TO: 1.) All persons residing in or present in the Province of Nova Scotia;

2.) All not-for-profit and for-profit businesses and organizations operating or carrying on business in Nova Scotia;

3.) Such other persons or entities as may be identified by the Chief Medical Officer of Health or otherwise as set out in this Order.

ORDER made pursuant to Section 32 of the Health Protection Act (Nova Scotia)

WHEREAS Section 32 of the Health Protection Act states:

32 (1) Where a medical officer is of the opinion, upon reasonable and probable grounds, that:

(a) a communicable disease exists or may exist or that there is an immediate risk of an outbreak of a communicable disease;
(b) the communicable disease presents a risk to the public health; and

(c) the requirements specified in the order are necessary in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health presented by the communicable disease,

the medical officer may by written order require a person to take or to refrain from taking any action that is specified in the order in respect of a communicable disease.

WHEREAS COVID-19 has been identified as a communicable disease that presents a risk to public health as defined under s.4(b) of the Health Protection Act, and;

WHEREAS I am the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Province of Nova Scotia and am of the opinion, upon reasonable and probable grounds, that

(a) a communicable disease (COVID-19) exists; and that there is an immediate risk of an outbreak of the communicable disease;

(b) the communicable disease presents a risk to the public health; and

(c) the requirements specified in the order are necessary to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health presented by the communicable disease, and;

WHEREAS as the Chief Medical Officer of Health, I have determined it necessary to issue this Order to the Class of Persons to decrease the risk to public health presented by COVID-19.

Please be advised that:

I, Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health, order the following:

PART I
ENTRY, ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS

1. In this Order,

(a) “self-isolate” means the requirement of any person who has COVID-19 to remain separate from others in such places and under such conditions to prevent or limit the direct or indirect transmission of COVID-19;

(b) “self-quarantine” means the requirement of any person who has been exposed or may have been exposed to COVID-19 during its period of
communicability to restrict that person’s activities in order to prevent disease transmission during the incubation period for this disease.

2. Effective 8:00 a.m. June 23, 2021, all persons are prohibited from entering Nova Scotia, except as stated herein or set out elsewhere in this Order:

(a) permanent residents of Nova Scotia Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and their spouses, partners and dependant children when travelling together;

(b) persons who have engaged in essential travel outside Nova Scotia; or

(c) spouses, partners and dependant children of the following persons engaged in essential travel, when travelling together with that person:

   (i) students coming to study in Nova Scotia;

   (ii) essential health care workers;

   (iii) Canadian Military and Defence Team personnel, Coast Guard, RCMP, Canadian Border Services Agency, and Canadian Security Intelligence Service; and

   (iv) a person who has been granted an exception in accordance with section 32.

2.1 Where any person travels into Nova Scotia in contravention of this Order, a peace officer is hereby authorized and directed to return that person to an interprovincial border and require the person to leave the Province immediately or at such a time as may be directed, and in doing so, may exercise authority under section 46 of the Health Protection Act.

2.2 For the purpose of section 2(b), persons engaged in essential travel means:

(a) a resident of Nova Scotia whose primary employment is in another province;

(b) a person required to participate in-person in a legal proceeding in another province;

(c) students who are:

   (i) international students registered for online or in-person study at a Nova Scotia designated learning institution;
(ii) domestic (Canadian) students who are registered for online or in-person study in the Spring/Summer 2021 semester at a Nova Scotia designated learning institution; or

(iii) returning to their primary or family residence in Nova Scotia after studying outside Nova Scotia;

(d) a party to a child sharing arrangement that requires entry into or exit from Nova Scotia;

(e) a temporary foreign worker as set out in sections 7 to 7.1, a rotational worker as set out in sections 9 to 9.1, a specialized worker as set out in sections 10 and 10.1, and a fish harvester as set out in section 11;

(f) essential health care workers;

(g) a person exempt from self-quarantine following the COVID-19 Protocol for Exempt Travelers;

(h) a person traveling between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick for work, school and childcare only, while following the Nova Scotia-New Brunswick protocol;

(i) a person required to travel to Nova Scotia for essential health services, with accompanying support persons;

(j) a person and their immediate family members living in the same household who are moving to Nova Scotia permanently and have:

   (i) an unconditional Agreement of Purchase and Sale to purchase property in Nova Scotia; or

   (ii) a 1-year Lease Agreement for residential premises in Nova Scotia governed by the Residential Tenancies Act (Nova Scotia); or

   (iii) ownership of property in Nova Scotia and either an Agreement of Purchase and Sale of their home or notice of termination of their Lease Agreement in another province or territory; or

   (iv) an accepted Letter of Offer of Employment,

and a self-quarantine plan on entry into Nova Scotia that is subject to approval of the Chief Medical Officer of Health or his delegate;

(k) a person and their immediate family members living in the same household who are returning to Nova Scotia or moving to Nova Scotia to occupy a seasonal dwelling and have:
(i) an Agreement of Purchase and Sale or other supporting documentation of property ownership in Nova Scotia; and

(ii) a self-quarantine plan on entry into Nova Scotia that is subject to approval of the Chief Medical Officer of Health or his delegate,

or

(i) a person who has been granted an exception in accordance with section 32.

2.3 Effective 8:00 a.m. June 23, 2021, all persons seeking entry into Nova Scotia must apply through the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in form and complete daily digital check-ins, located at: https://travel-declaration.novascotia.ca/en, except:

(a) persons following the Nova Scotia-New Brunswick protocol;

(b) professional truck drivers;

(c) persons who have received compassionate exceptions;

(d) essential healthcare workers who travel to and from Nova Scotia and another province or territory to carry out their work duties on an ongoing regular basis or on a locum basis;

(e) people following the child custody protocol for frequent routine visits between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; and

(f) persons travelling to Nova Scotia from Newfoundland and Labrador or Prince Edward Island.

