

Direction of the Minister of Health and Wellness Under a Declared State of Emergency
(Clauses 14(j) & (k) of the *Emergency Management Act*)

(21-002HW Revised [2])

This Direction repeals and replaces the previous Direction 21-002HW, made on May 28, 2021. [Only change is to add “Experiencing acute adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine requiring EHS transportation” as a category of transport without charge.]

On March 22, 2020, a State of Emergency was declared for all the Province of Nova Scotia by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing under subsection 12(1) in Chapter 8 of the Acts of 1990, the *Emergency Management Act*.

Since that time, the State of Emergency has been renewed, without interruption, pursuant to subsection 19(2) of the *Emergency Management Act* and with approval of the Governor in Council.

Effective **May 1, 2021**, the Minister of Municipal Affairs delegated to the Minister of Health and Wellness, pursuant to clause 3(3)(c) of the *Emergency Management Act*, the powers under clauses 14(j) & (k) of the *Emergency Management Act* to cause medically essential ambulance transportation to be provided to COVID-19 positive or presumptive individuals in the Province without charge and to authorize the Department of Health and Wellness to make payments to the ambulance service provider to cover the cost of the ambulance fees not charged, until such time as the Provincial State of Emergency terminates or is not renewed.

As such, during the Provincial State of Emergency, under the authority delegated to me above for clauses 14(j) & (k) of the *Emergency Management Act* and effective **May 1, 2021**, I direct the following:

1. The ambulance services provider, Emergency Medical Care Inc (EMCI), shall provide medically essential ambulance transportation to the following categories of individuals and without charge to the individual:
 - a. COVID-19 7yu**9+6+
 - b. Presumptive COVID-19 positive - those awaiting a test result or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms;
 - c. Experiencing sudden acute respiratory illness:
 - d. Experiencing acute adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine requiring EHS transportation.

2. The Department of Health and Wellness shall make payments to EMCI, in the amounts set out in the *Ambulance Fee Regulations*, N.S. Reg 133/2002 as amended, for medically essential ambulance transportation that EMCI provides without charge to the individual under Section 1 and the terms of this Direction.

This Direction is in addition to any requirements established in a Chief Medical Officer of Health's Public Health Order under the *Health Protection Act, 2004*, c. 4, s. 1, and any other Directions issued under the *Emergency Management Act*.

This Direction shall continue until the Provincial State of Emergency terminates or is not renewed, unless the Direction is terminated earlier in writing.

Dated **__June 29th__** , **2021**

original signed by

Honourable Zach Churchill

Minister of Health and Wellness