



## Restrictions

### REOPENING

#### **What is the reopening plan for Nova Scotia? How soon can we get back to normal?**

Nova Scotia will reopen gradually under a five-phase plan. It focuses on allowing Nova Scotians to safely enjoy summer with public health measures in place while we work at getting most of our population fully vaccinated. Once that happens, we should be able to further ease restrictions in the fall and ease in to a new normal of living with COVID-19.

Each phase is based on COVID-19 activity, public health and testing capacity, hospitalizations and vaccination rates. Phases are expected to last between two and four weeks as long as certain criteria are met in these areas. The plan is flexible to respond as the pandemic evolves – a phase may need to last a little longer or the restrictions in a phase may need to change depending on the circumstances. The more people get vaccinated, the more we can reopen the province.

#### **What will happen in each of the five phases?**

Please see the [our reopening plan](#) on the website. Some details are yet to be determined for later phases. More information will be available as the date for each new phase is announced.

#### **Are the restrictions ever going to be lifted completely?**

In Phase 5 (September), we will enter an extended period of living with COVID-19. In this phase, we anticipate being able to further ease our public health measures.

Gathering limits are likely to increase. There may be fewer requirements for businesses. Things like masks and physical distancing are likely to become optional. We anticipate being able to further ease border restrictions and isolation requirements. They are partly dependent on federal regulations and requirements.

More information will be provided closer to when this phase begins.

### TRAVEL WITHIN NOVA SCOTIA

#### **Can I travel within Nova Scotia? What is necessary travel? Do I need an exception to travel?**

Effective 8 a.m. on June 1, there is no longer any restriction on travel within Nova Scotia.

#### **Can child custody agreements continue?**

Child custody agreements can continue within Nova Scotia. The child is considered a member of each parent's household. The only change would be if someone develops symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, in which case Section 5 of the [child custody protocol](#) must be followed.

### SCHOOLS AND DAY CARES

#### **What is happening with schools?**

All public and private schools reopened June 2 for in-person learning, except for schools in HRM areas



and Sydney Academy and Riverview families of schools in CBRM (see the [complete list of schools](#)) which reopened for in-person learning on June 3. Any questions should be directed to your school or regional centre for education.

**Are day cares allowed to be open?**

Regulated child-care centres and licensed Family Home Child Care Agencies are open and can return to 100% capacity. Any questions should be directed to these facilities.

**Can I have family or a neighbour take care of my children?**

Unregulated or unlicensed child-care settings, such as neighbours or family who care for children, can continue to follow regulated ratios for school aged children; eight children or less per caregiver, including their own. For younger age groups, the ratio is six children or less per caregiver, including their own.

**Who do I contact if I need help accessing childcare?**

People who are required to work outside the home, such as healthcare workers, who need help accessing childcare supports can contact [ECDSERVICES@Novascotia.ca](mailto:ECDSERVICES@Novascotia.ca) or call 1-877-223-9555.

**What are the masking rules for indoor child-care settings? What about schools?**

Masks are mandatory for staff, visitors and children who are 2 and older in indoor regulated child-care settings. There is an exemption if a caregiver cannot get a child age 2-4 to wear a mask. This is not required but still strongly recommended in unregulated child care settings.

While all schools are currently closed, masking is now required for all grades in public schools, including pre-primary.

**GENERAL GATHERING LIMIT**

**What is the gathering limit?**

For Phase 1 of reopening starting June 2, the indoor informal gathering limit is still the people you live, without physical distancing. Two small households (1-2 people in each) can join together. It needs to be the same 2 households all the time.

Outdoors, we're returning to the close social group of 10 without physical distancing. This group needs to be consistent with the same 10 people all the time.

In phase 2, the informal indoor limit is 10 without physical distance (ie household members + visitors = 10). The informal outdoor limit is 25 without physical distance.