3.1 The requirements of section 3.2 apply to all persons residing in or present in the Province of Nova Scotia who:

(a) have travelled outside Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, or Prince Edward Island, or reside in the same household of a person who has travelled outside these provinces; or

(b) are identified as a close contact of a person who has or has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or

(c) are identified as a person diagnosed with COVID-19; or

(d) have been tested for COVID-19 due to the presence of symptoms or as directed by public health and are awaiting the results of their test.

3.2 Effective 8:00 a.m. June 16, 2021, those persons listed in section 3.1 must:
(a) self-quarantine or self-isolate, for:

(i) the period commencing on the day of entry into Nova Scotia, and continuing thereafter for 14 consecutive days or as directed by a Medical Officer of Health, or

(ii) the first day of close contact, or first day of symptoms, testing, diagnosis, and continuing thereafter for 14 consecutive days or as directed by a Medical Officer of Health.

(b) During the 14-day period, conduct themselves in such a manner as not to in any way expose any other person to infection or potential infection from COVID-19, and follow all infection control instructions given to them on the Government of Nova Scotia’s website, at: https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/, or given to them by Telehealth 811 staff, public health staff or any other staff of a healthcare facility to which they may seek or receive treatment.

(c) After the 14-day period in section 3.2(a.) has lapsed, they may cease self-isolation or self-quarantine if they do not exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.

3.3 All persons are encouraged to complete the online assessment tool should they exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.

3.4 For greater certainty, persons required to self-isolate or self-quarantine in accordance with section 3.2 must remain in their residence or residence grounds and otherwise remove themselves from the presence of others in public while they may be infectious during the 14-day period, so that all precautions necessary to protect others are in place. Specifically, such persons must not enter any buildings, public transportation, or other enclosed spaces (other than their residence) where other people are present.

3.5A For the purpose of section 3.5:

(a) “fully immunized” means receipt of 1 dose of a vaccine authorized as a 1 dose vaccine series such as Janssen plus 14 days, or 2 doses of a vaccine authorized as a 2 dose vaccine series such as Pfizer, Moderna or Astrazeneca plus 14 days;

(b) “partially immunized” means receipt of 1 dose of a vaccine authorized as a 2 dose vaccine series such as Pfizer, Moderna or Astrazeneca plus 14 days; and

(c) “vaccine” means a vaccine against COVID-19 that has been approved by either the Public Health Agency of Canada or the World Health Organization.

3.5 Notwithstanding section 3.2(a):

(a) persons who receive a negative COVID-19 test result after being referred for testing by the online assessment tool due to the presence of COVID-like
symptoms may cease self-quarantine on the date of receipt of the negative test result;

(b) persons who are required to self-isolate or self-quarantine may leave their residence:

(i) to undergo COVID-19 testing as directed by a Medical Officer of Health; or

(ii) for 1 outing per day for outdoor exercise within walking/running distance of their home or isolation site for a maximum of 1 hour,

(c) persons travelling from New Brunswick to Nova Scotia, except those engaged in travel under the Nova Scotia-New Brunswick protocol or are otherwise exempt from self-quarantine under this Order, must adhere to the self-quarantine based on the following:

(i) persons who are fully immunized before arriving in Nova Scotia are not required to self-quarantine on arrival in Nova Scotia;

(ii) persons who are partially immunized before arriving in Nova Scotia must self-quarantine for at least 7 days on arrival in Nova Scotia and must not cease self-quarantine until they receive 1 negative test result while in Nova Scotia, with testing on day 5 or 6;

(iii) persons who have had COVID-19, have recovered from it in the last 12 weeks before entering Nova Scotia, and are partially immunized must self-quarantine for 7 days on arrival into Nova Scotia but are not required to be tested;

(iv) persons who have not had COVID-19 but are partially immunized within 14 days of arrival in Nova Scotia must self-quarantine for 14 days in accordance with section 3.2(a); and

(v) persons who have not received any vaccine before arriving in Nova Scotia must self-quarantine for 14 days in accordance with section 3.2(a).

4. Notwithstanding section 3.1(a), persons who reside in the same household as a person who has travelled into Nova Scotia or is returning to Nova Scotia from any geographic location outside Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, or Prince Edward Island for essential travel, are not required to self-quarantine if the traveller, during their 14-day period of self-quarantine, meets all of the following criteria:

4.1 For essential travel set out in subsections 2.2, the traveller:
(a) stays at their place of residence;
(b) has their own separate room in the home (e.g. separate bedroom, basement or attic);
(c) sanitizes their hands before leaving the separate room;
(d) wears a non-medical mask when outside of their separate room;
(e) avoids being in the same space as other household members;
(f) has their own bathroom or if sharing a bathroom then cleans high touch surfaces (e.g. doorknob, tap, toilet handle, sink, etc.) after each use;
(g) has food and beverages prepared by others and accesses them in a non-contact manner;
(h) does not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding or other items with others in the home;
(i) keeps their personal items (e.g. toothbrush, cups, cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) separate from those belonging to others; and
(j) does not share food, drinks or cigarettes or any other items that are put in the mouth.

4.2 For greater clarity, a person who travels to Nova Scotia from any geographic location outside Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, or Prince Edward Island for non-essential travel must self-quarantine in accordance with sections 3.2 and 3.5.

5. Notwithstanding sections 2 and 3.1, persons who are well and showing no symptoms of COVID-19 may enter Nova Scotia for the purposes of facilitating child sharing between parents under an order or agreement providing for joint custody, and in such instances, both the persons facilitating custody and children showing no symptoms of COVID-19 are exempt from the requirement to self-quarantine.

