



Proof of Full Vaccination Policy

What is Nova Scotia's proof of vaccination policy? How long will it be in place?

As of October 4, anyone in Nova Scotia who is 12 and older will need to provide proof of full vaccination to participate in most events and activities that bring groups of people together. It's a short-term measure to help bring large groups of people together safely once there are no longer any gathering limits. It will allow us to fully reopen and have the best chance of staying open.

When will you have all the details about this policy?

We still have work to do to develop and finalize this policy. The key details that we have at this point are on our [website](#). When we have more details, they will be announced publicly before the policy takes effect on October 4.

What will the policy apply to?

We anticipate the policy will apply to:

- full-service restaurants where patrons sit at tables to be served, both indoors and on patios
- liquor licensed establishments, casinos and other gaming establishments, both indoors and on patios
- indoor and outdoor fitness and recreation facilities such as gyms, yoga studios, pools and arenas as well as fitness classes
- indoor and outdoor leisure facilities and businesses such as dance and music lessons, climbing facilities, escape rooms, pottery painting, indoor play places, arcades, shooting ranges, go-carts, and outdoor adventure
- indoor and outdoor festivals, special events, and arts and culture events and venues such as theatre performances, concerts and movie theatres, unless they are outdoor events held in public spaces with no specific entry point such as Nocturne
- participants and spectators for indoor and outdoor sports practices, games, competitions and tournaments
- indoor and outdoor extracurricular school based activities including sports
- bus, boat and walking tours
- museums, public libraries and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia
- indoor and outdoor events and activities such as receptions, social events, conferences and training that are hosted by a recognized business or organization
- indoor and outdoor wedding and funeral ceremonies, receptions and visitation that are hosted by a recognized business or organization

What will the policy not apply to?

Proof of vaccination will not be required for most places that don't facilitate formal gatherings, such as:

- retail stores
- financial institutions
- food establishments that primarily offer fast food, takeout and delivery
- professional services such as accountants and lawyers
- personal services such as hair salons, barber shops, spas and body art
- healthcare services and health professions such as doctor's offices, dental care, massage therapy and physiotherapy
- rental accommodations such as hotel rooms, cottages and campgrounds
- faith services



- school based activities that take place during the school day, before and after school programs and schools buses
- business meetings and other activities where the general public is not present
- places where government services are offered
- food banks, shelters, Family Resource Centres and adult day programs for seniors or people with disabilities
- informal gatherings at a private residence

Will the proof of vaccination policy apply to employees?

The proof of vaccination policy will apply to people participating in the event or activity, not to employees of the business or organization that hosts it.

You will not be required to show proof of vaccination if your job requires you to access a business or organization that is subject to the proof of vaccination policy (such as a liquor inspector, delivery person, public health inspector, contractor).

Any workplace may choose to implement their own vaccine policy for staff.

Will proof of vaccination be required to visit healthcare or long-term care facilities?

The provincewide policy does not apply to healthcare facilities operated by the Nova Scotia Health Authority or IWK Health Centre. It does not apply to long-term care facilities or nursing homes. However, these facilities may put their own vaccine policies in place for visitors.

Will pre-primary to grade 12 students need to show proof of vaccination to attend school? What about extracurricular activities?

Proof of vaccination will not be required to attend school, to participate in activities that take place during the school day, to attend before and after school programs, or to take the school bus. However, it will be required for extracurricular activities such as sports, clubs etc that take place outside school hours.

Do you need to be fully vaccinated to play on a sports team? What about school sports? What about spectators?

Everyone who is 12 and older will need to show proof of full vaccination to participate in indoor and outdoor sporting events, including practices, games, competitions, tournaments. This includes school sports that take place outside school hours. It includes participants as well as teachers, coaches, officials, and volunteers who support these activities. It includes spectators.

What kind of events will require proof of vaccination?

People will need to show full proof of vaccination to attend indoor and outdoor events that are hosted by a recognized business or organization. That includes hotels, restaurants and other rental facilities that host events. It includes festivals, special events like a community fundraiser or dinner, and social events like parties and receptions. It includes organized sports events. It includes arts and culture events and venues like theatre performances, concerts and movie theatres. It includes weddings, funerals, visitation and associated receptions.



Proof of vaccination is not required for informal events at your home when there is no recognized business or organization involved, such as a dinner party or a backyard wedding with no wedding planner, caterer or other service providers.

If a wedding is held in a church, does that make it a faith service where full proof of vaccination is not required?