In phase 3, the informal indoor limit is household members plus 10 visitors without physical distance. For example, if you have 5 people in your household, you could have 10 visitors. The outdoor limit remains 25 without physical distance.

In phase 4, the informal gathering limit is 25 indoors and 50 outdoors without physical distance.

In phase 3 and 4 when events are allowed again, any events that are not hosted by a recognized business or organization need to follow these informal gathering limits.

**Can I have a total of 10 people in my home?**

No. In your home, you are limited to the people you live with. Effective June 2, you can be with your close social group of 10 outside. This group needs to be consistent with the same people all the time.

**If I have a household of 3, can 2 more people join my household bubble?**

The indoor gathering limit is not 5 – it is the people you live with. If there are 3 or more people in your household, you cannot add more. You can only join together with one other household of 1-2 people if your own household has 1-2 people.

**What if my household is 3 or more and there's someone who really needs support?**

If there is someone who really needs support, people need to use their common sense about helping others while ensuring their household bubble stays safe.

**What if some of the people are small children or babies, do they count toward the total number of people?**

It doesn't matter how old they are, each person counts.

**Can I still have my neighbour down the street or family in another community look after my children?**

For unregulated or unlicensed child-care settings, such as neighbours or family who care for children, they can continue to follow regulated ratios for school aged children; eight children or less per caregiver, including their own. For younger age groups, the ratio is six children or less per caregiver, including their own.

**Can kids get together to play?**

Children from different household bubbles or close social groups should not be getting together indoors. If they can play together outside staying 2 metres/6 feet apart, that's ok but people should really try to stick with doing activities within their household bubble. If parents aren't confident that kids can maintain physical distance, they shouldn't allow children from different household bubbles or close social groups to play together.

**Can people get together outdoors with someone who is not in their household bubble?**

If you're getting together outdoors with people who are not in your household bubble, they should be people in your close social groups of 10 effective June 2. This group needs to be consistent with the same people all the time.

**Can people carpool?**

People can carpool, although you should try to only carpool with your household bubble. If you have no other way to get to work, then you can carpool with other people but you need to keep the group consistent and wear masks.

**What can you do to keep your household safe?**

- Follow basic public health measures:
  - If you are unwell, stay home
  - Practice good hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette



- Wear a mask when required and anytime physical distancing is a challenge
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth without washing hands first
- Test tested for COVID-19 regularly
- Understand who is at high-risk/vulnerable and continue to protect them
- Understand your own risk/vulnerability and consider who you are joining a group with
- Maintain physical distancing with anyone outside of your household
- Consider using non-medical masks even when you're not in a place that requires them if there are people in your group who are at higher risk

## **GATHERING LIMIT FOR EVENTS**

### **Are any community events allowed right now?**

We are not permitting events **in phase 1 or 2 of reopening**. That means, for example, no wedding receptions, no funeral visitations/receptions, no community meals or fundraising events, no parties, no sports events, no festivals, no special events, no concerts.

**In phase 3, events will be allowed again. The limit is 50% of indoor capacity to a maximum of 100 or 150 outdoors when hosted by a recognized business or organization. In phase 4, the limit is 50% of indoor capacity to a maximum of 150 or 250 outdoors.**

**The recognized business or organization must have a plan. Typically, these types of events are held in public places where masks are required. Physical distance is required.**

**When the event is not hosted by a recognized business or organization, people must follow the information gathering limits.**

### **Will large event venues be able to have larger groups or multiple groups?**

**Specific organizational plans will be reviewed for large venues such as Scotiabank Centre, Halifax Exhibition Centre, Halifax Convention Centre, and Speedworlds.**

### **Can there be church services or other faith gatherings?**

In phase 1, faith gatherings can be held outdoors with a limit of 10 plus officiants when hosted by a recognized organization. Physical distance is required.

