



PLEASE NOTE: Nova Scotia’s vaccine rollout is rapidly evolving. These FAQs are being updated on a consistent basis as things change. Last updated: Tuesday, April 6.

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COVID-19 VACCINES

Age Groups

Why are you giving Nova Scotians 55 to 64 a COVID-19 vaccine when you have not completed long-term care and seniors 80 and over have just started?

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization has recommended that people 65 and older receive an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) and that AstraZeneca be used for anyone 55 and older.

Who is eligible to book a vaccine appointment now?

People 70 and older can book an appointment for the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

People 55 to 64 can book an appointment for the AstraZeneca vaccine.

If I receive the AstraZeneca vaccine, can I receive one of the others at a later date?

Currently, if you choose to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine you will receive a second dose of the same vaccine 4 months later. At this time, there is not data which would support receiving a different type of vaccine as your second dose.

AstraZeneca Vaccine

We are hearing that the AstraZeneca vaccine is being suspended in some countries because it's not safe. Why are you still giving it to us in Nova Scotia?

In the past few weeks there have been growing European reports of rare, but serious, cases of blood clots associated with low levels of blood platelets following immunization with the AstraZeneca vaccine. Most of the cases were women under the age of 55 and about 40% of them died.

A definitive link between the vaccine and blood clotting events has not yet been made. To date, no similar blood clotting events have been reported in Canada, or with any other vaccines.

Health Canada announced yesterday that it is requiring AstraZeneca manufacturers to conduct a detailed assessment of the benefits and risks of the vaccine by age and gender in the Canadian context. Health Canada will use this information, along with further international evidence, to determine if additional regulatory actions are necessary.

In the interim, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization is recommending an immediate pause on the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine in people under 55 in Canada. The country's chief medical officers of health fully support this recommendation.

Anyone over 55 can still get this vaccine if it is offered to them because for older adults, the benefits of getting the vaccine outweigh the increased risk that COVID-19.

We understand this is scary for people, especially if you've had your first dose already. However, Nova Scotia's rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine has focussed on people who are 60-64. That is well within the age range recommended for use.



We understand this is scary for people. However, Nova Scotia's rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine has focussed on people who are 60-64. That is well within the age range recommended for use. When we get additional AstraZeneca in Nova Scotia, we will focus on the age 55-64 for those who feel this vaccine is right for them.

When it is time for your age group to get vaccinated, you can review which vaccines are available at which locations and make the right decision for you based on the evidence that we are able to provide at that time.

Have Nova Scotians under 55 received AstraZeneca? What should they know?

In Nova Scotia, we still only have a limited supply of AstraZeneca and we are offering it to people who are 55-64 years old who feel this vaccine is right for them.

Anyone who receives the AstraZeneca vaccine should monitor for unusual reactions in the first 4 to 20 days and seek immediate medical attention in the unlikely event that they develop any of the following:

- shortness of breath
- chest pain
- leg swelling
- persistent abdominal pain
- sudden onset of severe or persistent worsening headaches or blurred vision and
- skin bruising, other than at the site of vaccination

What if I do not want AstraZeneca?

All vaccines licensed by Health Canada are safe when used for the recommended age ranges and effective at preventing severe illness and death from COVID-19. There are three vaccines available for use in Nova Scotia.

Data suggests that the AstraZeneca vaccine had slightly lower efficacy than the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines following a second dose 12 or more weeks after the first. The data on effectiveness continues to evolve.

All COVID-19 vaccines offer protection from COVID-19.

At this time, if you do not want to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine, you may choose to wait until you are eligible based on your age to access a community clinic. When it is time for your age group to get vaccinated, you can review which vaccines are available at which locations and make the right decision for you based on the evidence that we are able to provide at that time.

Does the AstraZeneca vaccine have the same handling restrictions as the other two COVID-19 vaccines?

Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines require freezer or ultra-low freezer storage, while the AstraZeneca vaccine can be transported and stored between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius, similar to standard flu vaccine.



General Questions

Do you only need one dose of the vaccine? Is it delivered via a needle?

Health Canada has secured several brands of COVID-19 vaccine, but currently only the Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca vaccines are approved for use. These three brands are delivered through a needle into the muscle of the upper arm and they both require a second dose 4 months apart.

Do you need a new vaccination every year, like the flu shot?

