing a mask in accordance with section 14, unless exempt under section 14.3,
- (c) no line up outside any one retail space located inside the shopping mall shall exceed 10 persons;
- (d) the person responsible for the shopping mall must ensure that:
  - (i) music is not played at the place of business at a decibel level that exceeds the level at which normal conversation is possible, and in any event no greater than 50 db;
  - (ii) patrons are not permitted to loiter in any area of the shopping mall; and
  - (iii) directional markings are provided to manage the flow of pedestrians within the mall;
- (e) food courts may open while adhering to the following:
  - (i) food court vendors may provide services to persons who work in the mall and the public up to a maximum capacity of 50% of the food court;
  - (ii) tables in food courts may be used by persons who work in the mall and the public;
  - (iii) a minimum of 2 metres (6 feet) is maintained between patrons seated at food court tables and between other patrons in the food court;and
  - (iv) patrons must wear a mask in accordance with section 14, except when consuming food or beverage.

19. All personal service establishments such as hair salons, barber shops, spas, nail salons and body art establishments may remain open for provision of personal services, while operating within their approved Workplace COVID-19 Prevention Plan in accordance section 17.3, excluding personal services that require the patron to remove their mask to receive the service.

## **PART VI EXCEPTIONS**

20. Under exceptional circumstances and under the authority granted to me as the Chief Medical Officer of Health under Part I of the *Health Protection Act*, I may exercise discretion to grant an exception to any term and condition of this Order.

## **PART VII PENALTIES**

21. Any direction provided by a medical officer of health to a person, business, organization or other entity pertaining to COVID-19 and the terms and conditions of this Order must be followed.

22. Failure to comply with this health protection order may be considered a breach of this Order issued under the *Health Protection Act* and may result in penalties under the *Act*.

23. For greater clarity, any corporation or individual member of a business or organization may be held responsible for the business's or organization's breach of a provision of this Order.

This Order remains in effect until notice is provided by myself, as Chief Medical Officer of Health, under the authority granted under Part I of the *Health Protection Act* and will be updated from time to time.

Signed:

Dr. Robert Strang  
Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness

cc The Honourable Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia  
Laura Lee Langley, Deputy to the Premier and Clerk of Executive Council  
Michelle Thompson, Minister of Health and Wellness  
Jeannine Lagassé, Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness  
Dr. Shelley Deeks, Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Tina M. Hall, Legal Counsel, Nova Scotia Dept. of Justice