Drive-in services are allowed in phase 1:

- **the service must be conducted over speakers or by remote radio broadcast**
- **there can be no contact between cars and no transfer of things between cars**
- **participants remain in their respective vehicle while "attending" the service, unless accessing a washroom facility – with physical distance, masks and informal gathering limits**
- **vehicles must be at least 2 metres (6 feet) apart from each other**
- **participants in the same car follow the informal gathering limits**

**In phase 2, there can be 10 indoors and 25 outdoors, plus officiants. In phase 3, the limit is 50% of indoor capacity to a maximum of 100 or 150 outdoors. In phase 4, the limit is 50% of indoor capacity to a maximum of 150 or 250 outdoors.**



### **Are weddings and funerals allowed right now?**

In phase 1, wedding and funeral ceremonies are still limited to 5 plus the officiants indoors (pallbearers are considered officiants). They can have 10 outdoors, plus officiants. This is the limit no matter where it is held and no matter who hosts it. There can be no receptions or visitations associated with weddings and funerals at this time.

In Phase 3, the limit for weddings, funerals and associated receptions and visitation is 50% of indoor capacity to a maximum of 100 or 150 outdoors when hosted by a recognized business or organization. In Phase 4, the limit is 50% of indoor capacity to a maximum of 150 or 50 outdoors.

The recognized business or organization must have a plan. Typically, these types of events are held in public places where masks are required. Physical distance is required.

When the event is not hosted by a recognized business or organization, people must follow the information gathering limits.

### **Will there be high school graduations and proms?**

Schools will not be organizing traditional proms. If the province has reached phase 3 of the reopening plan in time for proms, community groups can engage a recognized business or organization to host an event that follows all public health rules, including gathering limits and the guidance for events.

Schools are starting to plan for individual graduation celebrations. This will be much like the approach used last June. Students and their support group will have an ability to book an appointment. Schools will limit the number of supporters attending with the graduate. These groups will remain small based on public health gathering limits and operational feasibility.

Other transition ceremonies, such as junior high to high school, can happen but will need to follow the Back to School plan public health guidance, including cohorting and no non-essential visitors.

Please ask your child's school for more details.

### **How can a person plan a wedding or other event if the rules keep changing?**

We understand it is challenging to plan an event. However, we are in the middle of a pandemic. This situation demands that we respond to changing epidemiology in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. That means the public health measures will continue to evolve as we gradually reopen. If it is possible to postpone your event until after the pandemic, that will give you more certainty to make plans. If you choose to keep planning your event during the pandemic, there will be a risk of the rules disrupting your plans.

## **BUSINESSES**

### **Does the gathering limit apply to my retail business/office workplace, etc?**

Gathering limits do not apply to businesses. Businesses and workplaces need to ensure employees and customers can maintain 2 metres/6 feet physical distance. So the number of people in the space will vary from business to business. If your space is too small for physical distancing, then you can have no more than 5 clients or customers on the premises at a time.

### **What's the limit for meetings, training and clubs? Is physical distancing required?**

In phase 1, there can be no meetings or training except for mental health and addictions support groups which can have 10 people with physical distance and masks. Meetings and training that are required for safety and essential operation are allowed, such as at daily meetings at a construction site.

In phase 2, the limit for all types of meeting, training and clubs is 10 indoors or 25 outdoors. The limit is 50% of indoor capacity to a maximum of 100 or 150 outdoors in phase 3 and in phase 4, it is 50% of indoor capacity to a maximum of 150 or 250 outdoors.

when hosted by a recognized business or organization, including:

- provincial and municipal governments
- private businesses and organizations
- first responder organizations
- mental health and addictions support groups
- organized clubs

The recognized business or organization hosting the event must have a plan. Typically, these types of events are held in public places where masks are required. Physical distance is required, although emergency first responders are exempt when necessary.

### **What about things like shift meetings?**

Toolbox talks, shop floor meetings, shift operations meetings and similar daily planning sessions that relate to operational activities in the workplace are still permitted. These quick, start of shift meetings are common in construction, manufacturing, and other similar work environments. They are intended to review planned work and emphasize important aspects, including safety, of the operations that day. They are a normal and integral part of the work process for these industries and are not considered workplace meeting under the order.