5.1 Further to section 5, parents and children entering or leaving Nova Scotia for the purposes of facilitating child sharing arrangements must adhere to the self-quarantine requirements established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, located at:

6. Notwithstanding sections 2 and 3.1, individuals who are well and showing no symptoms of COVID-19 and are engaged in a legal proceeding in Nova Scotia, whether the accused, victim, witness, party or lawyer in such proceeding, may enter Nova Scotia for participation in the legal proceeding and are exempt from self-quarantine if the person adheres to the COVID-19 Protocol for Exempt Travelers established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, located at:
7. An employer or contractor of any Temporary Foreign Worker entitled to enter Nova Scotia pursuant to the Federal Order in Council 2021-0077, as amended, must first, before the Temporary Foreign Worker enters Nova Scotia, satisfy me, as Chief Medical Officer of Health, that the employer or contractor has made adequate provision for compliance with:

(a) the federal quarantine rules applicable to the Temporary Foreign Workers in the Agriculture and Seafood Sector; and

(b) the self-quarantine requirements set out in section 3.2 of this Order.

7.1 In addition, the employer or contractor and the Temporary Foreign Worker must, for the duration of the entire work period in Nova Scotia:

(a) adhere to all applicable terms and conditions of this Order; and

(b) adhere to the COVID-19 Protocol for Temporary Foreign Workers employed in Agriculture and Seafood Sectors established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, located at: https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocolfortemporaryforeignworkers-agriculture-and-seafood-sectors-en.pdf.

(c) comply with any direction issued by me, as Chief Medical Officer of Health, or a Medical Officer of Health with respect to the Temporary Foreign Worker and their employment in Nova Scotia.

8. Notwithstanding sections 2 and 3.1, persons who are required to travel to Nova Scotia or outside Nova Scotia for essential health services, with accompanying support persons as permitted by health authority policy, are exempt from the requirement to self-quarantine but must adhere to the COVID-19 Protocol for Exempt Travelers established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, located at: https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-exempt-travellers-en.pdf.

9. For the purpose of section 9.1, “rotational worker” means a person who lives in Nova Scotia and travels to work in another province or territory in Canada on a regular schedule or travels outside Canada on a regular schedule and is exempt from self-quarantine under the federal Quarantine Act.

9.1 Notwithstanding sections 2 and 3.1, rotational workers must adhere to the self-quarantine and COVID-19 testing requirements established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, located at: https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Directive-on-Exceptions-for-Rotational-Workers.pdf.

10. Notwithstanding sections 2 and 3.1, specialized workers who are:

(a) needed for urgent work on critical infrastructure that cannot be done by individuals from within the Province and such work is crucial to the functioning of the Province; or
(b) needed for urgent work that cannot be done by individuals from within the Province and are necessary to preserve the viability of one or more Nova Scotia businesses,

are permitted to enter Nova Scotia from any geographic location outside Nova Scotia. A list of critical infrastructure included in this definition is available at:

10.1 Specialized workers permitted to enter Nova Scotia in accordance with section 10 must adhere to self-quarantine and COVID-19 testing requirements established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, located at:

11. Notwithstanding sections 2 and 3.1, fish harvesters required to enter Nova Scotia from any geographic location outside Nova Scotia to perform the commercial or licensed activity of catching fish and other seafood for market or other approved activities, excluding recreational fishing, must adhere to self-quarantine requirements established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, located at:

12.1 Notwithstanding section 3.1, workers who are essential to the movement of people and goods, and who must enter Nova Scotia as part of their duty requirements, are exempt from the requirement to self-quarantine, particularly:

(a) healthy 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;

(b) Canadian Military and Defence Team personnel, Coast Guard, RCMP, Canadian Border Services Agency, and Canadian Security Intelligence Service;

(c) first responders, including police, fire, EHS paramedic workers; and

(d) essential healthcare workers who travel to and from Nova Scotia and another province or territory to carry out their work duties on an ongoing regular basis or on a locum basis.

but must adhere to the COVID-19 Protocol for Exempt Travelers established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, located at:

12.2 For greater clarity, airline crew employed in the movement of people and goods and who are required to travel to Nova Scotia or from Nova Scotia to carry out their work duties are exempt from the self-quarantine requirements set out in sections 3.2 and 3.5.
12.3 Notwithstanding sections 3.1 and 3.5, persons who reside in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick and are required to travel between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick on a regular ongoing basis to work, attend a school or post-secondary institution, access child care, or access or provide essential veterinary services located in one of these provinces are exempt from the requirement to self-quarantine if that person follows the travel protocol at: https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-Nova-Scotia-New-Brunswick.pdf.

12.4 Persons exempt under sections 12.1 to 12.3 must practice physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) to the best of their ability, follow all public health recommendations, closely self-monitor and must self-isolate or self-quarantine should they exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms as set out in the online assessment tool.

PART II
PHYSICAL DISTANCING,
GATHERING LIMITS,
MASKS AND FACE COVERINGS

13A Effective 8:00a.m. June 16, 2021, except where otherwise stated in this Order the requirements for physical distancing, gathering limits, masks and face coverings apply to all persons present and residing in Nova Scotia.

13. All persons present and residing in Nova Scotia must maintain physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet).

13.1 All persons present and residing in Nova Scotia must not participate in any gatherings, whether indoors or outdoors, unless subject to a specific exception set out in this Order.

13.2 Notwithstanding sections 13 and section 13.1:

(a) persons living in the same household may gather together indoors up to the maximum of the number of immediate family members residing in the same the household plus visitors, for a total gathering of 10 persons and they are not required to practice physical distancing or masking; and

(b) persons may gather together in social groups of up to 25 persons outdoors, and they are not required to practice physical distancing or masking.

13.3 Notwithstanding sections 13.1 and 13.2 and for greater certainty, parties to a child sharing arrangement, or an order or agreement providing for joint custody:

(a) may facilitate and participate in such child sharing or custody arrangement between households,
but

(b) must adhere to the self-quarantine requirements established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, located at: https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Protocol-for-child-custody.pdf if a parent or child develops symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19.