At this time, it is unknown how long the protection will last. As vaccination rolls out, national groups will evaluate the data and provide an update how long the protection lasts and whether there may be a need for additional doses.

Is there a fee for the vaccine?

The vaccine is free to everyone who wants it.

Will the vaccine be mandatory for anybody? What about healthcare workers and others who work in patient care?

We strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated to protect themselves, the people around them, and the people they care for. Vaccination is not mandatory for anybody.

If I was already COVID-positive, will I still need the vaccine?

Yes, you should get vaccinated.

Can I pick the type of vaccine I want?

The vaccine you receive will depend on a number of factors including your age and where you are eligible to receive it from. At this time, you can choose which vaccine based on eligibility, but as vaccine supply and vaccine brands increase, this may change and we cannot guarantee that Nova Scotians will be able to choose one vaccine over another.

What is the difference between an mRNA vaccine and a viral-vector-based vaccine?

Pfizer-BioNtech and Moderna are mRNA vaccines, which do not contain the COVID-19 virus. Instead, they teach our cells how to create the protein needed to trigger an immune response to protect against infection. The AstraZeneca vaccine is a viral-vector-based vaccine, which also does not use the virus that causes COVID-19, but a different, harmless virus that triggers an immune response.

Why did you switch from 3 or 4 weeks for a second dose to 16 weeks?

The National Advisory Council on Immunization released new guidance on when the second can be provided. This guidance shows that you can receive your second dose up to 16 weeks later. Nova Scotia is adopting this recommendation which will mean more Nova Scotians will receive their first dose sooner.

Health and Safety

I have a health condition. Can I receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

Some people may not be able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. More information is available at <http://www.nshealth.ca/covid-19-vaccine-information>. You should speak with your family doctor, nurse practitioner or pharmacist ahead of time to help you decide if you should receive the COVID-19 vaccine.



Are there side effects of the vaccine? People in other countries are having serious adverse reactions.

Like any medication, vaccines can cause side effects or reactions. The most common side effects from the COVID-19 vaccines are soreness, redness and swelling at the site of injection, headache, muscle pain, chills and joint pain. Swelling and tenderness around the armpit area is very common for those who receive the Moderna vaccine.

What happens when someone has a serious adverse reaction?

If you believe you are having an adverse reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine, you should speak to a healthcare provider or call 811. Healthcare providers in Nova Scotia are required by law to report certain adverse events following immunization to Public Health at the Nova Scotia Health Authority.

Can the vaccine give me COVID-19?

No. The vaccines currently approved or under review by Health Canada do not contain the virus. Therefore, they cannot give you COVID-19.

If the vaccine cannot be given to anyone younger than 16, how will we protect our children?

We know some groups will be unable to be vaccinated. It is important for those who can be immunized, to get immunized, to protect others. As more information about the use of vaccine in younger people becomes available from Health Canada, we will adjust our immunization efforts.

How long does it take for the vaccine to provide protection or immunity?

To provide appropriate immunity, you must have both doses of the vaccine.

These are new vaccines that were rushed through approvals. Is it safe?

Canada is recognized around the world for high standards for vaccine review, approvals, and monitoring systems.

Like all vaccines authorized for use in Canada, COVID-19 vaccines will be held to the same high safety, effectiveness, and quality standards. Only COVID-19 vaccines that meet those standards will be approved. Once a COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for use in Canada, Health Canada (the regulator) monitors its safety and effectiveness in individuals. Manufacturers are legally required to report specific adverse events to Health Canada. In addition, Nova Scotia provides safety reports nationally and there is monitoring of all provinces' and territories' safety reports received across the country at the national level.

Health Canada only approves a vaccine if it is supported by robust scientific data and evidence. A similar process was used in 2009 to review and authorize the H1N1 pandemic vaccine. There is no reason to believe that the vaccine is not safe. Like other viruses, the best defence is vaccination.

If I have an egg allergy can I get the vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccines that Nova Scotia currently has in the province (Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca) do not contain any egg proteins and none of these vaccines are contraindicated in egg allergy. It is important to have a conversation with your healthcare provider prior to receiving your vaccine to discuss your health status and specific health concerns.

Vaccines and Public Health Measures

If I receive the vaccine does that mean I no longer have to wear a mask, physical distance or follow other public health measures?

Anyone who has received a vaccine must continue to follow public health measures which includes wearing a mask, staying 2 metres/6 feet apart from others, practicing proper hand hygiene, following gathering limits, and staying home if unwell. When changes to public health measures are made they will be announced.

