

SUPREME COURT OF NOVA SCOTIA

Between:

Citizens Alliance of Nova Scotia and J.M. by his litigation guardian K.M.

Applicants

and

Robert Strang acting as Chief Medical Officer of Health of Nova Scotia and Michelle Thompson acting as Minister of Health and Wellness of Nova Scotia and the Attorney General of Nova Scotia representing Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of Nova Scotia

Respondents

Affidavit of Tara Walsh

I, Tara Walsh, resident of Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia, affirm and give evidence as follows:

1. I am the Senior Executive Director, Public Health, within and for the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness. I have held this position since September, 2023. At the time the first Public Health Order (“PHO”) relating to COVID-19 was issued in March, 2020, I served as Managing Director, Communications Nova Scotia. I then served as Special Advisor, Health Transformation Office from May 2022 until September 2023.
2. I have personal knowledge of the evidence sworn to in this Affidavit except where otherwise stated to be based on information and belief.
3. I state, in this Affidavit, the source of any information that is not based on my own personal knowledge, and I state my belief of the source.
4. Through my employment described above, I have knowledge of the timing and content of various iterations of the PHO issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Robert Strang (“Dr. Strang”), in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic.
5. Final decisions on what to include in each iteration of the PHO were made by Dr. Strang.
6. The Province of Nova Scotia was under a provincial State of Emergency, pursuant to the *Emergency Management Act*, SNS 1990, c 8, from March 22, 2020, until March 21, 2022, in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

7. In March 2020, Dr. Strang, in his capacity as Chief Medical Officer of Health of Nova Scotia, issued the first in a series of iterations of a PHO pursuant to authority set out at s 32 of the *Health Protection Act*, SNS 2004, c 4 (the “HPA”).

8. The first such iteration of the PHO was issued verbally by Dr. Strang on March 22, 2020, followed by issuance of the first written iteration of the PHO on March 23, 2020. This PHO, in its preamble, confirmed that Dr. Strang believed on reasonable and probable grounds that COVID-19 posed an immediate risk of outbreak presenting a risk to public health, and set out and confirmed that the requirements of s 32 of the *HPA* were met. A true copy of the PHO as issued on March 23, 2020, is attached hereto as **Exhibit “A”**.

9. The PHO constitutes a single continuous order, updated from time to time by Dr. Strang. All iterations have contained the same language in the preamble confirming that the requirements set out in s 32 of the *HPA* had been met.

10. On July 6, 2022, all remaining public health restrictions affecting the general public in Nova Scotia were lifted. The only remaining PHO provisions after that time applied to long-term care facilities, high risk settings, and other vulnerable populations. A true copy of the PHO as of July 6, 2022, is attached hereto as **Exhibit “B”**.

11. From July 6, 2022, the PHO did not require any proof of vaccination for public gatherings or for visits by members of the public to long-term care facilities. Similarly, from July 6, 2022, there were no ongoing restrictions relating to public gatherings, events, or participation in school or recreational sports or activities.

12. On May 23, 2023, the PHO was lifted in its entirety, meaning no further restrictions of any kind existed as of that date under the authority of the PHO. A true copy of the provincial press release issued May 23, 2023 describing the lifting of the PHO is attached hereto as **Exhibit “C”**.

Sworn to before me on October 7th, 2024
at Halifax in the Province of Nova Scotia



A Barrister of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court

DANIEL BOYLE
A Barrister of the Supreme
Court of Nova Scotia



Tara Walsh, Senior Executive Director, Public
Health, Nova Scotia Department of Health
and Wellness

TAB A

2021

Yar No. 510031

This is Exhibit "A" referred to in the
Affidavit of Tara Walsh sworn
before me on October 7, 2024



A Barrister of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia

DANIEL BOYLE
A Barrister of the Supreme
Court of Nova Scotia

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

23 March 2020

- 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 (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.

2. 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 go to work or carry out their legislated duties, including 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 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.

3. Workers exempt under clause 2 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).

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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 5 must limit the number of customers or clients on its premises to no more than 5 persons at a time.

7. For greater clarity, the 5-person rule referred to in Clause 6 does not apply to:

(a.) businesses and organizations who can maintain social distancing requirements such as grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations, convenience stores, construction sites, financial institutions, and agri-food and fish plants.

(b.) Canadian Blood Services blood collection clinics.

8. For greater clarity, the social distancing requirements set out in Clause 5 and the 5-person limit set out in Clause 6 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) nurse practitioners and nurses
- (iii) continuing care workers
- (iv) home care workers

(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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

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

14. 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 5 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 14.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.

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

16. Effective March 23, 2020:

(a.) all self-regulated health professions and podiatrists engaged in private practice may provide virtual care for in person emergency or urgent care services, and if are authorized to provide virtual care within their scope of practice and as established by their governing college.

(b.) except for podiatrists, unregulated health professionals are prohibited from providing services during the period this Order remains in effect.

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

18. All March Break camps scheduled in the Province for the week March 16-20, 2020 are cancelled.

19. 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*.

20. 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.

21. 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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Strang', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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

TAB B

2021

Yar No. 510031

This is Exhibit "B" referred to in the
Affidavit of Tara Walsh sworn
before me on October 7, 2024



A Barrister of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia

DANIEL BOYLE
A Barrister of the Supreme
Court of Nova Scotia

**RESTATED ORDER #6 OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH UNDER
SECTION 32 of the *HEALTH PROTECTION ACT* 2004, c. 4, s. 1.**

July 6, 2022

Decision Log:

July 6, 2022: Sections 1-6 (amended)

May 24, 2022: Sections 2, 3, 3.6-3.7 (amended)

- 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,

“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, AstraZeneca, Novavax or Medicigo, 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.