13.4 For the purpose of section 13.5, an “illegal public gathering” is defined as a gathering that does not comply with the requirements of this Order, including:

(a) the attendance limits applicable to gatherings, whether indoors or outdoors;

(b) physical distancing requirements; and

(c) masking requirements.

13.5 For greater certainty, persons are prohibited from:

(a) organizing an in-person gathering, including requesting, inciting, or inviting others to attend an illegal public gathering;

(b) promoting an illegal public gathering via social media or otherwise; or

(c) attending an illegal public gathering of any nature, whether indoors or outdoors.

14. Notwithstanding section 13.1, persons may engage in outdoor physical activity while adhering to the gathering limitations set out in section 13.2 or the gathering limitations while participating in an outdoor fitness class and other recreational or leisure activities as set out in sections 28 and 28.1, and in doing so, must adhere to physical distancing requirements of 2 metres (6 feet) as set out in section 13.

15. Persons may engage in the following events and activities, whether indoors or outdoors:

(a) social events;

(b) arts and culture events;

(c) sports, recreation and physical activity events;

(d) special events;

(e) festivals;

(f) weddings and receptions;
(g) funerals, visitations and receptions;

(h) faith gatherings and drive-in or parking lot faith service; and

(i) drive-in movie theatre,

while adhering to the following:

(a) a maximum of 10 persons indoors, or a maximum of 25 persons outdoors, plus officiants when not hosted by a recognized business or organization (i.e. event planner, event venue);

(b) practice physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet), except persons residing in the same household as set out in section 13.2(a) or persons in social groups of 10 as set out in sections 13.2(b);

(c) practice masking requirements set out in section 18.2 unless exempt under section 18.3; and

(d) if attending a drive-in or parking lot faith service, or drive-in movie theatre, all persons in attendance must adhere to the following:

   (i) the service or movie is conducted over speakers or by remote radio broadcast;

   (ii) there is no contact between cars and no transfer of things between cars;

   (iii) participants remain in their respective vehicle while “attending” the service, unless accessing a washroom facility or concession stand and while doing so, must adhering to protocol for gathering limits, physical distancing, and masking requirements set out in this Order;

   (iv) participants practice physical distancing among vehicles, such that vehicles must be at least 2 metres (6 feet) apart from each other; and

   (v) participants in the same car adhere to the gathering limits of sections 13.2(a) or (b).

15.1 Notwithstanding sections 15, where any of the activities listed in section 15 are hosted by an existing business or organization legally operating in Nova Scotia, then the business or organization may host:
(a) up to 25% of legal capacity of the indoor establishment in which the event or activity is held, to an overall maximum of 50 persons;

(b) up to a maximum of 75 persons if the event or activity is outdoors,

and all persons in attendance must practice physical distancing and masking requirements set out in this Order. Plans for hosting multiple groups, each group meeting the gathering limits, are permitted if following the guidance outlined by CCH.

15.1.1 Business and organizations may host events listed in section 15 virtually while adhering to the following:

(a) a maximum of 10 persons indoors or 25 outdoors in one location to support the delivery of the event; and

(b) their COVID-19 Workplace Prevention Plan to carry out virtual production in accordance with section 26.

15.2 Notwithstanding section 15, players, participants, and officials:

(a) may engage in organized sport practice and training (recreational, amateur, and professional), or organized arts and culture (amateur) rehearsals and performances, up to a maximum of 10 persons indoors and 25 persons outdoors without physical distancing, or in multiple groups of 10 persons indoors or 25 persons outdoors with physical distancing between groups;

(b) must wear a mask indoors when physical distancing is not possible, except during activities that are not possible while wearing a mask, and are recommended to wear a mask outdoors,

but

(c) may not engage in games or competitions, except golf or tennis; and

(d) spectators are permitted with a limit of 25% of indoor capacity of the facility up to a maximum or 50 spectators or up 75 spectators outdoors, when the organized sport practice and training (recreational, amateur, and professional), or the organized arts and culture rehearsals (amateur) is hosted by a recognized business or organization. Plans for hosting multiple groups, each group meeting the gathering limits, are permitted if following the guidance outlined by CCH.

15.3 Notwithstanding sections 15, 15.1 and 15.2, professional artists, musicians, dancers and actors may engage in rehearsal and performances up to a maximum of 15 persons indoors and 25 persons outdoors, without physical distancing while adhering to the following:
(a) the masking and spectator requirements set out in sections 15.2(b) and (c);

(b) an appropriate COVID-19 Workplace Prevention Plan in accordance with section 26; and


15.4 Any person, business or organization that hosts an event authorized by sections 15 to 15.3 is responsible for maintaining oversight of the gathering and for ensuring that all persons in attendance comply with the requirements of this Order.

15.5 For greater clarity, the maximum number of persons requirement set out in section 15.1 applies to meetings and training hosted by, including but not limited to:

(a) provincial and municipal governments;

(b) private businesses and organizations;

(c) first responder organizations;

(d) organized clubs; and

(e) mental health and addictions support group meetings,

all persons in attendance must adhere to the masking requirements set out in section 18.2 unless exempt under section 18.3.

15.6 Notwithstanding sections 13 and 15.5, any person, volunteer or employee who provides emergency first response are not required to adhere to the gathering limits during an emergency, when carrying out duties or when necessary during training.

