



Travel

When will people be able to come to Nova Scotia without self-isolating? Will you accept a vaccine passport? Will you accept negative test results?

The idea of a vaccine passport and what that will entail is something that is being discussed at a national level by all provinces and territories. In the meantime, isolation based on vaccination status and testing is now part of our border policy and this will continue to evolve as vaccination coverage increases and epidemiology continues to improve.

Do you have to stay for 14 days? Can you come for a shorter period?

We do not prevent people from leaving the province before their isolation period is finished.

What do I do if I develop symptoms after I arrive?

If you develop symptoms, continue to isolate, [book a test](#) and follow public health direction.

Does an employer have the right to ask if an employee has traveled?

An employer has the right to ask if an employee has travelled within the past 14 days or if they visited a site listed in an exposure notice. However, the employer cannot ask which locations or sites they visited.

Can a business refuse people service if they've been outside this region?

We know people are nervous or afraid of COVID-19. That's understandable. While we are asking people not to travel outside their community, some people need to. We cannot refuse service to people just because we're afraid they may have come into contact with the virus. In fact, refusal of service for this reason is illegal under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. We are asking people to avoid travel when it's not necessary. However, if a person is following public health rules, a businesses should not be refusing to serve them just because they were in another jurisdiction. If you have concerns about a business refusing service when they shouldn't, please contact hrcinquiries@novascotia.ca.

TRAVEL WITHIN ATLANTIC CANADA

What do you need to do if you're traveling within Atlantic Canada?

As long as they were not outside Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland and Labrador in the previous 14 days, residents of these three provinces do not have to self-isolate or complete the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in form. This includes Nova Scotians who go to these provinces and return. Vaccination and testing are encouraged but not required.

Adults (and children/youth traveling on their own) should be prepared to show border officials one or more of the following to prove that they live in Nova Scotia, PEI or Newfoundland and Labrador:

- government-issued identification card
- driver's license
- passport
- utility bill or bank statement that shows your permanent home address
- Secure Certificate of Indian Status



People traveling from New Brunswick can follow the [NS NB travel protocol](#) if their reason for travel is covered by it. If not, they must follow the same rules as all provinces and territories outside Atlantic Canada. They must complete the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#) and upload proof of vaccination if they have it. Their isolation requirements are based on vaccination status and testing (see below).

Who can use the NS NB travel protocol?

Workers and students who routinely cross the border with New Brunswick, people seeking/providing veterinary services, and people who need to make quick trips for things that cannot be done virtually will not have to self-isolate as long as they follow the [NS NB travel protocol](#). Examples of quick trips are dropping off/picking up a person or item or making a day trip to do a task that cannot be done virtually, like writing an exam. Overnight trips should be avoided.

People moving to Nova Scotia, coming for vacation, or coming an extended stay will have to complete the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#) and self-isolate based on vaccination status and testing.

What do you do if you're making a quick trip from New Brunswick to drop off someone for an extended stay in Nova Scotia?

The person doing the drop off can follow the [NS NB travel protocol](#). The person coming for the extended stay needs to complete the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#) form and isolate based on their own vaccination status and testing (whether they are an adult or a child).

If you spend 14 days in another Atlantic province, can you enter Nova Scotia without isolating?

People coming from New Brunswick have to follow the same rules as people coming from outside Atlantic Canada. However, if you spent 14 days in PEI or Newfoundland and Labrador, then you can enter Nova Scotia without isolating. You do not have to spend those 14 days in isolation in one of these provinces order to enter Nova Scotia without having to isolate here.

You do not need to complete the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in but you will need to be prepared to show border officials some form of proof that you spent 14 days in PEI or Newfoundland and Labrador, such as hotel bill or gas/food receipts.

If you spent less than 14 days in PEI or Newfoundland and Labrador, then you must complete the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in form as if you are coming directly from somewhere outside Nova Scotia, PEI or Newfoundland and Labrador. Your isolation requirements will be based on vaccination status and testing. Any amount of time you spent in PEI or Newfoundland and Labrador does not count toward your isolation period in Nova Scotia, if it's required.

Can you drive from PEI or Labrador (ie through Quebec and/or New Brunswick) to Nova Scotia and still not have to self-isolate?

