

August 27, 2021

Dear families,

With school starting soon, I know parents, guardians and students are wondering what the school year will look like. The Back to School Plan was released on August 23 and is available at <https://novascotia.ca/backtoschool>. I encourage you to read through the plan.

Because of the importance of vaccination in creating safe schools for all students, teachers and staff, I am resending the information I sent to you a couple of weeks ago.

People who are aged 12 and older can get the COVID-19 vaccine. If you have children 12 and older who haven't yet had their first or second dose of the vaccine, I strongly encourage you to make an appointment for them as soon as you can. If you and/or your children are eligible to move up your already-scheduled appointment, please do so. You can get your second dose 28 days after your first dose. The vaccine is safe and effective.

We all need two doses of the vaccine to be fully protected, and it takes two weeks after your second dose to have full immunity. The first day of school is now about a week away.

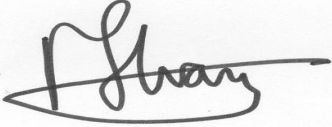
- The sooner people get two doses of the vaccine, the sooner they will be fully protected, which also means they are protecting children under 12 years of age and others who cannot get the vaccine, as well as families and friends.
- Also, the sooner we, as a province, get to 75% of all Nova Scotians who are fully vaccinated with two doses of vaccine, along with good epidemiology, the sooner we will be able to move to phase 5 and lift restrictions and mandatory measures.

It is quick and easy to book or reschedule an appointment, and there are lots of Pfizer and Moderna appointments available. To find out more about the vaccine and book an appointment, visit www.novascotia.ca/vaccineplan or call 1-833-797-7772.

When we lift restrictions and mandatory measures in Nova Scotia, and even if you are fully vaccinated, it will still be important for all Nova Scotians to continue to follow good public health practices like staying home when sick, washing hands regularly, coughing and sneezing into your elbow, and regularly cleaning surfaces touched by many people. People may also wish to continue wearing non-medical masks in public places, especially during flu season. Practices like these help prevent the spread of a number of illnesses, including COVID 19, and keep people in schools, homes and other settings healthier.

I hope the rest of your summer is safe and enjoyable!

Sincerely,



Robert Strang MD, MHSc., FRCPC
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Department of Health and Wellness