16. For greater clarity, physical distancing and the person limit rule set out in sections 13 and 13.1 do not apply to the following organizations, activities, persons, or places:

(a) hospitals as defined in the Hospitals Act and a health authority as defined in the Health Authorities Act;

(b) profit, not-for-profit or government operated Department of Community Services funded organizations or representatives that are covered under the Homes for Special Care Act and the Children and Family Services Act including places of safety for children and youth, and customized placements for persons with disabilities;
(c) profit or not-for-profit Department of Health and Wellness funded long-term care facilities licensed under the Homes for Special Care Act or home care agencies funded under the Homemaker Services Act;

(d) persons providing care under the self-managed care program, supportive care program, caregiver benefit program funded by the province of Nova Scotia;

(e) persons providing support under the Independent Living Support, Supported Apartment and Supervised Apartment Programs funded by the Department of Community Services;

(f) homeless shelters receiving operational grants from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and those operated by religious and other voluntary organizations;

(g) unlicensed child-care facilities;

(h) a place designated or established under the authority of the Correctional Services Act or the Youth Criminal Justice Act (Canada) for the supervision or custody of offenders and includes community-based correctional services;

(i) any administrative tribunal, arbitration proceeding or court operating essential services in the Province under the authority of any provincial or federal enactment, including but not limited to, a justice centre or courthouse under the authority of the Judicature Act or a provincial court under the authority of the Provincial Court Act or the Family Court Act;

   (ia) notwithstanding clause (i), the Labour Board must still comply with section 13 when conducting a vote under the Trade Union Act.

(j) Emergency Medical Care Incorporated;

(k) persons providing, servicing or repairing medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, red cross beds/equipment, home oxygen equipment;

(l) private not-for-profit community transportation providers;

(m) food production plants; and

(n) fishing vessels.

16.1 Physical distancing requirements and the person limit set out in sections 13 and 13.1 do not apply to the following municipal entities and their contractors when carrying out their work duties:

(a) Police and Fire Services;
(b) Municipal Utilities such as water, wastewater and stormwater;

(c) Maintenance of utilities and municipal facilities;

(d) Transportation;

(e) Road maintenance/repair;

(f) Municipal ICT systems and services;

(g) Public Transit;

(h) Solid Waste, garbage and litter collection and disposal;

(i) Urban Forestry; and

(j) Municipal logistic, distribution, storage, inventory and repair services.

16.2 Physical distancing requirements and the person limit rule set out in sections 13 and 13.1 do not apply to the following provincial entities and their contractors when carrying out their work duties:

(a) Transportation and Active Transit;

(b) Infrastructure and Housing;

(c) Road maintenance/repair;

(d) Government building construction and/or repair; and

(e) Enforcement or compliance officers authorized by their statutory appointments or delegated authority to inspect, investigate and/or enforce provincial legislation while carrying out their powers pursuant to the relevant statutory authority.

17. Gatherings for sleep over camps held by a recognized business or organization are cancelled for 2021 unless otherwise amended.

17.1 Recognized businesses and organizations:

(a) may host day camps, indoors or outdoors, up to a maximum of 15 persons per group including staff and volunteers without distancing, or in multiple groups of 15 persons with physical distancing between groups; and
(b) must follow the COVID-19 Return to Day Camp Guidelines established by the Chief Medical Officer of health, located at: https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Return-to-Day-Camp-Guidelines.pdf.


18.1 For the purpose of section 18.2, a “public place” means the part of the following places accessible to the public, insofar as it is enclosed:

(a) a retail business, a shopping centre, or a building or room of a business where personal care services are provided;

(b) a restaurant or a liquor licensed establishment, including the kitchen and preparatory space of a restaurant or a liquor licensed establishment;

(c) a place of worship or faith gathering;

(d) a place where activities or services of a cultural or entertainment nature are offered;

(e) a place where sports are played, fitness, recreational or leisure activities are carried on;

(f) a rental hall or other place used to hold events, including conventions and conferences, or to hold receptions;

(g) a place where municipal or provincial government services are available to the public;

(h) a common area, including an elevator, of a tourist accommodation establishment;

(i) a lobby, reception area or elevator in an office building;

(j) a common area or public space on a university or college campus;

(k) a train or bus station, a ferry terminal, or an airport;

(m) common areas of a multi-residential building;
(n) all common areas of private indoor workplaces;

(o) private indoor workplaces where there are:

   (i) interactions with the public;

   (ii) areas with poor ventilation; or

   (iii) areas where physical distance as set out in section 13 cannot be maintained,

and insofar as it is outdoors:

   (p) all serviced areas of a restaurant or a liquor licensed establishment, including their patios but excluding holes on the golf course that are licensed;

   (q) organized outdoors gatherings such as public markets, special or temporary events where 2 metres (6 feet) physical distancing cannot be consistently maintained; and

   (r) outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained such as playgrounds and parks.

18.2 All persons must wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth while present in a public place.

18.3 Notwithstanding section 18.2, a person is exempt from the requirement to wear a mask in a public place if the person:

   (a) is less than 2 years of age or age 2 to 4 years and their caregiver cannot persuade them to wear a mask;

   (b) for whom the wearing of a mask is not possible because of the person’s medical condition;

   (c) is reasonably accommodated by not wearing a mask in accordance with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act;

   (d) is in the public place receiving care or being provided a service or while participating in a physical or other activity requiring the mask be removed, in which case the person may remove the mask for the duration of the care, service or activity;

   (e) removes the mask momentarily for identification or ceremonial purposes;
(f) is in a courtroom, jury room or secured area in a courthouse, or room where a proceeding or meeting of an administrative tribunal established by legislation is being held; or

(g) is a performer at an event or officiant in the course of performing activities requiring vocalization such as talking or singing at an event or activity as described in sections 15, 15.2 or 15.3.