### **In what parts of a workplace do people have to wear masks?**

Masks are mandatory in most [indoor public places](#) – many of which are also workplaces such as bars, restaurants, stores, gyms and more. Masks are also mandatory in private indoor workplaces (such as offices or warehouses) in all common areas, areas where there is interaction with the public, areas with poor ventilation, and areas where distance cannot be maintained.

### **Are bars and restaurants allowed to open?**

Through the first four phases of reopening, bars and restaurants can operate at their maximum capacity with physical distance between tables (phase 1 only outdoors). Masks are required when people are not eating or drinking. They can continue to offer takeout, delivery and drive through service. Live music is permitted with 1 performer following the [Guidelines for Musicians \(PDF\)](#).

In phase 1, restaurants, bars, wineries, distilleries and tap rooms can open outdoor patios. They must stop service by 11 p.m. and close by midnight. They must remain closed to indoor seated service but customers can go inside to use the washroom or pay. Hotel restaurants can be open for indoor seated service for hotel guests only. Guests who are in quarantine can not go to the hotel restaurant but can get room service.

In phase 2, bars and restaurants can resume indoor service.



In phase 3, they stop service by midnight and close by 1 a.m. In phase 4, they return to regular hours of operation as per their licensing.

#### **Can wineries, distilleries and tap rooms open?**

Wineries, distilleries and tap rooms follow restrictions for restaurants and licensed establishments when serving food and alcohol. They follow restrictions for retail when selling product in retail space or storefront.

#### **Can wineries, distilleries and tap rooms offer tastings?**

Wineries, distilleries and tap rooms can only offer tastings indoors in phase 1, following their sector plans. They can resume tastings indoors in phase 2.

#### **Are the casino, VLTs and First Nations gaming centres allowed to operate?**

Casino Nova Scotia in Halifax and Sydney, VLTs and First Nations gaming centres remain closed for phase 1. They can open at 50% in phase 2, then 75% in phase 3, and then maximum capacity possible with physical distancing in phase 4. They follow the same hours of operation and mask requirements as bars and restaurants.

#### **What are the restrictions for indoor recreation and leisure businesses? What are some examples?**

Businesses that offer indoor recreation activities can offer 1:1 lessons or training indoors in phase 1. There can be multiple pairs (one instructor/one participant) depending on how much space there is – physical distance is required between the instructor and the participant, as well as between each pair. There can be no groups with one instructor and multiple participants indoors.

There is a wide variety of these types of businesses and lessons or training will not make sense many of them. Some examples where they will make sense are dance classes and music lessons. Masks required except during physical activity that makes it difficult to wear one, like singing lessons or playing a wind instrument.

Staff can still use their business premises to offer virtual sessions with no more than 5 people in one location. We will have more information about these types of businesses in future phases closer to when those phases start.

#### **What about outdoor recreation and leisure businesses like fitness classes, shooting ranges, golf courses, putting ranges, go-carts, and outdoor adventure?**

With Phase 1 of reopening starting June 2, outdoor fitness and recreation businesses and organized clubs can operate with a maximum of 10 people and physical distancing. People can go inside these facilities briefly to pay if necessary. When activities are offered on the business's premises, there can be multiple groups of 10 that are distanced from each other.

Outdoors, 1:1 lessons and training are allowed. There can be multiple pairs (one instructor/one participant) depending on how much space there is – physical distance is required between the instructor and the participant, as well as between each pair. Masks required except during physical activity that makes it difficult to wear one.

We will have more information about these types of businesses in future phases closer to when those phases start.



### **Can you still order alcohol on the green of a golf course? Are physical distance and masks required on the green?**

If the green is licensed, we would consider food or alcohol service on the green to be delivery service. Physical distance is required among people who are not in the same household (or 2 small household bubble) or with the same close social group of 10. That means only players from the same household or close social group would be able to share a golf cart. Masks are not required on the green. Lessons are allowed, outdoors, one-on-one, with distancing.