I received my vaccine (both doses) in another province. Am I still required to isolate for 14 days when entering Nova Scotia?

Yes. If you are traveling from any province other than Prince Edward Island or New Brunswick, you will be required to self-isolate for 14 days even if you have received your vaccine. You will need to abide by all public health measures including wearing a mask, staying 2 metres/6 feet apart from others, practicing proper hand hygiene, following gathering limits, and staying home if unwell. It is important to remember that some people cannot be vaccinated. We all need to do our part to protect the people around us, as well as ourselves.

Why are vaccinated people still required to follow public health measures? Isn't that the point of a vaccine?

Although we know the vaccine is highly effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19, the vaccine needs to be studied further to make sure that people who have received it cannot transmit the virus asymptotically. Until the majority of Nova Scotians have been vaccinated, all residents and visitors in Nova Scotia are required to follow all public health measures.

How long will we need to practice public health measures even though we have a vaccine?

It is difficult to say. As more information becomes available from vaccine studies, guidance will be provided.

[CLINICS](#)

Community Clinics

Who can access community clinics?

At this time, Nova Scotians who are age 70 and older are able to book an appointment at a community clinic

Can I book at any community clinic?

Yes. You can book at any community-based clinic in the province. You must receive your first and second doses at the same clinic. Nova Scotians are encouraged to book at a clinic closest to home.

How many community clinics are there? Where are they?

There are 10 community COVID-19 vaccination clinics across the province:

- IWK Health Centre, 5980 University Ave., Halifax
- Canada Games Complex (CBU) University Blvd., Sydney
- NSCC Truro, 36 Arthur St., Truro



- New Minas Baptist Church, 9453 Commercial St. New Minas
- St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish (Bloomfield Centre, MacKay Room 309)
- Multipurpose Centre, 6210 Young St. Halifax (Corner of Young St. and Windsor St. Enter clinic through the Young St. entrance)
- NSCC Burr ridge, 372 Pleasant St., Yarmouth
- Amherst Centre Mall – Unit 205, 142 South Albion St., Amherst
- NSCC Lunenburg Campus, 75 High St., Bridgewater
- 39 Micmac Blvd. (next to Chapters beside Mic Mac Mall), Dartmouth

Why are there only 10 clinics?

These clinic locations were chosen based on capacity to handle all vaccine types and to ensure that as many Nova Scotians as possible were within an hour of a clinic.

Will there be transportation provided to get to the clinic?

The Government of Nova Scotia has partnered with the Rural Transportation Association to provide low-cost transportation for people who are not able to get to their appointment. If you need help with transportation, visit [Rural Rides](#) to find a local provider and book a ride for your vaccination appointment (rides are \$5 for a round trip).

If the Rural Transportation Association does not operate in your area, you will be responsible for your own transportation.

Are the community sites accessible?

Yes. Accessibility was a requirement of site selection. If you use a wheelchair, walker cane etc., please bring them with you. If you need a wheelchair to help with longer distances, we will have a few onsite.

Why isn't there a community clinic in Pictou?

Pictou County has been actively considered in the planning of the provincial COVID 19 immunization program. All communities across the province will have equitable access to vaccine over the coming few months. Nova Scotia will have several models of community delivery to ensure everyone has ready access to the vaccine. We are just at the start of the community access portion of our vaccine program and as a starting point, we have begun our community clinic rollout in 10 communities across the province. These clinic locations were chosen based on capacity to handle all vaccine types and ensuring that as many Nova Scotians as possible were within an hour of a clinic. Both the Antigonish and Truro clinics are within an hour of Pictou County, but we recognize that for some even that presents significant challenges. As our vaccine supply increases, we will also be able to increase access through local pharmacies in the New Glasgow and Pictou area and will continue to evaluate community needs.

Why isn't there a community clinic in my community?

We are just now starting to get larger amounts of vaccine. Over the next several months, every adult Nova Scotian will get an opportunity to get vaccinated in their community. Nova Scotia will have several models of community delivery to ensure everyone has ready access to the vaccine. This will include the existing community clinics, mobile clinic options and a network of pharmacies and doctor's offices across the province. By the end of March, we will have tested all models of delivery to work out the kinks and make sure we're ready to expand our rollout quickly.



First Nation and African Nova Scotian Clinics

What is the status of the First Nations clinics?