People can drive from PEI or Labrador (ie through Quebec and/or New Brunswick) without completing the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in and without isolating in Nova Scotia, as long as you drive directly through Quebec and/or New Brunswick with as few stops as possible. If necessary to avoid a dangerous driving situation, you can spend a night in Quebec along the way. If you need to take a ferry, you must stay distanced from other travelers and wear a mask while onboard.

If your flight stops at a location outside NS/PEI/Nfld and Labrador but you never leave the plane or the airport, do you have to isolate when you arrive in Nova Scotia?

If your flight starts and ends within this region (NS/PEI/Nfld and Labrador) but has to make a stop



outside this region, you do not have to isolate when you arrive in Nova Scotia as long as you don't leave the airport, wear a mask and stay distanced from others. We will consider you to have not left this region.

Do truck drivers and other workers get priority or do they have to wait like any other visitor?

Commercial vehicles have their own lane to cross the land border without stopping for questions.

ENTERING FROM OUTSIDE NS/PEI/Nfld (but within Canada)

What do you need to do when entering Nova Scotia from within Canada?

People coming from provinces and territories outside Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland and Labrador, must complete the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#) and upload your proof of vaccination if you have it. Your isolation requirements are based on vaccination status and testing:

- People who are fully vaccinated do not have to self-isolate but testing is still recommended.
- Effective September 9, people who are not fully vaccinated must self-isolate for at least 7 days and cannot leave isolation until they get 2 negative tests results.

Fully vaccinated means you had two doses of a World Health Organization approved vaccine (or 1 dose of Janssen) at least 14 days before arriving in Nova Scotia. The tests must be standard PCR lab tests. They cannot be rapid tests. They must be done in Nova Scotia, not in advance of arrival. Tests should be on day 1 or 2 and on day 6 or 7.

People coming from New Brunswick do not need to follow these isolation requirements if they can follow the [NS NB travel protocol](#).

If you haven't had any vaccine and you already started isolating in Nova Scotia before September 9, can you stop after 2 days and negative test results?

Domestic travelers who arrived before September 9 can switch to the new rule – at least 7 days of isolation and 2 negative test results to stop isolating. The day you arrived is day 1. If you've already reached or passed day 6 or 7, you can just get one negative test result to stop isolating after 7 days.

When do you start counting the 14 days from vaccination?

The day you got vaccinated is day 1. Your first or second dose must be at least 14 days before arriving in Nova Scotia to be included in your vaccination status.

If you get tested at the airport when you arrive, does that count as your first test?

You can get a take-home standard PCR lab test at the airport which can count as your first test for the purposes of ending isolation early if you've had one dose of vaccine. You can also [book](#) the a standard PCR lab test at many locations around the province.

How exactly do you complete the check-in form for families or other groups traveling together?

If a group, such as a family, is entering the province together and staying together in Nova Scotia, each adult needs their own [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#) form.

Children under the age of 19 (ie 18 and younger) need to follow the isolation requirements for the least vaccinated adult they are traveling with. That adult needs to include children under 16 on their own



form. Children 16 and older can have their own form with vaccine information for the least vaccinated adult.

If a child is more vaccinated than the parent they are traveling with, the child isolates based on their own vaccination status.

Do all children who are following isolation requirements for a parent with one dose of vaccine need to get tested to stop isolating after 7 days?

Children who are 5 and older need two negative test results to stop isolating after 7 days if they are following the isolation requirements for a parent/adult who is unvaccinated or has only one dose of vaccine.

What happens when children travel to Nova Scotia alone?

If a child is traveling alone, they complete the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#) form for themselves (or a parent completes it in the child's name) and they need to upload the child's proof of vaccination status. Isolation is based on the child's vaccination status and testing.

What happens if people with different vaccination statuses travel together and are staying together in Nova Scotia? Do they all have to do the same isolation?

Each adult isolates based on their own vaccination status and testing. Children under the age of 19 need to follow the isolation requirements for the least vaccinated adult they are traveling with (unless the children are more vaccinated than the adults). They can all stay in the same place and interact with each other. For example, if a family arrives together and the father is fully vaccinated 14 days before arriving but the mother has no vaccination, the father is free to come and go while the mother and children isolate for at least 7 days (ie they have no contact with anyone except the group they traveled with...see more in the isolation section below). Everyone who is 5 and older needs 2 negative test results to stop isolating after 7 days.

What do you do if you are just dropping off a child in Nova Scotia and not staying with them (not a child custody situation)?

Each traveler (adult or child) needs to have their own form and each isolates based on their own vaccination status and testing.