### **Can marinas be open?**

Outdoor areas of marinas can be open. If they have an outdoor restaurant/bar patio, it can be open following the rules for restaurants and licensed establishments. People using marinas should stick to their own household members or with their close social group of 10.

### **How are fitness and recreation facilities operating?**

Indoor fitness facilities (like gyms and yoga studios) and recreation facilities (like arenas, tennis courts, and large multipurpose recreation facilities) are closed for phase 1 except for 1:1 personal training indoors. There can be multiple pairs (one trainer/one participant) depending on how much space there is – physical distance is required between the trainer and the participant, as well as between each pair. Masks are required for all indoor personal training.

Staff can still use the facilities to offer virtual sessions with no more than 5 people in one location in phase 1.

In Phase 2, they can operate at 50% capacity, then move to 75% capacity in Phase 3, and then move to maximum capacity possible with physical distance in Phase 4. Masks continue to be required except during physical activities that make it difficult to wear one.

### **What can fitness facilities do outdoors?**

In phase 1, outdoor fitness facility businesses and organized clubs can operate with a maximum of 10 people and physical distancing. People can go inside these facilities briefly to pay if necessary. When outdoor activities are offered on the business's premises, there can be multiple groups of 10 that are distanced from each other.

### **Can pools reopen?**

Effective June 2 with Phase 1 of reopening starting, outdoor pools can open with a limit of 10 people at a time with physical distancing. In Phase 2, they can operate at 50% capacity, then move to 75% capacity in phase 3, and then to maximum capacity possible with physical distance in phase 4. Masks continue to be required except while in the pool.

### **Can hotel, condo and apartment building gyms and pools be open?**

In phase 1, hotel gyms and pools can still only be open to guests who are not in quarantine. Use is by appointment only for one person at a time or people from a single room. We will have more information about future phases closer to when they begin.

Gyms and pools in apartment and condo buildings can be open only to people who live there. These are common areas so masks are required except while in the pool or doing exercise that makes wearing a mask difficult. Building managers should consider setting up an appointment system for using these facilities similar to our requirement for hotels.

### **Can personal services businesses be open, like hair salons, barbers and spas?**

With phase 1 of reopening starting June 2, personal services businesses can reopen for service by appointment only. They cannot provide any services that require removing a client's mask. They must follow their sector plan.

In phase 2, they will be able to resume all services, including ones that requiring removing a client's mask. They must still operate by appointment only following their sector plan.

In phase 3, they will be able to resume taking drop-ins as well as appointments. They maintain this level of service in phase 4.

### **Can retail stores operate?**

In phase 1, retail stores can operate at 25% provincewide. They must still limit one shopper per household, with exceptions for children and caregivers.

In phase 2, they can operate at 50% capacity and there will be no limit on shoppers per household. They move to 75% capacity in phase 3, and then to maximum capacity possible with physical distance in phase 4. Masks continue to be required.

These types of businesses must:

- Ensure customers and staff can maintain physical distance (2 metres/6 feet apart)
- Customers must maintain physical distance and wear non-medical masks when lined up to enter a retail business – both indoors and outdoors
- The business cannot play music louder than 50 decibels so that normal conversation is possible

### **What's the definition of a retail business?**

A retail business is one that engages in the retail sale or rental of items to the public on ongoing basis at a fixed location.

### **If I have reached my store's maximum occupancy, there isn't enough room for everyone to stay 2 metres/6 feet apart. What should I do?**

In this case, you set a lower limit on the number of people who are on the premises at a time to ensure physical distancing.