Vaccination clinics in the 13 Mi'kmaw communities across the province are all underway. These will be managed by their respective health centres.

Why will First Nations communities immunize persons 55 and over instead of 70 and over?

The decision to immunize starting at age 55 recognizes that Indigenous communities, due to the impacts of systemic racism, may experience disproportionate consequences as a result of infection. It also recognizes that Elders in the community play a very important role as holders of the language and knowledge keepers. For those reasons, we are adjusting our age approach in Mi'kmaw communities.

I live off reserve. When will I be eligible?

Nova Scotia's immunization plan recognizes that some of our communities, due to impacts of systemic racism, may experience disproportionate consequences as a result of infection. This recognition has led to the prioritization of First Nation communities to receive the COVID-19 vaccine sooner and, to start with those who are age 55 and older, as well as some knowledge and language keepers.

To ensure the vaccine rollout to First Nations people is done in a culturally responsive way, government is working closely with Mi'kmaw Health and Wellness and health directors in the 13 Mi'kmaw communities to deliver the vaccine.

Immunizing elders 55 and over who live in Mi'kmaw communities is just a start. This is the first phase of vaccination for First Nations and Indigenous people in Nova Scotia, including those who live off-reserve. Learnings from these first clinics will help inform how clinics for First Nations people will be set up and operated as vaccine supply increases.

It is our intent to roll out the vaccine to Elders 55 and over who live off-reserve. We are currently working with the health centres and health directors in the 13 communities, and the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre on this. As soon as a plan is in place, we will share the details publicly.

Why will the vaccine clinics in African Nova Scotian communities immunize persons 55 and over instead of 70 and over?

We've worked closely with African Nova Scotian community leaders, including the Health Association of African Canadians and the Association of Black Social Workers, to determine how best to support access to the vaccine in these communities and ensure it is offered in a culturally responsive way.

The decision to immunize starting at age 55 recognizes that African Nova Scotians have been impacted significantly by systemic racism therefore communities are disproportionately affected by the social and economic factors that influence people's health.

Based on evidence from other jurisdictions, we know that Black communities often experience the adverse consequences of COVID-19 – regardless of age.

For these reasons, we are adjusting our age approach in African Nova Scotian communities.



Pharmacy Clinics

Can I get my vaccine from my pharmacy?

Yes. Participating pharmacies are offering vaccine. When you go to book, you will see a list of pharmacies and the type of vaccine they have. You can book online at novascotia.ca/vaccination or by phone: 1-833-797-7772.

Why doesn't my pharmacy have vaccine yet?

As vaccine supply increases so too will the number of pharmacies that will be offering vaccine.

Physician Clinics

Can I get my vaccine from my doctor?

Participating physicians are offering the vaccine. You can book at any clinic. When you go to book, you will see a list of pharmacies and the type of vaccine they have. You can book online at novascotia.ca/vaccination or by phone: 1-833-797-7772.

Why doesn't my physician have vaccine yet?

As vaccine supply increases so too will the number of physicians that will be offering vaccine.

VACCINE BOOKING/APPOINTMENTS

Booking Process

How do I book an appointment?

There are two ways to book your vaccine. You can book online at novascotia.ca/vaccination any time of day, or by phone toll-free at 1-833-797-7772 between 7am and 10pm, 7 days a week.

Can I book an appointment for someone else?

If your friend or family member needs assistance to book their appointment and consent, you can book on their behalf.

When should I arrive to my appointment?

Please give yourself enough time to get to the clinic site. We ask you try to arrive 10 minutes early. You will need to check in and will be asked COVID-19 screening questions before you get your vaccine.

What do I do if I need to cancel my appointment?

If you cannot make your appointment, cancel as soon as possible. If you booked online, you can cancel through your booking confirmation. If you booked by phone, call 1-833-797-7772.

What do I need to bring to my appointment?

- bring your Nova Scotia health card — to both appointments
- wear a mask — to both appointments
- wear a short-sleeve shirt or one with sleeves that are easy to roll up – at both appointments



How do I cancel/reschedule my FIRST appointment?

If you booked your appointment online and provided an email you will receive a confirmation email. You can use the confirmation email to cancel or reschedule your first dose.

If you booked your appointment online and did not provide an email you will need to call 1-833-797-7772 and an operator can cancel or reschedule your appointment.

If you booked by phone you will need to call 1-833-797-7772 to cancel or reschedule your appointment.