18.4 All persons must wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth as defined in section 18 while travelling on vehicles providing transportation to the public, including:

(a) any municipally operated public transit, including municipally operated buses and ferries;

(b) any public passenger vehicle licensed under the *Motor Carrier Act*, including community transit vehicles, commercial vehicles (shuttle vans), and vehicles providing charters and/or tours;

(c) any school buses licensed under the *Motor Carrier Act* and any vehicles of any capacity operated by private schools recognized by the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development;

(d) commuter vehicles and courtesy vehicles as defined under the *Motor Carrier Act*, vans, mini-buses, or buses of any passenger capacity providing services to the public;

(e) any vehicles serving residents and staff of facilities listed in section 20.1; and

(f) taxicabs regulated by municipalities under the authority of the *Motor Vehicle Act*.

18.5 Notwithstanding section 18.4, the following persons are exempt from the requirement to wear a mask while travelling on vehicles providing transportation to the public:

(a) a person is less than 2 years of age or age 2 to 4 years and their caregiver cannot persuade them to wear a mask;

(b) a person for whom the wearing of a mask is not possible because of the person's medical condition; and

(c) a person who is reasonably accommodated by not wearing a mask in accordance with the *Nova Scotia Human Rights Act*.

18.6 A person may remove the mask momentarily for identification purposes when boarding any public transit set out in section 18.4.
18.7 For greater certainty, the requirement to wear a mask, as set in sections 18.2 and 18.4, is the minimum standard that persons and businesses must adhere to, and where the business’s plan approved in accordance with section 26.1 of this Order imposes a greater standard, then that standard applies.

19. Effective 6:00 a.m. June 3, 2021 all public schools located in Halifax Regional Municipality and the Sydney Academy and Riverview Families of Schools located in Cape Breton Regional Municipality are open.

19.1. Except those schools listed in section 19, effective 6:00 a.m. June 2, 2021, all public schools under the jurisdiction of a regional centre for education or the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial are open and all private schools may open at the direction of the private school.

19.2 Childcare facilities and family childcare homes regulated under the Early Learning and Child Care Act:

   (a) may remain open; and

   (b) directors, caregivers, staff and visitors must wear a mask as defined in section 18, unless subject to one of the exemptions as set out in section 18.3.

PART III
LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES AND OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

20. Effective 8:00 a.m. June 16, 2021, except where otherwise stated in this Order, the restrictions on long term care facilities and other vulnerable populations apply to all persons present and residing in Nova Scotia.

20.1 Notwithstanding section 16(b) and (c) and subject to section 20.2, all for-profit or not-for-profit Department of Health and Wellness funded long-term care facilities licensed under the Homes for Special Care Act must comply with Schedule “A”, “COVID-19 Management Long term Care Facilities Directive Under the Authority of the Chief Medical Officer of Health”, dated December 21, 2020, as amended from time to time and located at: https://novascotia.ca/dhw/ccs/documents/COVID-19-Management-in-Long-Term-Care-Facilities-Directive.pdf;

20.2 All long term care facilities licenced by the Department of Health and Wellness under the Homes for Special Care Act, and all residents of such facilities must comply with the process for isolating COVID-19 positive long term care residents set out in Schedule “A”, “COVID-19 Management Long Term Care Facilities Directive Under the Authority of the Chief Medical Officer of Health”, dated December 21, 2020, as

20.3 All long term care facilities licensed by the Department of Health and Wellness under the *Homes for Special Care Act* are open to family for outdoor visits, specialized workers such as a hairstylist, 2 designated caregivers and volunteers, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in Schedule “A”, “COVID-19 Management Long term Care Facilities Directive Under the Authority of the Chief Medical Officer of Health”, dated December 21, 2020, as amended from time to time and located at: https://novascotia.ca/dhw/ccs/documents/COVID-19-Management-in-Long-Term-Care-Facilities-Directive.pdf.

20.4 All residents in homes licensed by the Minister of Community Services under the *Homes for Special Care Act* may have outside visitors so long as approved by the home in which they reside and comply with all general public health measures required under this Order.

20.5 All residents in homes licensed by the Minister of Health and Wellness are permitted to have community access in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in Schedule “A”, “COVID-19 Management Long term Care Facilities Directive Under the Authority of the Chief Medical Officer of Health”, dated December 21, 2020, as amended from time to time and located at: https://novascotia.ca/dhw/ccs/documents/COVID-19-Management-in-Long-Term-Care-Facilities-Directive.pdf.

20.6 All residents in homes licensed by the Minister of Community Services under the *Homes for Special Care Act* are permitted to have community access as long as they comply with all general public health measures required under this Order.

20.7 For the purpose of section 20.8, “Adult Day Program” means a planned program of activities in a professional care setting designed for older adults who require supervised care during the day, or those who are isolated and lonely. Adult day care centers enable seniors to socialize and enjoy planned activities in a group setting, while still receiving needed health services. At the same time, they offer family caregivers respite from caregiving duties while knowing that their loved one is in a safe place.

20.8 All senior’s Adult Day Programs are open.

20.9 For greater clarity, nothing in this Order prevents the:

(a) discharge of a COVID-19 patient from a hospital to a long-term care or residential care facility;

(b) transfer of a COVID-19 patient from community to a long-term care or residential care facility; or
(c) return of a COVID-19 patient who has left a long-term care or residential care facility for healthcare services back to that facility after receiving treatment at a hospital.

PART IV
BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS AND PROFESSIONS

21A Effective 8:00 a.m. June 16, 2021, except where otherwise stated in this Order, the restrictions on businesses, organizations and professions apply to all established businesses, organizations and professions carrying on business and operating in Nova Scotia.

21.1 The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1996, c.7, s.1, is hereby incorporated by reference and must be followed by all employers, contractors, constructors, suppliers, owners and employees and each shall take every precaution that is reasonable in the circumstances to ensure the health and safety of all persons at or near a workplace.

22. All not-for-profit and for-profit businesses and organizations operating or carrying on business in Nova Scotia may not carry out COVID-19 Point of Care Screening Tests (PCTs) unless the business or organization:

(a) has obtained prior approval from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health; and

(b) complies with any direction issued by me, as Chief Medical Officer of Health.