What if you are not fully vaccinated but can't or don't want to get tested? Can you still finish isolating early?

No. Testing is required to end isolation early. Unless you are fully vaccinated, you must get 2 negative test results to stop isolating after 7 days. If cannot or you do not wish to get tested, then you must self-isolate for 14 days.

What if you got vaccinated less than 14 days before arriving in Nova Scotia or after you arrived? Can you still finish isolating early?

No. People who receive a first or second dose of vaccine less than 14 days before they arrive in Nova Scotia cannot include that dose in their vaccination status. For example, a person who gets one dose less than 14 days before they arrive is considered to have no vaccination. A person who gets a second dose less than 14 days before they arrive is considered to have one dose. In both cases, they are not fully vaccinated and therefore, they must isolate for at least 7 days and get 2 negative tests before they can stop isolating.



What happens if you've done seven days of isolation but you haven't received your second negative test result yet?

If you're not fully vaccinated, you must isolate for at least seven days and get two negative test results in order to stop isolating. If you've done seven days of isolation but you don't have your second negative test result yet, you must continue isolating until you get it.

Can people who have been vaccinated with a single-dose series of vaccine come to Nova Scotia without isolating?

If you received a dose of a single-dose series of vaccine that is approved by the World Health Organization (such as Johnson and Johnson) at least 14 days before arriving in Nova Scotia, you do not have to self-isolate.

What if you can't get vaccinated for a medical reason? Do you have to isolate?

Yes. People who are unvaccinated for any reason must isolate for at least 7 days and get 2 negative test results to stop isolating. We anticipate being able to lift the isolation requirement at some point based on vaccination coverage and epidemiology.

What happens for people who've recovered from COVID-19 and might still test positive?

If you were fully vaccinated at least 14 days before arriving, you do not need to isolate. Once 12 weeks have passed since you recovered, you should start getting tested regularly.

If you:

- were not fully vaccinated at least 14 days before arriving
- and you became infected with COVID-19 in Canada no more than 12 weeks before arriving in Nova Scotia
- and you have a letter from the public health unit in this country confirming this

then you must isolate for 7 days but you do not need to get tested to end your isolation once it is complete.

Can you drive through Nova Scotia on your way to another province?

You can travel through Nova Scotia to another destination but unless you are fully vaccinated at least 14 days before arriving, you must self-isolate as much as possible the entire time. That means making as few stops as possible and maintaining physical distance from other people. You must also follow all the [public health measures in Nova Scotia](#).

You must complete the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#). Approval is automatic. You can enter an isolation address close to where you will exit Nova Scotia. You must be prepared to show your approval email to border officials, along with documentation that proves you are traveling through the province to another destination, such as airline, ferry or hotel reservations, permission to enter another province, or proof of permanent residency in another province.

You will receive a daily email check-in to which you must respond, confirming that you are self-isolating. Once you have left Nova Scotia, you can [unsubscribe](#) from the daily check-in emails.

Can students come home to Nova Scotia or come to study?

Students coming from outside Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland and Labrador follow the same rules as most other domestic travelers. They must complete [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#) and



isolate based on vaccination status and testing. There are [different requirements for international students](#).

Can parents drop off/pick up their students at their residence or at their apartment or other accommodations?

Parents or others coming from Canadian provinces and territories outside Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland and Labrador to drop off/pick up students will need to complete [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#) and isolate based on vaccination status and testing, except for the actual drop off/pick up of their student.

Residents of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick can follow the [NS NB travel protocol](#) to make a quick trip to drop off/pick up students. However, students coming from New Brunswick to live in Nova Scotia for the school year do not follow the NS NB travel protocol – they will have to complete [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#) and isolate based on vaccination status and testing.

International travelers must follow [federal requirements for international travel](#).

Is there anyone who does not need to complete the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in?

The following travelers do not have to apply:

- International travelers who completed their ArriveCan submission
- People entering from within Nova Scotia, PEI or Newfoundland and Labrador
- People following the NS NB travel protocol
- People traveling between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick for child custody drop offs, pick ups and frequent routine visits
- Professional truck drivers when they are traveling for work
- People who applied for and received a compassionate exceptions via c19compassionate@novascotia.ca
- Essential health care workers who are doing locums or other short-term support work
- First responders can complete the form later if it would impede their ability to respond to an emergency if they stopped to complete it in advance

Do healthcare workers have to apply through the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in to enter Nova Scotia?