### **Are there rules for shopping malls?**

In addition to the retail rules outlined above, the following is also required for malls:

- No more than 10 people at a time can line up at a retail business inside the mall and they must maintain physical distance
- People are not permitted to loiter in any area of the mall
- Directional markings are provided to manage the flow of people within the mall
- Furniture in common areas of the mall is removed or inaccessible
- Non-retail public areas in the mall must be closed, other than public washrooms, breastfeeding stations, and hallways that give access to stores
- The mall cannot play music louder than 50 decibels so that normal conversation is possible

### **Can farm farmers and flea markets be open?**



If the market is not a regular daily or weekly operation, they are considered special events which are not permitted until at this time.

These markets are only considered retail operations if they have regular hours every day or week, the majority of their vendors are always the same, and the market serves as their retail outlet. They follow the same reopening phases as retail businesses (see above) indoors or outdoors, including vendors and customers. They need a COVID-19 prevention plan. Physical distancing and masks are required.

#### **Can dog grooming, daycares and training businesses operate?**

Dog grooming and daycares services can continue to operate. Owners need to ensure physical distancing and avoid crowds so they should consider staggering appointments and arrival/departure times. The safest approach would be to have owners drop off/pick up their dogs for these services without coming inside.

Dog training/obedience classes would be considered a form of recreation. In phase 1, these businesses can operate outdoors with a maximum of 10 people. Indoors, they can offer 1:1 lessons or training. There can be multiple pairs (one instructor/one participant plus dog) depending on how much space there is – physical distance is required between the instructor and the participant, as well as between each pair. There can be no groups with one instructor and multiple participants indoors. Masks are required.

We will have more information about these types of businesses in future phases closer to when those phases start.

#### **Can photography studios open?**

Photographers can continue to work outdoors. Their studios are considered retail spaces that can open at 25% effective June 2. They follow the same reopening phases as retail businesses (see above). Clients must follow gathering limits (currently the people you live with indoors and your close social group of 10 outdoors) and can remove their masks for photos. Physical distance is required between the photographer and clients.

#### **Can driving schools operate?**

Driving schools cannot operate in phase 1. That applies to both classroom and practice driving sessions. **Driving examinations are also not happening in phase 1.** We will have more information about these types of businesses in future phases closer to when those phases start.

#### **Can bus and boat tours operate?**

Bus and boat tours cannot operate in phase 1. We will have more information about these types of businesses in future phases closer to when those phases start.

#### **Can you have a cleaner come into your home? What about a nanny? What about a plumber, electrician or other service provider?**

These types of service providers can enter your home if necessary. People should wear masks, maintain physical distance where possible, and clean high touch surfaces frequently.

#### **Can a landlord show an apartment unit? Can a realtor show a home?**

Realtor's and landlords can show properties, however, landlords must gain the tenants' consent for in-person showings for the purpose of renting or when the property is being sold. If a tenant chooses not



to allow in-person viewings, they must allow the landlord, and up to one other person, entry into the premises to film/photograph the property for virtual viewings. The landlord must give notice to the tenant 24 hours before entry. [Learn more](#).

Everyone needs to wear masks and maintain physical distance. High touch surfaces should be cleaned frequently. There is some [further guidance](#) on the website. If tenants are concerned, they could leave an apartment unit while it's being shown.

## ACTIVITIES

### What are the restrictions for sports?

In phase 1, organized sports practices and training and recreation programming can have 10 people outdoors without physical distance. There can be multiple groups of 10 with physical distance between groups. There can be no games, competitions or tournaments. Masks are recommended when possible.

In phase 2, there can be 10 people indoors and the outdoor limit increases to 25. In phase 3 and 4, there can be 25 indoors and 50 outdoors. Games will be allowed again. Spectators indoors and outdoors are allowed based on gathering limits for events hosted by a recognized business or organization. If the event is not hosted by a recognized business or organization, informal gathering limits must be followed.

### What are the restrictions for professional arts and culture?

In phase 1, professional arts and culture rehearsals and virtual performances can have 15 people indoors and 25 outdoors without physical distance. They must have a plan for their workplace. Masks are required when physical distance cannot be maintained indoors (except during activities that are not possible while wearing a mask). Masks are recommended outdoors. In-person performances are not permitted.