How do I cancel/reschedule my SECOND appointment?

If you booked your appointment online you will receive a reminder notification before your second dose. You can use that email to cancel or reschedule your appointment.

If you did provide an email or booked by phone, call 1-833-797-7772.

I lost my confirmation email/don't remember my appointment details. How can I check my appointment?

You can call 1-833-797-7772 and an operator can confirm your appointment details.

I didn't receive a confirmation email. How do I get one?

If you did not receive a confirmation email you can call 1-833-797-7772 and an operator can confirm your appointment time.

I am trying to reschedule my appointment and it won't let me. Why?

If there are no future appointments available, you will not be able to reschedule your second dose. Once more appointments are added, you will be able to book.

What does Check Registry mean?

This means that the information on your health card and what is on file in the system don't match. Try to enter the health card details exactly as it appears on the card.

I tried to book an appointment and it tells me the appointment isn't available, but it still shows up. What is wrong?

There was an issue with the booking system that sometime locked appointments if someone closed their browser in the middle of booking their appointment. This has been rectified as of March 25th and should no longer be an issue.

I missed/cancelled my appointment and am trying to reschedule but it won't let me.

If you cancelled your appointment before the scheduled time you are able to rebook at any time. If you missed your scheduled appointment and are getting an error when trying to rebook you can call 1-833-797-7772 and an operator will be able to assist you.



Booking Issues/Common Complaints

Why are the number of appointments at each clinic limited or it says there are no appointments available?

The availability of appointments is based on vaccine supply. As more vaccine arrives to each clinic, more appointments will be posted.

When will more appointments be added? Why can't you tell me now?

Appointments are based on vaccine supply. As more vaccine is received it is shipped to clinic sites and appointments are added.

General Questions

If we are a couple, both eligible, can we book appointments at the same time?

Each person must book their own appointment. We cannot guarantee two appointments back to back will be available. If two spaces are available, you may book them.

I can receive my vaccine now. My spouse has to wait a few months. Why can't we book together?

Once you become eligible to receive the vaccine, you remain eligible. If you want to book with your spouse who will receive their vaccine later, you may wait until they become eligible and book at that time.

Can I still book if I do not have a valid (or expired) Nova Scotia health card?

If your health card is expired, or you do not have a Nova Scotia health card, you can still book your appointment by phone: 1-833-797-7772.

Can I bring someone to my appointment if I need support?

You may bring one support person to help you. They will **not** get the vaccine unless they are also eligible and have booked their own appointment. Your support person must wear a mask. They must feel well on the day of your appointment.

Do I need to wear a mask at my appointment?

Yes. You will need to wear a mask at all times while at your appointment.

How long will my appointment take?

It only takes a few minutes to give you the vaccine, but you will be asked to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting the vaccine. You may be asked to wait longer (up to 30 minutes) if there is concern about a possible allergic reaction to the vaccine.

What if I am the substitute decision maker for someone who is getting the vaccine at this clinic? Do I need to bring proof of that status?

Yes. Please bring documentation with you that proves your substitute decision maker status. You will be asked to provide informed consent on behalf of your loved one.

Will I get a reminder of my appointments?

If you booked your appointment and provided an email address you will receive a reminder 1 day before each of your appointments.



Can I book ahead for when I am eligible in my age group?

No. You cannot book until you are eligible in your age group. For example, if Nova Scotians age 80 and older are able to book appointments and you are 79, you must wait until the day you turn 80 before the system will let you book.

Can I book a first and second dose at different locations?

No. You must receive both doses at the same location. When you book your first dose, you will automatically be booked into your second dose appointment 4 months later, for the same day and time.

Can I still get the vaccine if I am not feeling well the day of my appointment?

If you are not feeling well the day of your appointment, please cancel. Do not come to the clinic. You will be screened at the appointment check in. You will be turned away if you:

- have been in a province outside of Nova Scotia and PEI in the past 14 days (or have been in close contact with someone from outside of these provinces in the past 14 days)
- have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19
- show signs of illness or symptoms of COVID-19, including:
 - fever (i.e. chills/sweats) or cough (new or worsening)Or two or more of the following symptoms (new or worsening):
 - sore throat
 - runny nose/nasal congestion
 - headache
 - shortness of breath/difficulty breathing

When will more appointments be available on online?

Appointments are added as vaccine supply becomes available.