Essential healthcare workers can enter Nova Scotia from outside Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland and Labrador to provide short-term support or locum work. They can also leave Nova Scotia for this purpose and return without having to self-isolate. They must follow protocols set by their occupational health units. They do not complete the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in.

Healthcare workers who need to travel between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick for their jobs follow the [NS NB travel protocol](#).

If a healthcare worker from outside Nova Scotia, PEI and Newfoundland and Labrador is moving to Nova Scotia for a new job, they complete the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#) as a regular traveler and may need to isolate based on vaccination status and testing. They should check on whether their employer has any other requirements.

Can military members, RCMP etc house hunt and move to Nova Scotia when they are posted there?

Members of the Canadian Military and Defence Team personnel, Coast Guard, RCMP, Canadian Border



Services Agency, and Canadian Security Intelligence Service can enter Nova Scotia when necessary to carry out their work duties. They can also leave Nova Scotia for this purpose and return without having to self-isolate. When travel is required to carry out their work duties, these people need to follow the [exempt traveler protocol](#).

When members of these agencies are posted to Nova Scotia, they are permitted to enter the province for house hunting. If they and their families were fully vaccinated at least 14 days before arriving in Nova Scotia to look at houses, they should choose the regular traveler stream of the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#). Approval is automatic. No isolation is required.

If their families are not fully vaccinated, then only the member's spouse or partner is permitted to enter the province. Children are not permitted to accompany them for house hunting. The member must apply to enter the province via the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in and include their spouse or partner on their form. Approval is automatic. They must isolate fully except while they are viewing properties.

When members of these agencies are moving for a new posting in Nova Scotia, they are exempt from isolation as long as they are beginning their work duties immediately. They must complete the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#). Approval is automatic.

Family members should choose the regular traveler option. Approval is automatic conditional upon being prepared to show vaccination status to border officials. Isolation is based on vaccination status and testing. If members are taking time off before beginning their work duties, they must also choose the regular traveler option.

I am need to be in Nova Scotia for the closing on a property. Can I leave isolation to do a final inspection and meeting with lawyer, bank etc?

If you are fully vaccinated at least 14 days before arriving from outside Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland and Labrador, you do not have to isolate. If not, then you cannot leave isolation to do a final inspection or other tasks associated with closing on a property. There are virtual ways to accomplish these things.

If you are coming from New Brunswick, you can follow the [NS NB travel protocol](#).

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

What are the rules for international travelers entering Nova Scotia?

All international travelers who are [permitted to enter Canada](#) can also enter Nova Scotia and must follow the [federal requirements](#):

- International travelers who were fully vaccinated at least 14 days before arriving in Canada do not have to quarantine. They must still meet other federal requirements including pre- and on-arrival testing.
- All other international travelers must complete 14 days of quarantine in Canada and get a second negative test result to stop isolating after 14 days.



International travelers who are coming relatively directly to Nova Scotia do not need to complete the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in form. However, any international travelers who completed their 14 days of quarantine outside Nova Scotia must follow the Nova Scotia's rules for domestic travelers and isolate based on vaccination status and testing when they arrive in the province (see above).

All questions about international travel should be directed to the Canada Border Services Agency: English 1-800-461-9999 / French 1-800-959-2036 / outside Canada: 204-983-3500 or 506-636-5064 / tccu-ustcc@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca

The Nova Scotia Safe Check-in lists Sinovax and Sinopharm as acceptable vaccines. Are these accepted by the federal government for international travelers?

No. At this time, the federal government is only accepting vaccines approved for use in Canada (Moderna, Pfizer, AstraZeneca, and Johnson and Johnson). If you are traveling to Nova Scotia from outside Canada, you must follow the federal rules.

For people who travel within Canada, Nova Scotia accepts vaccines approved by the world Health Organization (Moderna, Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Johnson and Johnson, Sinovax and Sinopharm).

Can people coming from outside Canada with work permits enter Nova Scotia?

People who have gone through the federal process to enter the country and move permanently to Nova Scotia must follow federal rules for entering the country, including federal quarantine requirements. They complete the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#) to enter Nova Scotia.

Physicians and other essential healthcare workers who are only coming for temporary work such as locums must still meet federal requirements but do not have to complete the check-in.