23. Subject only to specific closures or limitations directed elsewhere in this Order, all not-for-profit and for-profit businesses and organizations operating or carrying on business in Nova Scotia may continue to operate but must implement physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) within all workplaces and meeting spaces, except where otherwise provided in this Order.

23.1 Any not-for-profit or for-profit business or organization carrying on business in Nova Scotia that cannot maintain the physical distancing requirements set out in section 13 of this Order must limit the number of customers or clients on its premises to no more than 10 persons at a time.

24. Restaurants and liquor licensed establishments may provide in-person dining while adhering to the following:

(a) all restaurants may offer in-person dining to a maximum of full legal capacity of the restaurant provided the operator:

(i) maintains a minimum physical distance of 2 metres (6 feet) between seats or a physical barrier between tables, booths and single seats;
(ii) no group of patrons shall have more than 10 persons at a table;

(iii) ensures patrons remain seated at their table, except while waiting to be seated, going to the bathroom, and getting ready to leave;

(iv) ensures patrons wear masks when not consuming food or alcohol;

(v) ensures staff (servers and kitchen) wear masks while carrying out their work duties;

(vi) ceases in-person dining service to customers effective 11:00 p.m.; and

(vii) closes by midnight,

and

(b) all liquor licensed establishments, including liquor manufacturers (as defined in the Liquor Control Act) may offer in-person dining to a maximum of full legal capacity of the restaurant provided the operator provided the licensee:

(i) ensures no group of patrons have more than 10 persons per table;

(ii) maintains a minimum physical distance of 2 metres (6 feet) between seats or a physical barrier between tables, booths and single seats;

(iii) provides food and alcohol consumption only for in-seat service;

(iv) ensures food (excluding buffets) and alcohol is delivered to the table by staff;

(v) ensures food and alcohol remains at the table;

(vi) ensures patrons remain seated at their table, except while waiting to be seated, going to the bathroom, participating in a game/activity being held in the establishment and getting ready to leave;

(vii) ensures patrons comply with the physical distancing requirements set out in section 13;

(viii) ensures patrons wear masks when not consuming food or alcohol;

(ix) ensures staff (servers and kitchen) wear masks while carrying out their work duties;
(x) ceases in-person patio dining service to customers effective 11:00 p.m.; and

(xi) closes by midnight.

24.1 Bingos that hold a bingo license must adhere to the same provisions as set out in section 24(b) for liquor licensed establishments and liquor manufacturers, and the Communities, Culture and Heritage Re-opening Guide for Bingo Operations, located at: https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Bingo-operations-reopening-guidelines.pdf.

24.2 Liquor boutiques, distilleries, breweries, and wineries:

(a) may remain open but must, at all times, limit the number of customers to a maximum of 50% of allowable occupancy or 120 square feet per person for retail purchase and sale for offsite consumption,

(b) may offer in-person tastings and samplings in accordance with their approved Workplace COVID-19 Prevention Plan set out in section 26; and

(c) may offer in-person dining in accordance with section 24(a).

24.3 Restaurants, liquor licensed establishments, liquor boutiques, distilleries, breweries, and wineries offering in-person dining must:

(a) collect and maintain records of each patron contact information that includes the following minimum data:

(i) name(s);

(ii) contact telephone number;

(iii) date; and

(iv) time,

that the patron was at the restaurant or liquor licensed establishment;

(b) retain information collected under section 24.3 for a period of 30 calendar days and destroy it on the following day immediately thereafter;

(c) provide the information collected under section 24.3 to the Chief Medical Officer of Health or his delegate in electronic form; and

(d) only use the information collected under section 24.3 for the purpose of provision to the Chief Medical Officer of Health in compliance with this Order and may not use it for any other purpose.
24.4 Notwithstanding other provisions of this Order, restaurants, liquor licensed establishments, liquor boutiques, distilleries, breweries, and wineries may have one musician (professional or amateur) perform and the musician must adhere to the Covid-19 Guidance for Musicians (Vocalists and Instrumentalists) located at: https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Guidance-for-Vocalists-and-Instrumentalists.pdf.

24.5 Owner/operators of liquor licensed establishments and non-liquor licensed establishments, including community centres, charities or organized clubs, may host activities such as darts, pool, cards or bowling but in doing so, must adhere to requirements established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health located at: https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Games-and-activities-licensed-establishments.pdf.

25. Regulated and unregulated health professions practicing may continue to practice and provide services within their scope of practice if they have a Workplace COVID-19 Prevention Plan that has been approved by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

26. All not for-profit, for-profit businesses, organizations and professions named in Part IV of this Order shall, as a requirement of their ongoing operations, develop and comply with a Workplace COVID-19 Prevention Plan, as amended from time to time.

26.1 In addition to the physical distancing requirements and person limit rule set out in sections 13 and 23.1, the Workplace COVID-19 Prevention Plan required by section 26 shall address the following:

(a) how to work and interact with customers or clients;

(b) physical distancing in the workplace;

(c) cleaning;

(d) equipment;

(e) preparing employees to return to work;

(f) preparing for customers or clients; and

(g) monitoring and communicating of plan,

and may be substantially similar to those proposals listed in Schedule “B”, located at: https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Schedule-B-HPA-Order.pdf for similar businesses or health professionals and must be made available for review by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
26.2 All businesses or regulated health professionals that are a member of an association listed in Schedule “B” must adopt as their Workplace COVID-19 Prevention Plan the proposal submitted by their association and must be made available for review by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

26.3 For greater certainty, in the case of conflict between a Workplace COVID-19 Prevention Plan and this Order, the more stringent provision applies.

26.4 Effective 8:00a.m. June 1, 2021, all Provincial Park campgrounds may open.

26.5 All privately operated campgrounds may open and must operate in accordance with the terms and conditions as approved by the Chief Medical Office of Health referenced in Schedule “B” located at: https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Schedule-B-HPA-Order.pdf.

