

HEALTH/WELLNESS/COVID-19--Province Announces Mandatory Masks in Indoor Public Places

Premier Stephen McNeil and Dr. Robert Strang, chief medical officer of health for Nova Scotia, announced today, July 24, that masks will become mandatory in most indoor public places starting July 31.

"As we open our economy, our schools, and our communities, we must continue to be vigilant to minimize the impact of a second wave of COVID-19," said Premier McNeil. "Wearing a non-medical mask in most indoor public places is a key part of how we protect each other and support our local businesses so they can stay open for the long run."

Indoor public places include:

- retail businesses
- shopping centres
- personal services businesses such as hair and nail salons, spas, body art facilities, except during services that require removing a mask
- restaurants and bars, except while people are eating or drinking
- places of worship or faith gatherings
- places for cultural or entertainment services or activities such as movie theatres, concerts and other performances
- places for sports and recreational activities such as a gym, pool or indoor tennis facility, except while doing an activity where a mask cannot be worn
- places for events such as conferences and receptions
- municipal or provincial government locations offering services to the public
- common areas of tourist accommodations such as lobbies, elevators and hallways
- common areas of office buildings such as lobbies, elevators and hallways, but not private offices
- public areas of a university or college campus, such as library or student union building, but not classrooms, labs, offices or residences
- train or bus stations, ferry terminals and airports

Children under two are exempt, as well as children aged two to four when their caregiver cannot get them to wear a mask. People with a valid medical reason for not wearing a mask are exempt. Schools, day cares and day camps continue to follow their reopening plans.

People are asked to use their own masks. Government will help with initial supplies of masks for people who can't bring their own.

"Nova Scotians have made a habit of all the other core public health measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and now it's time to also make a habit of wearing a

non-medical mask in most indoor public settings,” said Dr. Strang. “I have confidence that Nova Scotians will do the right thing and take care of each other by wearing masks in these settings.”

Quick Facts:

-- information about wearing a non-medical mask can be found at
<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/staying-healthy/#masks>

Additional Resources:

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

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

The Mental Health Provincial Crisis Line is available 24/7 to anyone experiencing a mental health or addictions crisis, or someone concerned about them, by calling 1-888-429-8167 (toll-free)

Kids Help Phone is available 24/7 by calling 1-800-668-6868 (toll-free)

For help or information about domestic violence 24/7, call 1-855-225-0220 (toll-free)

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