There is no change in their limits in phases 2 and 3. In phase 4, their indoor limit is 25 and their outdoor limit is 50.

In phase 3, masks are recommended only and in-person performances can resume. Spectators indoors and outdoors are allowed based on gathering limits for events hosted by a recognized business or organization. If the event is not hosted by a recognized business or organization, spectators must follow the informal gathering limit.

### What are the restrictions for amateur arts and culture?

In phase 1, amateur arts and culture rehearsals can have 10 people outdoors without physical distance. There can be multiple groups of 10 with physical distance between groups. Masks are recommended when possible. In-person performances are not permitted. There can be virtual performances with a limit of 5 people involved.

In phase 2 and 3, their indoor limit is 10 and they can 25 outdoors. In phase 4, their indoor limit is 25 and their outdoor limit is 50.

In phase 3, masks are recommended only and in-person performances can resume. Spectators indoors and outdoors are allowed based on gathering limits for events hosted by a recognized business or

organization. If the event is not hosted by a recognized business or organization, spectators must follow the informal gathering limit.

**Why are masks required or recommended in some instances where were not required before?**

The third wave of the pandemic has been driven by variants of the virus that are more contagious. That's why we're making these mask requirements and recommendations for some activities, particularly those involve getting closer than 2 metres.

**Can movie theatres open? Can there be drive in movies?**

Movies theatres follow the rules for arts and culture performances – they cannot open until phase 3.

Drive-in movies are allowed in phase 1:

- the movie must be conducted over speakers or by remote radio broadcast
- there can be no contact between cars and no transfer of things between cars
- participants remain in their respective vehicle while "attending" the service, unless accessing a washroom facility – with physical distance, masks and informal gathering limits
- vehicles must be at least 2 metres (6 feet) apart from each other
- participants in the same car follow the informal gathering limits

**Can people sit in groups of 10 in a large outdoor space for a movie screening?**

No, only drive-in movie screenings are allowed for Phase 1 and 2.

**What are the restrictions for school-bases sports and performance arts?**

At schools that are open, school-based sport and amateur performance arts are following the same rules as non-school sports and amateur performance arts (see above). School gyms are closed for community use. Field trips have stopped. All school-organized activities that bring students from different schools together, such as sports and music, have been stopped.

**What is the limit for beer leagues and pick-up games and practices?**

In phase 1, sports practices and training can have 10 people outdoors without physical distance if they are run by a league or official organization. There can be no games, competitions or tournaments.

In phase 2, there can be 10 people indoors and the outdoor limit increases to 25. In phase 3, there can be 25 indoors and 50 outdoors and games will be allowed again. In phase 4, there is no change to the limits for participants

Any games or practices that require close physical contact and are not run by a league or official organization should only be played with members of your own household or close social group of up to 10 people.

**Can after school programs still happen? What's considered an after school program?**

After school programs offer care for children from Primary to Grade 6, five days a week for the entire school year. See more in the [Before and After School Programs Guidelines](#). These programs can run at schools that are open.

**Can people get together to play darts, cards, pool, bowling, bingo or karaoke?**

In phase 1, these activities like darts, cards, pool, bowling, bingo or karaoke cannot be held. In phase 2, licensed establishments can resume hosting them. In phase 3, unlicensed establishments (such as



community centres and charities) can resume hosting them. Both licensed and unlicensed establishments must follow [guidelines for these activities](#).

**Can libraries, museums or the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia be open?**

In phase 1 of reopening, museums, libraries and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia are still closed, but libraries can offer pick-up and drop-off of books and other materials.

In phase 2, they can operate at 25% capacity. They move to 50% capacity in phase 3, and then to maximum capacity possible with physical distance in phase 4. Masks continue to be required.