[VACCINE ROLLOUT](#)

Why are you rolling vaccine out so slow?

This is the biggest and most complex vaccination program our province has ever seen. Each time we get shipments, that vaccine is quickly rolled out across the province and in people's arms.

To ensure we had a second dose available for those who have received their first, we were holding back half of every shipment for a second dose. New guidelines from the National Advisory Council on Immunization means we can now administer the second dose up to 16 weeks later so we do not need to hold a second dose, as we have been assured we will have consistent supply coming into the province.

The latest information on COVID-19 [vaccine doses administered](#) is available on our website.

How will I know when it is time for me to get vaccinated?

There will be a lot of communication as the vaccine rolls out to ensure Nova Scotians know when they may be able to get vaccinated. We ask everyone to please be patient and watch for updates.

Why is the vaccine being rolled out to Nova Scotians based on age?



The greatest risk factor for COVID-19 patients is age. Those who are older are at the greatest risk of severe symptoms due to COVID. Nova Scotia's immunization program is focused on immunizing as many people, as quickly as possible, and protecting those at greatest risk. Making the vaccine available based on age is also the fastest and simplest way to get vaccine in arms.

When will I receive my second dose?

Nova Scotians will receive their second dose 105 days after their first.

I received my first dose before the change in NACI guidance. Do I need to reschedule my second dose appointment?

No. If you booked or received your first dose before the change in guidance, you will keep your original second dose appointment.

Why are you pushing the second dose to 16 weeks?

This is based on new guidance from the National Advisory Council on Immunization. This change will allow us to provide more first doses to more Nova Scotians sooner.

Vaccine Eligibility and Phases

Who will receive the vaccine and when?

The vaccine will be available throughout 3 phases. Those who are not eligible to receive the vaccine in phase 1 or 2 will receive the vaccine based on age. Most Nova Scotians will receive their vaccine by age group (groups are in five-year increments).

Who will receive the vaccine in Phase 1?

The first phase of Nova Scotia's COVID-19 immunization plan focuses on:

- healthcare workers who work directly with patients in hospital or patients in their home
- people who work in long-term care facilities
- people who live in long-term care facilities and their designated caregivers
- people who live and work in Department of Community Services facilities like adult residential care centres and regional rehabilitation centres

Groups identified in Phase 1 will get an invitation to receive their vaccine in a healthcare or long-term care clinic.

Who will receive the vaccine in Phase 2?

The second phase of Nova Scotia's COVID-19 immunization plan expands access to the vaccine and focuses on:

- anyone who works in a hospital and may come into contact with patients
- community healthcare providers, including medical doctors, nurses, dentists, dental hygienists, denturists, dental assistants, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who are licensed to practice
- people who live in large group settings (correctional facilities, shelters and temporary foreign worker housing) and those who work directly with them
- long-haul truck drivers and rotational workers (people who live in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick and cross the border every day for work are not included in this group)
- people who are responsible for food security and can't maintain public health measures because of the nature of their work (like large food processing plants)



- front-line police officers
- people who are 80 and older
- people who are 75 to 79

Who will receive the vaccine in Phase 3?

The third phase of Nova Scotia's COVID-19 immunization plan focuses on all Nova Scotians who did not receive the vaccine in earlier phases, including all professions and people with health conditions. Most Nova Scotians will be able to receive their vaccine during phase 3. In this phase, Nova Scotians can receive the vaccine by age group (groups are in five-year increments).

Non-Residents

Are international students eligible get vaccinated?

International students in Nova Scotia can get vaccinated free of charge. When they can get vaccinated depends on the provincial rollout plan based on age.

I am not a Nova Scotia resident (non-resident) but will be in the province. Can I get vaccinated?

If you are from outside Nova Scotia and staying in the province for an extended period, you are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine based on Nova Scotia's COVID-19 immunization plan.

When you become eligible, you will **NOT** be able to book online. You must book your appointment by phone by calling toll-free 1-833-797-7772. You will need to confirm at the time of booking that you will be in Nova Scotia long enough to receive both first and second dose. Doses are given 16 weeks apart.

