

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

March 26, 2020

Update Log:

March 26: Clauses 22 and 26

March 25: correct section number references only. No substantive changes.

- 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.) All public schools under the jurisdiction of a regional centre for education or the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial; and**
 - 4.) Day care facilities and family day care homes regulated under the *Day Care Act* and pre-primary programs established under the *Pre-primary Education Act***
 - 5.) Such other persons or entities as may be identified by the Chief Medical Officer of Health**

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

And 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 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, 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:

In this Order,

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

(b.) “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.

Please be further advised that:

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

1. Effective March 13, 2020:

A.) Nova Scotia Public Sector Workers, including:

- a. Civil servants;
- b. Doctors and other health-care workers;

- c. Workers at a “health authority, a “hospital,” or “institution” as defined in the *Health Protection Act*;
- d. Workers in the public school system;
- e. Workers at the Workers’ Compensation Board of Nova Scotia;
- f. All others whose compensation is paid from the Province of Nova Scotia, which includes those entities listed in Schedule 10 of the Province of Nova Scotia Public Accounts Consolidated Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2019; and
- g. Such other public sector workers as may be identified by the Chief Medical Officer of Health,

B.) Students of Nova Scotia public schools c/o their parent and/or guardian; and

C.) Children who attend regulated day care facilities c/o their parent and/or guardian,

who travel or have travelled outside Canada must self-isolate or self-quarantine, as the case may be, in accordance with Clause 3.(a.) to (d.) on the day you return to Canada.

- 2. Effective March 15, 2020, all persons residing in or present in the Province of Nova Scotia who travel or have travelled outside Canada must self-isolate or self-quarantine, as the case may be, in accordance with Clause 3.(a.) to (d.) on the day you return to Canada.
- 3. Effective March 23, 2020 at 6:00 a.m., all persons residing in or present in the Province of Nova Scotia who:
 - 3.1. enter Nova Scotia; or
 - 3.2. are identified as a close contact of a person who has or has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or
 - 3.3. are identified as a person diagnosed with COVID-19; or
 - 3.4. have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting the results of their test

must:

(a.) Remain in self-quarantine or self- isolation, as the case may be, for:

- (i) the period commencing on the day you enter Nova Scotia if you have crossed the border into Nova Scotia as per 3.1, or
- (ii) the first day of close contact, or first day of symptoms, testing, or diagnosis as per 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4.,

and continuing thereafter for 14 consecutive calendar days or as directed by a medical officer of health.

For greater certainty, this includes remaining in your residence or residence grounds and otherwise removing yourself from the presence of others in public while you may be infectious during the period, so that any precautions necessary to protect others can be put in place. Specifically, do not enter any buildings, public transportation, or other enclosed spaces (other than your residence) where other people are present.

(b.) During the period, conduct yourself in such a manner as not to expose another person to infection or potential infection from the communicable and virulent disease, namely COVID-19, by following infection control instructions given to you on the Government of Nova Scotia's website, located at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>, or given to you by Telehealth 811 staff, public health staff or any other staff of a healthcare facility to which you may seek or receive treatment.

(c.) After the period in Clause 3.(a.) has lapsed, you may return to your workplace or your child may return to public school or daycare, as the case may be, if you or your child, as the case may be, do not exhibit symptoms in relation to COVID-19.

(d.) You are encouraged to contact Public Health via Telehealth 811 should you exhibit symptoms in relation to COVID-19, or your employer/school/daycare if you are uncertain whether you should return to your workplace or if your child should return to public school or daycare.

4. Workers who are essential to the movement of people and goods are exempt from the requirement to self-isolate or self-quarantine set out in Clause 3.1, 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 marine vessel crossing the Nova Scotia border, offshore workers off the coast of Nova Scotia and workers in the agri-food and fish industry.

(b.) healthy people who have to cross the Nova Scotia land border on a regular ongoing basis to travel to work to carry out their duties, including without limitation, health care workers, community service workers including child protection workers and transition house workers, critical infrastructure workers, law enforcement and corrections workers.

(c.) people travelling into Nova Scotia for essential health services and one accompanying support person.

(d.) healthy workers employed by medical supply or pharmaceutical businesses carrying on business in Nova Scotia.

(e.) Canadian military personnel, Coast Guard and RCMP.

- (f.) first responders, including police, fire and EHS paramedic workers.
5. Workers exempt under Clause 4 must practice social distancing of two metres or six feet to the best of their ability, closely self-monitor, and must self-isolate or self-quarantine should they exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms (onset of cough, fever, or shortness of breath).
6. All persons present and residing in Nova Scotia must maintain social distancing of two metres or six feet and keep social gatherings to 5 persons or less.
7. Subject to specific closures or 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 social distancing of two metres or six feet within these workplaces.
8. Subject to specific closures or limitations directed elsewhere in this Order, any not-for-profit or for-profit business or organization carrying on business in Nova Scotia that cannot, due to its physical size, maintain the social distancing requirement set out in Clause 7 must limit the number of customers or clients on its premises to no more than 5 persons at a time.
9. For greater clarity, the 5-person rule referred to in Clause 8 does not apply to:
- (a.) businesses and organizations who can maintain social distancing requirements, including without limitation, grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations, convenience stores, construction sites, financial institutions, and agri-food and fish plants.
 - (b.) Canadian Blood Services blood collection clinics.
10. For greater clarity, the social distancing requirements set out in Clause 7 and the 5-person limit set out in Clause 8 do not apply to the following entities:
- (a.) 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.
 - (b.) profit or not-for-profit Department of Health and Wellness funded long-term care facilities licensed under the *Homes for Special Care Act* or home care agencies funded under the *Homemaker Services Act*.
 - (c.) hospitals as defined in the *Hospitals Act* and a health authority as defined in the *Health Authorities Act*.