**Can there be overnight/sleepover camps such as for Girl Guides or children with disabilities?**

We stopped these types of overnight summer camps for youth early in the pandemic. They are still not permitted in phase 1 or 2 of reopening but are planned to start in phase 3 with cohorts of 15 including participants and staff. This does not affect regular camping at campgrounds. It does not affect businesses that offer things like retreats or tours.

**Does the general gathering limit apply to day cares, day camps or before and after school programs?**

No, the limit of 15 without physical distancing remains in place for these settings.

**How many people can be at a playground? Can 10 kids be in close contact at a playground?**

The gathering limits do not apply to people going to parks, beaches, trails, playgrounds, etc for recreation. You should primarily stick to your own household when you go to these places.

Children at a playground should not spontaneously form a group.

Masks are now mandatory outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained, including playgrounds and parks.

**Are parks, trails and beaches open?**

Yes, parks, trails and beaches are open but people should not travel into or out of any restricted area to use them.

**Can campgrounds and rental cottages be open?**

[Provincial park campgrounds](#) are opened June 2. Private campgrounds can be open for both seasonal and short-term campers effective June 2 with distance between campsites following their sector plan.

Effective June 1, there are no restrictions on travel within Nova Scotia so people are free to travel to and from their homes and campgrounds.

**Can people go to their cottage or seasonal campsite?**

Effective June 1, there are no restrictions on travel within Nova Scotia will be lifted. That allows people to go back and forth between their homes and their cottage or seasonal campsite.

**Can people do door-to-door canvassing? Can they do this for the census?**

If this activity can be avoided, it should be, although there are ways to do it safely. The census is an important national process managed by the federal government. Their website says:



Census employees must wear a mask and practise physical distancing, in accordance with guidelines from public health authorities. Statistics Canada will do everything it can to get Canadians to respond to the census without an in-person visit from a census employee. In-person visits will take place only when other options (e.g., online, by phone) are not available. If you have further questions, you should contact Statistics Canada.

## COMPLIANCE

### **What should I do if there's a large informal gathering like a house party or other rules being broken?**

If you have a concern about a particular instance of public health measures not being followed, you can call your local non-emergency police number. Each person at an illegal event can be fined \$2000.

### **What should I do if rules aren't being followed at a business?**

If you have concerns about how a business is operating, you could speak with the manager. If you feel it's necessary, you could contact the Safety Division at the Department of Labour and Advanced Education at 1-800-952-2687 or [LAESafetybranch@novascotia.ca](mailto:LAESafetybranch@novascotia.ca).

### **What should I do if I'm concerned about my employment rights in relation to the pandemic?**

You can contact the Labour Standards division at the Department of Labour and Advanced Education at 1-888-315-0110 or [LabourStandards@novascotia.ca](mailto:LabourStandards@novascotia.ca).

## CONTINUING CARE

### **Can a long-term care resident go to their family's home for a visit? Can family visit a resident in their facility?**

In phase 1, there can be outdoor visits with fully vaccinated residents of long-term care facilities except. Each resident can have their 2 designated care providers visit present at the same time. Recreation activities and services such as hairstyling can resume for fully vaccinated residents. Residents can only leave their facilities for medical/dental appointments.

In phase 1, residents of residential care facilities licensed by the Department of Health and Wellness who go to school or work can resume doing so.

In phase 3, indoor visits can resume at long-term care facilities if residents are fully vaccinated. In phase 4, outdoors visits can resume with residents who are not fully vaccinated.

In phase 1, all adult residential centres and regional rehabilitation centres licensed by the Department of Community Services residents can have visitors outdoors and resume community access for work, therapy, recreation and family visits as long as they follow public health measures.

### **Can adult day programs operate?**

Community-based adult day programs for seniors cannot operate in phase 1. They are planned to reopen in phase 2.



Adult day programs for people with disabilities funded by the Department of Community Services cannot operate in phase 1 except those that are serving as vaccination clinics. They are planned to reopen in phase 2.