HOW TO SELF-ISOLATE AFTER TRAVEL

What does self-isolation mean in Nova Scotia? How do you self-isolate?

Self-isolation means staying in a separate living space and not having contact with others for up to 14 days. You need to:

- stay in the place where you are isolating (home, apartment unit, hotel room, etc) except for one outing per day for fresh air and physical activity (see more below)
- have your own separate room in the home (such as a separate bedroom, basement or attic)
- sanitize hands before leaving the separate room and wear a non-medical mask when outside your separate room
- avoid being in the same space as other household members
- have your own bathroom (if you need to share one, clean high touch surfaces such as doorknobs, taps, toilet handle, sink, etc. after each use)
- have food and beverages prepared by others and made available in a non-contact manner
- not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding or other items with others in the home
- keep your personal items (such as toothbrush, cups, cell phones, tablets or laptops) separate from those belonging to others



- do not share food, drinks or cigarettes or any other items that are put in the mouth

If there is a person who is vulnerable to COVID-19 in the household, it would be best for the traveler to find a different location to isolate.

Anyone who is isolating after travel within Canada should get [tested](#) at the beginning and end of their isolation. Testing is not mandatory but is strongly recommended as an added layer of protection.

What is an ideal isolation space?

Ideally, a traveler isolates in a completely separate living space. Examples include a hotel room, a home where nobody else lives, a basement apartment, an in-law suite, a bedroom with en suite bathroom, or a level of the home with a bathroom that can be dedicated to the isolating traveler. Ideally, the space has a direct entrance/exit to the outdoors. If not, everyone should wear masks and maintain physical distance when the traveler needs to walk through the home to enter/exit for walks or testing.

Are there any scenarios where the household members also have to isolate?

We no longer require households to isolate along with people who traveled for non-essential reasons. As long as the traveler does not have contact with others and has minimal shared spaces, such as a bathroom that is cleaned between uses, then the rest of the household is free to go about their normal routines. Most people are able to accomplish that. If the traveler is sharing main living spaces and is in contact with others in the household, however, then the whole household would need to isolate.

If a child travels, do they have to isolate completely separately from their household?

When the traveler is a child who cannot reasonably self-isolate alone, a parent would have to isolate along with the child. The family could make a choice for the whole household to isolate if they wish.

Do some people have modified forms of isolation?

The travelers below have either a modified form of isolation or conditions to be met in their respective travel protocols:

- people following the [Child Custody Protocol](#)
- people following the [Exempt Traveler Protocol](#)
- people following the [NS-NB Travel Protocol](#) for work, school, veterinary services or other tasks that are necessary and cannot be done virtually
- [Rotational worker](#), [specialized workers](#) and [temporary foreign workers in agriculture seafood sectors](#)

If you've been traveling all day, can you spend a night in a hotel before driving to your location for self-isolation or to another province?

We strongly discourage making travel plans that involve a hotel stay in Nova Scotia on your way to your isolation location. However, sometimes people have long flights or drives and it would create a dangerous situation if you arrived in Nova Scotia and immediately started/continued driving to your isolation location. In these cases, you can overnight in a hotel and then drive to your location for self-isolation. You must self-isolate as much as possible the entire time and follow Nova Scotia's [public health rules and advice](#).

If I pick up a traveler from the airport and drive them to their place for self-isolation, do I have to self-isolate too?



You don't need to self-isolate if you pick up a traveler at the airport. You should both wear non-medical masks and sit as far apart as possible in the vehicle.

Can a self-isolating traveler go for a walk?

You cannot leave your property if you have traveled outside Canada. You cannot leave your property if you are isolating because you have symptoms or you have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

People who are isolating because they traveled within Canada or because Public Health has told them they are a close contact can only leave their property if it's necessary for outdoor exercise. You can only go within walking or running distance of your home for a maximum of 1 hour per day (not multiple outings totalling 1 hour). You need to stay 2 metres/6 feet away from others and you can't visit other buildings, go to outdoor fitness classes or personal training sessions. If you're in an apartment building, condo building or hotel, you must wear a non-medical mask in common areas if you leave the property for outdoor exercise.

Can movers bring my belongings into my home while I'm self-isolating?

Movers can bring your belongings into your home while you're self-isolating. You and your family should stay as far apart from the movers as you can, such as in a different room. If you need to be in the same room, everyone should wear masks and maintain as much distance as possible.

Can I pick up or drop off a rental vehicle for moving?

