



NSBEP Email Update

COVID VACCINATIONS

The Department of Health and Wellness notes that they and NS Health have received a number of inquiries about the eligibility for Phase 2 of certain health care providers for COVID-19 immunization.

The Department has prepared the following message to add greater clarity on eligibility in Phase 2 of the plan and have asked that we distribute this to our registrants.

COVID-19 Immunization: Community Health Care (Private Practicing) Professionals

Nova Scotia's COVID-19 immunization plan is ongoing and iterative. The three phase approach to immunization is based on national recommendations, local epidemiology, vaccine supply and age—with age being the most significant risk factor related to adverse outcomes with COVID-19.

With respect to community health care (private practicing) providers, Phase 2 expanded eligibility to the following professions only: community healthcare providers who provide in-person patient care limited to medical doctors, nurses, dentists, dental hygienists, denturists, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians (who are currently licensed to practice), as well as dental assistants and continuing care assistants, starting with 60 and older age group and proceeding through the groups by age.

All other community health care (private practicing) professionals not listed above can expect to be included in Phase 3, which focuses on all Nova Scotians who did not receive the vaccine in earlier phases. The government anticipates that all Nova Scotians who want a COVID-19 vaccine will have received their first dose by the end of June 2021.

Should you have received a link to the Nova Scotia Health registration site but are not eligible for Phase 1 or Phase 2 immunization, we ask that you do not register at this time. Nova Scotia Health is not processing any pre-registrations at this time.

For regular updates on Nova Scotia's COVID-19 Immunization Plan, please visit <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/vaccine/>

As previously stated by NSBEP, we are aware that there can be differences in the degree of exposure to COVID-19 being faced by psychologists. We have written to our contacts in the Department of Health and Wellness regarding these types of situations and the impact they can have on the provision of mental health services. The response was that the

information would be passed on to those who have input into decision making. So far, psychologists are not being treated any differently than a number of other regulated health professions in Nova Scotia. As you are likely aware, the government approach has been to prioritize ages, employment situations and professions which, as groups, are most likely to be at risk.

Individual psychologists are free to seek out vaccination at any time if they qualify because of age or other prioritization identified by the government; they do not need to wait until psychologists and other health professions are invited based on professional demographic.

We note that vaccine timelines have been changing. We will continue to pass on further information as we become aware of it.

Sincerely,

Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology

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