If you're not a permanent resident of Nova Scotia, when you arrive at your appointment you need to provide government-issued identification from your home province, territory or country and 1 additional piece of supporting documentation. Required supporting documentation includes:

- utility bill that shows the address of where you're staying in Nova Scotia
- long stay invoice for your accommodation in Nova Scotia (for example, Airbnb)
- letter from an occupant of the residence where you're staying in Nova Scotia confirming your stay
- proof of work in Nova Scotia (for example, letter from employer or pay stub)
- work permit (showing location by province or territory and your name and date of birth)
- student ID card
- letter showing proof you're attending a school in Nova Scotia
- letter of acceptance from a designated learning institution in Nova Scotia
- port of entry letter of introduction that shows you were approved for a study permit
- letter from a faith-based institution, healthcare provider or other registered organization or agency confirming that you're living in Nova Scotia

I received my first dose in another province. Can I get my second dose in Nova Scotia?

Provinces and territories are rolling out their vaccine plans on the basis of people getting both doses in the same places. We encourage people to try to make arrangements to get both doses in the same place.



However, if necessary, people who receive their first dose in another jurisdiction are able to receive their second dose in Nova Scotia if they are here for an extended stay. At this time, we are unable to book only second dose appointments. The booking process in Nova Scotia automatically pairs appointments and gives a person their first and second dose appointment dates and times.

We are working on a process to deliver second doses only to those who will need them. More information will be available once that process is in place. Please monitor novascotia.ca/coronavirus/vaccine and novascotia.ca/vaccination for the most up to date information or check back through this account for any new information on second dose bookings.

When the opportunity is available, more information on how to book if you have, or don't have, a Nova Scotia Health Card is available at novascotia.ca/vaccination.

I received/will be receiving my first dose of vaccine in Nova Scotia but will be in another province for my second. How can I get my vaccine there?

Provinces and territories are rolling out their vaccine plans on the basis of people getting both doses in the same places. We encourage people to try to make arrangements to get both doses in the same place.

We are unable to facilitate a second dose in another province. You will need to contact the province you will be visiting for information on how to obtain your second dose when there.

Healthcare Workers

I am a healthcare worker. How do I know when I will get vaccinated?

Healthcare workers will hear from their employer when it is time to get vaccinated. If you have questions, you can contact your employer or NSHA occupational health.

I am a healthcare worker who has received an email to book my appointment, but it does not work. Can you help?

If you work for the NSHA please contact NSHA occupational health for support. If you are a healthcare and not an employee of the NSHA, please email coronavirus@nshealth.ca for support. They can direct your question to the appropriate contact.

As healthcare workers, I believe that I, and/or my staff are eligible to receive the vaccine as part of Phase 2. How do we sign up for the vaccine?

The province announced on March 2 that specific community healthcare providers who provide in-person patient care will soon be eligible to receive their vaccine. Information about that announcement is available at: <https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20210302003>.

This includes and is limited to medical doctors, nurses, dentists, dental hygienists, denturists, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who are currently licensed to practice and dental assistants and continuing care assistants. If you and/or any of your staff are eligible under the above groups you/they will receive a notice on how to book a vaccine appointment. We are working with the appropriate Colleges and regulatory bodies to identify all individuals who are eligible.



All other Nova Scotians who are not eligible under Phase 1 or 2 of our rollout plan (<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-immunization-plan-overview-poster-en.pdf>) will receive their vaccine based on their age.

Vaccine Access

I have a family member in hospital who is eligible to receive their vaccine based on age but cannot leave. When will they receive the vaccine? Why are they not a priority?

We are working to achieve population protection as quickly as possible. In that, we are using the biggest risk factors of age and congregate living as the focus of this effort. Nova Scotia will have several models of delivery to ensure everyone who wants the vaccine has access, including those who are in these types of situations. Until that is in place, those around these individuals such as healthcare workers, friends and family members will receive their vaccine to protect those who may not yet be able.

I have a family member who lives at home but is bed ridden and cannot leave to receive the vaccine. Will they be able to receive the vaccine at home?

We are working to achieve population protection as quickly as possible. In that, we are using the biggest risk factors of age and congregate living as the focus of this effort. Nova Scotia will have several models of delivery as part of its approach to ensure all Nova Scotians have access to the vaccine. We know we will need to bring vaccine to those who are unable to travel to access it in community. When a plan is in place, it will be communicated publicly.

I work outside of the province on a regular basis. Am I considered a rotational worker under Phase 2 of the plan?

The definition of a rotational worker is set out in the public health order which includes having a set work rotation. If you travel outside of the province for work, but not in a regular interval or rotation, you do not qualify.

When will rotational workers receive a vaccine?