“health care workers” means individuals who provide health care or support services, such as nurses, physicians, dentists, paramedics, allied health professionals, unregulated healthcare providers, clinical instructors and students, volunteers, and housekeeping staff in health care settings, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, pharmacy interns and pharmacy students.

“health care settings” means all hospitals as defined by the Hospitals Act; long-term care facilities licensed under the *Homes for Special Care Act*; privately-operated care facilities for seniors, along with independent or assisted living services for seniors; homes licensed by the Minister of Community Services under the *Homes for Special Care Act*; health authority as defined in the *Health Authorities Act*; home care agency funded under the *Homemaker Services Act*; privately-operated home care services and agencies; emergency health services, ambulance services and communications centre as defined in the *Emergency Health Services Act*; and organizations primarily funded by the Minister of Community Services that provide residential placements and supervision to, including participants of the Disability Support Program (Temporary Shelter Arrangements, Independent Living Support and Supervised Apartments) and Children

and youth in the care of the Minister of Community Services under the *Children and Family Services Act*; physicians providing care in the community, including family, pediatricians and other specialists; and pharmacies and pharmacy immunization clinics.

"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.

**PART II
LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES,
HIGH RISK SETTINGS
AND
OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

2. Effective 12:01a.m. July 6, 2022, 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.

2.1 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 July 6, 2022, 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>.

2.2 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 visitors, 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 July 6, 2022, 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>.

2.3 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.

2.4 Employers and operators in high risk settings, as well as employees, outside service providers, and volunteers, 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, and volunteer 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, and volunteer is fully vaccinated in accordance with the Protocol.

2.5 Health care setting employers and health care workers employed in a health care setting must adhere to the COVID-19 Protocol for Additional Precautions for SARS-CoV-2 in Health Care Settings, located at:

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-Healthcare-Settings-Additional-Precautions.pdf>.

PART III EXCEPTIONS

3. 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 IV
PENALTIES**

4. 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.

5. 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*.

6. 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. Shelley Deeks
Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health
On behalf of Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness

cc Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health
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

TAB C

2021

Yar No. 510031

This is Exhibit "C" referred to in the
Affidavit of Tara Walsh sworn
before me on October 7, 2024



A Barrister of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia

DANIEL BOYLE
A Barrister of the Supreme
Court of Nova Scotia



News release

Update to Nova Scotia's COVID-19 Response

23 May 2023 | 10:01 AM

COVID-19

Health and Wellness

With the World Health Organization saying COVID-19 no longer requires a global emergency-type response, Nova Scotia is changing its approach to managing the virus.

COVID-19 will be treated similar to other respiratory illnesses like influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). The change means the COVID-related Health Protection Act Order is no longer necessary, and public health's COVID-19 reporting will also change.

Dr. Robert Strang, Nova Scotia's Chief Medical Officer of Health, made the announcement today, May 23.

"It is important to note that while COVID-19 no longer requires an emergency-type response, we continue to monitor COVID-19 activity and will adjust our plan as needed, as we do with other diseases," said Dr. Strang. "As we begin to plan for the upcoming respiratory season this fall, we are taking a more general approach, integrating COVID-19 into our respiratory illnesses program. The same type of personal measures that protect us against COVID-19 will also protect us against influenza and other respiratory illnesses."

Effective today, Nova Scotia has lifted the Health Protection Act Order, the mandatory vaccination protocol for high-risk settings and the directive around COVID-19 management in long-term care facilities.

Employers and operators of high-risk settings will be responsible for policies about COVID-19, including masking and whether employees, outside service providers and volunteers need to be vaccinated. Employees and others who have questions about an organization's vaccine policy should contact the organization directly.

Public health has provided guidance for operators of congregate settings on COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses.

On Thursday, May 25, the weekly COVID-19 dashboard will be updated for the last time. Nova Scotia will continue to report the data in the monthly COVID-19 report. The report, produced in the middle of the month, reflects the COVID-19 epidemiology in the province for the previous month.

Starting in October, COVID-19 data will be reported with other respiratory illnesses in Respiratory Watch, a document produced by public health. It will initially be published monthly and then more frequently during respiratory season.

Quick Facts:

- the Health Protection Act Order came into effect March 15, 2020
- the COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Protocol in High-Risk Settings came into effect on November 30, 2021
- high-risk congregate living situations include healthcare facilities, long-term care homes, correctional facilities and some facilities operated by Department of Community Services

Additional Resources:

COVID-19 monthly reports: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/alerts-notice/#epidemiologic-summaries>

Information on COVID-19 vaccines and how to get vaccinated: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/vaccine/>

Guidance For COVID-19 and Other Respiratory Viruses in Congregate Living Settings:

<https://novascotia.ca/dhw/cdpc/documents/guidance-covid-19-other-respiratory-viruses-congregate-living-settings.pdf>

World Health Organization statement on COVID-19: [https://www.who.int/news/item/05-05-2023-statement-on-the-fifteenth-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-coronavirus-disease-\(covid-19\)-pandemic](https://www.who.int/news/item/05-05-2023-statement-on-the-fifteenth-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)-pandemic)

Follow Us

 [Twitter](#)

 [Facebook](#)

 [YouTube](#)

 [All government social media accounts](#)