27. Casino Nova Scotia (Halifax and Sydney locations) and Video Lottery Terminals may operate at 100% capacity while adhering to their approved Workplace COVID-19 Prevention Plan in accordance with section 26, and those that hold a liquor license must also adhere to the following:

   (a) cease food and beverage service to customers effective 11:00p.m.; and

   (b) close by 12:00a.m.

28. All not-for-profit and for-profit fitness facilities such as gyms and yoga studios, sport and recreational facilities such as arenas, tennis courts, and large multipurpose recreation facilities may open and:

   (a) operate at 50% indoor capacity, while ensuring two metres (six feet) distance between participants, except those participants residing in the same household as set out in section 13.2(a) or participants in social groups of 10 as set out in section 13.2(b);

   (b) offer outdoor fitness classes and other recreational activities up to a maximum capacity of 25 persons; and

   (c) operate indoor and outdoor pools up to a maximum of 50% capacity, while ensuring 2 metres (6 feet) physical distance between participants except those participants residing in the same household as set out in section 13.2(a) or participants in social groups of 10 as set out in section 13.2(b).

28.1 Businesses and organizations that offer indoor recreation and leisure activities such as indoor play areas, arcades, climbing facilities, dance classes and music lessons may open and operate at 25% indoor capacity, while ensuring two metres (six feet) distance between participants and participants wear masks except during an activity that makes it difficult to wear a mask.
28.2 All not-for-profit and for-profit fitness facilities, recreation and leisure businesses, and organized clubs may host lessons for recreational activities or offer personal training, provided that:

(a) lessons or training are held on a one to one person ratio for instructor and participant without physical distancing,

but

(b) the instructor and participant must wear a mask, except during an activity that makes it difficult to wear a mask.

28.3 Notwithstanding section 28 and 28.1, golf courses may operate at full capacity while ensuring players practice physical distancing between each group on the golf course.

29. All personal service establishments such as hair salons, barber shops, spas, nail salons and body art establishments may open for provision of personal services by appointment only, while operating within their approved Workplace COVID-19 Prevention Plan in accordance section 26 and adhering to the physical distancing requirements and person limit rule set out in this Order.

30. The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and all museums and public libraries may open and operate at 25% capacity, while adhering to the physical distancing and other public health requirements set out in this Order.

31. For the purpose of sections 31.1 to 31.2, “retail business” means a business operating on an ongoing basis at a fixed location primarily selling goods or products for use or consumption by individual purchasers.

31.1 A retail business that engages in the retail sale, or rental, of items to the public shall comply with the following conditions:

(a) the number of persons occupying any retail space that is open to the public in the business does not exceed 50 per cent of the allowable occupancy or 80 square feet per person of the particular retail space;

(b) in accordance with section 13, members of the public must be able to maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) from every other person in the place of business, except those persons residing in the same household;

(c) no patrons may be permitted to line up inside or line up or congregate outside of the establishment unless they are,

(i) maintaining a physical distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) from other persons inside or outside the establishment; and
(ii) wearing a mask or face covering in a manner that covers their nose and mouth, unless they are entitled to any of the exceptions set out in section 18.3,

and

(d) the person responsible for the place of business must ensure that music is not played at the place of business at a decibel level that exceeds the level at which normal conversation is possible, and in any event no greater than 50 db.

31.2 Shopping malls shall comply with the following conditions:

(a) in accordance with section 13, members of the public must be able to maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) from every other person in the shopping mall, except those persons residing in the same household;

(b) no patrons may be permitted to line up inside or line up or congregate outside of the shopping mall unless they are,

   (i) maintaining a physical distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) from other groups of persons inside or outside the shopping mall; and

   (ii) wearing a mask or face covering in a manner that covers their mouth, nose and chin, unless they are entitled to any of the exceptions set out in section 18.3,

(c) no line up outside any one retail space located inside the shopping mall shall exceed 10 persons;

(d) the person responsible for the shopping mall must ensure that:

   (i) music is not played at the place of business at a decibel level that exceeds the level at which normal conversation is possible, and in any event no greater than 50 db;

   (ii) patrons are not permitted to loiter in any area of the shopping mall; and

   (iii) directional markings are provided to manage the flow of pedestrians within the mall,

and

(e) food courts may open while adhering to the following:

   (i) food court vendors may provide services to persons who work in the mall and the public;
(ii) tables in food courts may be used by persons who work in the mall and the public;

(iii) a minimum of 2 metres (6 feet) is maintained between patrons seated at food court tables and between other patrons in the food court; and

(iv) patrons must wear a mask as defined in section 18 except when consuming food or beverage.

PART V
EXCEPTIONS

32. Under exceptional circumstances and under the authority granted to me as the Chief Medical Officer of Health under Part I of the Health Protection Act, I may exercise discretion to grant an exception to any term and condition of this Order.

PART VI
PENALTIES

33. Any direction provided by a medical officer of health to a person, business, organization or other entity pertaining to COVID-19 and the terms and conditions of this Order must be followed.

34. Failure to comply with this health protection order may be considered a breach of this Order issued under the Health Protection Act and may result in penalties under the Act.

This Order remains in effect until notice is provided by myself, as Chief Medical Officer of Health, under the authority granted under Part I of the Health Protection Act and will be updated from time to time.

Signed:

Dr. Robert Strang
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness

cc The Honourable Iain Rankin, Premier of Nova Scotia
The Honourable Zach Churchill, Minister of Health and Wellness
Laura Lee Langley, Deputy to the Premier and Clerk of Executive Council
Dr. Kevin Orrell, Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness
Dr. Shelley Deeks, Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health
Tina M. Hall, Legal Counsel, Nova Scotia Dept. of Justice