Even if a wedding is held in a church, proof of full vaccination is required. This is because a wedding brings together a variety of different people which increases the risk, whereas faith services typically gather more or less the same people on a regular basis.

Why isn't proof of full vaccination required for faith services?

Faith services are an essential activity for many people so we are not requiring proof of vaccination to participate in them. We do strongly recommend everyone get vaccinated and encourage everyone to continue wearing masks at faith services even when the mask requirement is lifted.

Why isn't proof of full vaccination required for personal services?

Generally, the proof of full vaccination policy applies to places that facilitate gatherings. Hair salons, barber shops and other personal services are not places where people gather for social reasons.

Is proof of vaccination required to access training such as driving school? Is it required for meetings?

Proof of full vaccination will be required for people taking training hosted by a recognized business or organization such as driver training or courses offered by a training business. It won't be required for business meetings and other activities where the general public is not present.

Who is responsible to check proof of vaccination?

The recognized business or organization hosting an event or activity covered by the policy is required to ensure people in attendance have proof of vaccination. In the case of a rental facility, the owner of the facility is hosting the event and is responsible for checking for proof of vaccination, even if they do not do any organizing for the event. They owner does not want to take on this responsibility, they should not rent the facility.

What does this mean for people who cannot be vaccinated?

Some people may not be able to get vaccinated. The province is working on a process to give an exception for people with a valid medical or behavioural reason for not getting vaccinated. There are very few of these reasons.

What are medical reasons for not getting vaccinated?

There is limited number of specific medical reasons why someone should not or cannot get COVID-19 vaccine. They include:

- an allergy to any component of a specific COVID-19 vaccine or its container (polyethylene glycol for Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines)
- a history of major venous and/or arterial thrombosis with thrombocytopenia following vaccination with AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine
- a history of capillary leak syndrome following vaccination with AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine
- a history of a serious adverse event following immunization after the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. "Serious" is defined using the World Health Organization standard definition: an adverse event following immunization that results in death, is life-threatening, requires in-



patient hospitalization or prolongs an existing hospitalization, results in persistent or significant disability/incapacity or a congenital anomaly/birth defect.

Additionally, as a precaution, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommends that people who experienced myocarditis and/or pericarditis after a first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) should wait to get their second dose of mRNA vaccine until more information is available.

Immunosuppression, auto-immune disorders, pregnancy and breastfeeding are not medical reasons that prevent people from getting COVID-19 vaccine.

What are behavioural reasons for not getting vaccinated?

The exceptions process will take into consideration people who have sensory or behavioural issues that create a barrier to vaccination.

Will there be a grace-period for children who just turned 12 or will soon turn 12?

Children who turned 12 between Jan. 1 and Oct. 4 this year will have until Dec. 31 to attend events and activities while they get vaccinated. Children who turn 12 after Oct. 4 will have three months from their birthday. If they choose not to get vaccinated, they will no longer be able to participate in these events and activities once the grace period is up.

Can I use a COVID test or anti-body test in place of proof of vaccination?

COVID tests and anti-body tests will not be accepted in place of full proof of vaccination.

How do I get my proof of vaccination?

Anyone who got a dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Nova Scotia can access their proof of vaccination online at novascotia.ca/immunizationrecord or by calling toll-free: 1-833-797-7772.

My immunization record has an error/missing information. How do I get this fixed?

If your vaccine receipt has an error, is missing information or you can't access the receipt online using your Canadian health card number and the email address or phone number you used to book your appointment, call 1-833-797-7772 (Monday to Friday, 7am to 7pm) to report an issue with your vaccine receipt.

When calling to report an issue with your vaccine receipt, you may need to provide your:

- Name
- date of birth
- email address or phone number you used to book your appointment
- health card number
- type, date and location of COVID-19 vaccine you received (for each dose)

After you report an issue, it should take 2 weeks to get a new digital copy of your vaccine receipt (email is sent from noreply@canimmunize.ca). It can take longer if more information is needed.



I only received one dose in Nova Scotia. How do I get it added to my Nova Scotia COVID-19 immunization record?

At this time, we are unable to add out-of-province doses to the Nova Scotia COVID-19 immunization record. However, we are working on a solution for Nova Scotia residents and it will be publicly communicated when ready. Until then, anyone in Nova Scotia who is 12 and older and has received one or more doses outside the province will need to show the proof of vaccination from the jurisdiction they were vaccinated in.