

## Announcement Clarification from Sunday around State of Emergency- March 22nd

Today's announcement of the provincial state of emergency under the *Emergency Management Act* to help contain the spread of COVID-19 introduced the following specific directives:

1. Effective at 12 noon on March 22, 2020, all Provincial and municipal parks and beaches are closed to all. All travel into those parks and beaches is strictly prohibited.
2. Effective as of 6:00 am on March 23, 2020, all persons entering the Province will be checked at the border.

Workplaces that were open before the Declaration may remain open, provided directives issued to date continue to be followed. Employers know their business and are responsible for occupational health and safety and we look to you to operate in a way that follows the existing directives of Public Health.

Public social gatherings of more than 5 persons has been prohibited under the *Health Protection Act*. This restriction does **not** restrict the number of persons in a workplace, provided the directives issued to date under the *Health Protection Act* measures are being followed including those relating to social distancing and personal health protection.

Persons entering Nova Scotia at any border crossing are required to self isolate unless they are exempt.

Exemptions from self isolation for cross-border travel into Nova Scotia include:

- healthy workers in trades and transportation sectors who move goods and people,
- healthy people commuting to work, and
- people travelling into the province for essential health services.

A person required to self isolate in any jurisdiction before today continues to have that requirement.

The government of Nova Scotia and the federal government are working to put policies, programs and initiatives in place that will assist small businesses immediately and through the next several months.

On Friday, March 20, the provincial government announced several measures to assist small businesses.

Payment deferrals until June 30 on all government loans, including those under the Farm Loan Board, Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board, Jobs Fund, Nova Scotia Business Fund, Municipal Finance Corp. and Housing Nova Scotia. And small business fees, including business renewal fees and workers compensation premiums (a list of fees will be posted online early next week).

Changes to the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program, administered through 15 provincial Credit Unions, include deferring principal and interest payments until June 30 and enhancing the program to make it easier for businesses to access credit up to \$500,000. Other changes to this program will be announced soon.

We will be making more announcements in the coming days and weeks. Please refer to the provincial government's website at [novascotia.ca/coronavirus](https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus) for accurate, regular updates. If you are interested in being put on our stakeholder communication list, please provide you email to Fiona Gibb, Director of Communications, Department of Business at [fiona.gibb@novascotia.ca](mailto:fiona.gibb@novascotia.ca)

**Additional Resources:**

Provincial website: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>

Provincial Business Navigators: <https://novascotia.ca/regulatoryopportunity/contact.asp>

Government of Canada: <https://canada.ca/coronavirus>

Government of Canada toll-free information line 1-833-784-4397

Fact sheet about cleaning and disinfecting for businesses: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/COVID-19-Fact-Sheet-Business.pdf>

**Summary of provincial announcements**

Refer to [novascotia.ca/news](https://novascotia.ca/news) for full details

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| March 22 | State of Emergency declared  |
| March 21 | Dentists can no longer practice dentistry in their offices unless deemed necessary to perform an emergency dental procedure  |
| March 18 | Announcement re: Personal Services and fitness establishments <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Includes: hair salons, barbershops, spas, nail salons, body art establishments, gyms</li></ul> |
| March 17 | No public gatherings of more than 50 people  |

**Announcements re: restaurants**

- In effect March 19, 12:01am
- Only take-out and delivery permitted
- Drinking establishments, winery and distillery tasting rooms and craft taprooms closed
- Private liquor stores permitted to be open, and craft breweries, wineries and distilleries can still sell storefront

**Access Nova Scotia closed**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| March 15 | Announcements include <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Long-term care closed effective immediately</li><li>• Public schools and regulated childcare closed</li><li>• Social distancing – 2 meters/6 feet, gatherings of less than 150 or much smaller if possible</li></ul> |
|----------|--|