You cannot pick up or drop off a rental vehicle in person if you are still in your 14-day self-isolation period.

Can I pick up/drop off items in a storage facility?

You cannot pick up or drop off items in a storage facility if you are still in your 14-day self-isolation period.

EXEMPTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS

Are there exceptions if you need to attend a funeral or visit a family member in palliative care?

If you're traveling from another province or territory outside Nova Scotia, PEI or Newfoundland and Labrador and have been fully vaccinated at least 14 days before arriving, you do not need this exception.

If not, we consider requests for exceptions for people to attend funerals and to be with an immediate family member at end of life. If your request is approved, you would be allowed to attend the funeral or visit the family member but otherwise, you must self-isolate. There is more information about [how to make a request](#) on our website.

What happens if there's an urgent need to enter the province and you don't meet the criteria?

We consider exceptions for truly dire situations, such as refugees or people in dire need of support.

Can I enter Nova Scotia to write an exam?

If you've been fully vaccinated at least 14 days before arriving, you do not need this exception. If not, you can apply for an exception to write professional exams that are not available in their province or are urgently needed, cannot be deferred, and cannot be done virtually. See [instructions for applying](#). If you are coming from New Brunswick, you can follow the [NS NB travel protocol](#).



Can essential workers still enter Nova Scotia? Do they have to isolate?

We don't use the term "essential worker" in Nova Scotia. Just because workers are considered essential or exempt in other jurisdictions does not necessarily mean they are exempt under Nova Scotia's [public health order](#). Only certain workers can come from outside Nova Scotia, PEI or Newfoundland and Labrador and cross any of Nova Scotia borders for work purposes without having to self-isolate. They must apply to enter the province via the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#). Approval is automatic. They must follow the [exempt traveler protocol](#).

What is the exempt traveler protocol? Who needs to follow it?

The [exempt traveler protocol](#) applies to the following people who enter Nova Scotia from outside Nova Scotia, PEI or Newfoundland and Labrador:

- People engaged in a legal proceeding in Nova Scotia
- People traveling for essential health services and their accompanying support people
- Certain workers who must enter Nova Scotia to carry out their work duties or training required for their jobs:
 - workers in the trade and transportation sector who are employed in the movement of goods and people across the Nova Scotia border by land, air, or water, including truck drivers, crew, maintenance and operational workers on any plane, train or ship
 - Canadian Military and Defence Team personnel, Coast Guard, RCMP, Canadian Border Services Agency, and Canadian Security Intelligence Service
 - first responders, including police, fire, EHS paramedic workers and essential health care workers

Under this protocol, most exempt travelers coming must apply to enter the province via the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#). Approval is automatic. In order to maintain their exemption, exempt travelers must meet numerous conditions, such as having no unnecessary contact with others while they are traveling in Nova Scotia or in other jurisdictions.

When exempt travelers return home to Nova Scotia, they can go to work or school but must take precautions such as avoiding close contact with other people for 14 days. Three COVID-19 tests are strongly recommended during their first 14 days home. See full details and requirements in the [protocol](#).

Do maintenance personnel have to be on board a plane, train or ship to be exempt or are ground maintenance crew also exempt?

Ground maintenance crew who need to work in Nova Scotia are also exempt from the self-isolation requirement. They must apply to enter the province via the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#). Approval is automatic. They must follow the [exempt traveler protocol](#). They are not exempt if they leave Nova Scotia for work and return.

Can people travel for medical appointments?

If you must travel to and from essential health services, you do not have to self-isolate in Nova Scotia. You can bring an accompanying support person who is also exempt. There is no limit on the number of support people you can bring but you should keep the number low and check with the Nova Scotia Health Authority or IWK Health Centre about how many people you can bring into their facilities with



you. You and your support person/people must apply to enter the province via the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#) (approval is automatic) and follow the [exempt traveler protocol](#). You will not receive a daily check-in email because you are exempt from isolation but must follow the protocol.

When people travel for child custody reasons, is self-isolation required?

People who are fully vaccinated at least 14 days before coming from outside outside Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland and Labrador do not need to self-isolate but they need to complete the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#) as regular travelers.

People who are not fully vaccinated and are traveling for child custody reasons need to follow the [child custody protocol](#). You must complete the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#) form. Approval is automatic. You must be prepared to show border officials the approval email, a written custody agreement – it can be informal but it must be in writing – and proof of one dose of vaccine if applicable. A modified form of self-isolation is required for the person who traveled – not for people in Nova Scotia who do not travel.