(d.) any 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*;

(e.) 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.

(f.) unlicensed child-care facilities.

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

(h.) the following health professions who are independent practitioners engaged in community practice and are deemed necessary to provide essential services:

- (i) physicians
- (ii) pharmacists
- (iii) nurse practitioners and nurses
- (iv) continuing care workers
- (v) home care workers
- (vi) paramedics

(i.) Emergency Medical Care Incorporated.

(j) persons providing care under the self-managed care program, supportive care program, care giver benefit program funded by the province of Nova Scotia.

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

(l) food production plants.

(m) fishing vessels.

11. In addition and for greater clarity, the social distancing requirements set out in Clause 7 and the 5-person limit set out in Clause 8 do not apply to taxi service and the following municipal entities and their contractors:

- (i) Police and Fire Services
- (ii) Municipal Utilities such water, wastewater and stormwater
- (iii) Maintenance of utilities and municipal facilities
- (iv) Transportation
- (v) Road maintenance/repair

- (vi) Municipal ICT systems and services
- (vii) Public Transit
- (viii) Solid Waste, garbage and litter collection and disposal
- (ix) Urban Forestry
- (x) Municipal logistic, distribution, storage, inventory and repair services

12. All public schools under the jurisdiction of a regional centre for education or the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial will be closed for two weeks following March Break for the weeks of March 23, 2020 and March 30, 2020 and will be reassessed thereafter.

13. All day care facilities and family day care homes regulated under the *Day Care Act* and pre-primary programs established under the *Pre-primary Education Act* centres are closed from March 17, 2020 to April 3, 2020 and will be reassessed thereafter.

14. Except in exceptional circumstances, all long-term care facilities and residential care facilities for persons with disabilities licensed under the *Homes for Special Care Act* will be closed to visitors and movement of its residents is restricted to the long-term care facility/residential care facilities for persons with disabilities and the grounds of the long-term care facility/ residential care facilities for persons with disabilities during the period this Order remains in effect.

15. For greater clarity, nothing in this Order prevents the:

- (i) discharge of a COVID-19 patient from a hospital to a long-term care or residential care facility;
- (ii) transfer of a COVID-19 patient from community to a long-term care or residential care facility; or
- (iii) 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. Casino Nova Scotia (Halifax and Sydney locations) are closed effective March 16, 2020 at 12:00 a.m. and will remain closed during the period this Order remains in effect.

17. No business may operate a Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) effective March 16, 2020 and continues during the period the Order remains in effect.

18. Effective March 19, 2020:

- (a.) all restaurants are prohibited from offering in-person dining service and are restricted to providing take-out and delivery service only, but any restaurant that cannot comply with the social distancing requirements set out in Clause 7 may continue to provide take-out and delivery service with minimum staffing required to maintain operations;

(b.) all drinking establishments, including bars, wineries, distillery tasting rooms and craft taprooms must close and remain closed during the period this Order remains in effect;

(c.) notwithstanding Clause 18.(b.), private liquor stores may continue to operate and craft breweries, wineries, and distilleries may continue to sell their product from their storefronts; and

(d.) all personal service and fitness establishments such as hair salons, barber shops, spas, nail salons, body art establishments and gyms must close during the period this Order remains in effect.

19. Effective March 23, 2020, all golf courses must close during the period this Order remains in effect.

20. Effective March 23, 2020:

(a.) except physicians, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, nurses and paramedics all self-regulated health professions and podiatrists engaged in private practice may provide in-person emergency or urgent care services, and may provide virtual care for non-emergency/elective care services if authorized to provide this care within their scope of practice and as established by their governing college.

(b.) except for podiatrists, all unregulated health care providers engaged in private practice are restricted from providing in-person services and may only provide virtual care services during the period this Order remains in effect. For greater clarity this includes, but is not limited to:

(i) Massage therapists

(ii) Naturopathic doctors

(iii) Chinese medicine practitioners

(iv) Acupuncturists

(v) Any other complementary and alternative medicine practitioners

21. Effective March 21, 2020, dentists are prohibited from entering their offices and engaging in the practice of dentistry, except where it is necessary to perform an emergency dental procedure to protect the health and welfare of the patient.

22. Effective March 26, 2020, all veterinarians, including veterinary surgeons and veterinary physicians, may provide:

(a.) in-patient emergency or urgent care services;

(b.) essential veterinary supply chain services, such as prescription refills and prescription diets; and

- (c.) virtual care services if authorized to provide this care within their scope of practice and as established by their governing association.
23. All March Break camps scheduled in the Province for the week March 16-20, 2020 are cancelled.
24. 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*.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. 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.

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

cc The Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia
The Honourable Randy Delorey, Minister of Health and Wellness
Laura Lee Langley, Deputy to the Premier and Clerk of Executive Council
Jeannine Lagassé, Acting Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness
Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed, Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health, Department
of Health and Wellness
Tina M. Hall, Legal Counsel, Nova Scotia Department of Justice