When the province developed its vaccine rollout plan, it was based on giving two doses 21 to 28 days apart. This has since changed. Now we are able to extend the time between the two doses up to 16 weeks. This will allow everyone to get a first dose by the end of June, instead of the original target of the end of September.

Given that change, some people in Phase 2 such as rotational workers will be eligible to get vaccinated based on their age before a specialized vaccine program is developed for their profession. Anyone in Phase 2 who is eligible based on their age is encouraged to book an appointment.

We are working with all Phase 2 groups to determine the most efficient approach to delivering the vaccine.

Can rotational workers leave isolation to get vaccinated?

Rotational workers are permitted to leave isolation for urgent and routine medical appointments. If a rotational worker's vaccine appointment lands within their isolation period, they may leave to receive their vaccine as they would a routine medical appointment.



When rotational workers are vaccinated, can they stop isolating like in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island?

At this time, they must complete their modified form of self-isolation. However, we are looking into the policies in our neighbouring provinces.

I have a disability/health condition. Why are you making me wait to get my vaccine?

We certainly appreciate the concerns that people with underlying medical conditions have regarding when they may be eligible for COVID vaccine. However, we have developed our COVID immunization plan based on two key principles:

- Providing access to vaccine to as many people as possible in order to develop population immunity as quickly as possible, as this will protect the entire population regardless of whether they have received COVID 19 vaccine or not
- Sequencing eligibility for vaccine based on the main risk factor for severe disease, hospitalization and death, which is age

Making specific medical conditions or occupations a priority would result in a much slower building of population immunity and therefore, for the collective good of all Nova Scotians, we have chosen to follow an age-based approach to COVID vaccine eligibility.

We are a private homecare provider. How and when do we access the vaccine? [Note: AFTER responding forward email to Kim Silver as FYI]

We are still working to confirm logistics with the vaccination team. We want to assure you that Parkwood Home Care is on our radar.

We will follow up with more information as soon as available, and will be looking for more information from you at that time to help us determine eligibility criteria and coordinate logistics with the Nova Scotia Health Authority.

My employer/employees are required to travel for work outside Nova Scotia to perform essential duties. Are they eligible to receive the vaccine now based on the essential nature of their work?

Nova Scotia's COVID-19 immunization plan has 3 phases. Each phase identifies which groups are eligible to receive the vaccine and when. Healthcare workers, front-line police officers, long-haul truckers and rotational workers are the only professions identified within the plan to receive the vaccine in either Phase 1 or 2. Staff in all other professions will receive their vaccine based on their age.

Licensed Long-Term Care, Residential Care and Private Facilities

Why are residents of private/unlicensed senior living facilities not able to get their COVID-19 vaccine on-site? They are just as vulnerable as those who live in long-term care facilities.

It is our intent to include private, unlicensed facilities as part of our immunization plan. We are in the process of working with these facilities on what this process will look like based on the size of the facility, their ability to manage the cold storage requirements of the vaccine and how it can be administered to residents. Residents and their families will receive more information from their facility when a plan is in place. Residents who are able to access the vaccine through a community-based clinic are still able to do so.



How will residents, staff and designated caregivers receive the vaccine?

Licensed long-term care facilities across the province will receive COVID-19 vaccine to host on-site clinics for residents and designated caregivers. Staff will be booked as part of healthcare worker clinics.

Will residents in residential care facilities be offered the vaccine on-site and when?

It is our intent to ensure residents of residential care facilities have access to the COVID-19 vaccine as quickly as possible. Residents who live in Residential Care Facilities are able to receive the vaccine through community clinics when they become eligible based on age. We continue to work with Public Health on ways for residents of residential care facilities to get the vaccine. The province is also working to deliver vaccine through pharmacies. When this model of delivery is in place, this may be another way for residents receiving their vaccine closer to home.

MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS

Immunization Records

Will I get a record of immunization?

Yes. If you provide an email at the time of booking, you will receive a receipt that you have received your COVID-19 vaccine. If you do not have an email address, a paper record will be provided.

I did not receive/lost my vaccination record. How do I get another?

We cannot access or provide that record to you through this email. Your record is with the Nova Scotia Health Authority. In order to access an immunization record, you will need to make a records request through your local public health office. Here is the link to the immunization records request page at the NSHA, which has a link to the public health offices across the province: <http://www.nshealth.ca/service-details/Immunization%20Records%20Request> Please contact your local office and someone will help walk you through the process.