The protocol has provisions for drop offs/pick ups and frequent routine visits between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. These travelers do not need to complete the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in form but need to meet the conditions in the protocol and be prepared to show border officials a written custody agreement.

People traveling internationally must follow [federal quarantine and testing requirements](#) under the Quarantine Act. They do not follow Nova Scotia’s child custody protocol.

What are the self-isolation rules for rotational workers?

If you’re fully vaccinated and traveling from another province or territory outside Atlantic Canada, you do not need to follow any of the rules for rotational workers. You can complete the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#) as a regular traveler and do not have to isolate.

If you are traveling between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick for work, you are not considered a rotational worker – you follow the [NS NB travel protocol](#).

If are not fully vaccinated and you travel outside Atlantic Canada to work as a [rotational worker](#), you must complete the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#). Approval is automatic. You must isolate for at least 7 days and you need 2 negative test results to stop isolating. (SEE ROTATIONAL WORKER FAQ)

People traveling internationally must follow [federal quarantine and testing requirements](#) under the Quarantine Act. They do not follow Nova Scotia’s rotational worker protocol.

What are the self-isolation rules for specialized workers?

If you’re fully vaccinated and traveling from another province or territory outside Atlantic Canada, you do not need to apply as a specialized worker. You can complete the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#) as a regular traveler and do not have to isolate.

If you are traveling between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick for work, you are not considered a specialized worker – you follow the [NS NB travel protocol](#).

If you’re not fully vaccinated and you travel outside Atlantic Canada to work as a [specialized worker](#), you must complete the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#). Approval is automatic. You must isolate when not



working for at least 7 days and you need 2 negative test results to stop isolating. (SEE SPECIALIZED WORKER FAQ)

People traveling internationally must follow [federal quarantine and testing requirements](#) under the Quarantine Act. They do not follow Nova Scotia's specialized worker protocol.

Are power crews who do emergency repairs exempt from self-isolation?

Generally, no, power crews entering or returning to Nova Scotia are not among the exempted workers listed in the public health order. Sometimes our Emergency Management Office and Nova Scotia Power Inc makes arrangements to bring extra workers in for a storm, for example, but they do so under strict protocols to avoid any potential spread of COVID-19. These arrangements are made directly with employers, not with individual workers. If you think you are a worker in this situation, talk to your employer.

BORDER/FINES

Will all points of entry continue to be staffed by enforcement personnel? Are they screening people?

We continue to have a presence at all entrances to the province – airports, ferries, and the land border with New Brunswick. At the land border, officials will do spot checks (the frequency will depend on traffic volume) in order to avoid tying up traffic. At the airport and ferries, officials will continue checking documentation for most, if not all travelers. At all points of entry, travelers should expect some delays.

How do you follow up with travelers during their stay to make sure they are self isolating for 14 days?

Travelers receive a daily digital check-in. It's an email that they must respond to each day during their self-isolation. It starts arriving on your second day in the province.

What are the penalties if someone doesn't self isolate?

Penalties are the same as other violations of the Health Protection Act. For a first offence, there is a \$2,000 fine. If you are found guilty of a second or subsequent offence, you could be fined up to \$10,000 or to imprisonment for up to one year, or both.

How do the fines work?

You could be issued a summary offence ticket of \$2,000 for one offence. If you are charged 10 days in a row, you could be issued 10 summary offence tickets for a total of \$10,000 in fines.

You could be charged by long form prosecution and convicted. Using the example of offences 10 days in a row, a judge could sentence you to a fine of \$92,000 (\$2,000 for first offence and 9 x \$10,000 for subsequent offences) and/or 9 years and six months in jail (6 months for first offence and 9 x 1 year for subsequent offences).

What are you doing to relieve traffic congestion at the border, especially for trucks?

All commercial vehicles and people who regularly cross the border for work have always been exempt from self-isolation under the Health Protection Act order. That hasn't changed. We have a chit system in place for them to pass without stopping for questions. We always look at ways to help improve traffic flow, especially for commercial traffic.



Are there any privacy issues with collecting this information?

We are collecting information that's very similar to what the other Atlantic provinces are collecting. Government officials have authority under the Health Protection Act to collect the information. We are required under law to protect the information once we have it.