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Seasonal Vaccines

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HARM REDUCTION

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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Vaccine availability and eligibility may vary during the summer. The fall immunization program typically begins in October and will include both COVID-19 and influenza vaccines. More information about when and how to get vaccinated will be shared closer to the date. [Check for summer COVID-19 vaccine eligibility here.](#)

Seasonal vaccines are offered to protect against respiratory illnesses that cause symptoms like coughing, sore throats, nasal and chest congestion. Illnesses like influenza and COVID-19 can lead to serious complications for some people, especially those with compromised immune systems.

We invite everyone in Nova Scotia who is eligible to get free COVID-19 and influenza vaccines to protect yourself, your family and your community from these common respiratory illnesses. These vaccines are safe and effective for everyone aged 6 months and older.

How do I book a vaccine appointment?

Physicians and Primary Care Providers

Call your physician or primary care provider to book an appointment. Be sure to ask if they are offering COVID-19 vaccines in addition to standard and seniors influenza vaccines.

Pharmacies

Book your vaccine appointment online or call 1-833-797-7772. If you do not have a Nova Scotia health card, please call to schedule your appointment rather than booking online.

Public Health Mobile Units

Visit the **Public Health Mobile Unit website** for drop-in clinics offering COVID-19 vaccines.

What seasonal vaccines are available?

Please note: vaccine availability may vary in the summer.

COVID-19 Vaccine: Nova Scotia offers COVID-19 vaccines for people who are eligible, including a second dose for people at higher risk for severe illness.

Find out more: www.nshealth.ca/coronavirusvaccine

Standard Influenza Vaccine: Nova Scotia offers a standard influenza vaccine for everyone aged 64 and under who did not receive a vaccine in the fall/winter, which provides great protection.

Seniors Influenza Vaccine: Nova Scotia offers an enhanced influenza vaccine, also called the ‘seniors influenza vaccine, to seniors aged 65 and older who did not receive a vaccine in the fall/winter. This product is different from the standard influenza vaccine and is shown to have better protection for people in this age range who are more likely to experience severe illness from influenza.

Find out more: <https://www.novascotia.ca/flu>

Is it safe to get both vaccines at the same time?

It is safe and recommended to receive both the COVID-19 and influenza vaccines at the same time.

Can I schedule vaccine appointments for more than one person?

Yes, you can reach out to your primary care provider to schedule appointments for your immunizations. You can also **book vaccines online** or by phone for up to six people at a time, making it easier for families who would like to get their vaccines in one appointment. This saves you time while booking, and saves you extra trips to vaccine appointments for all members of your family.

Can I reschedule an appointment I have booked on CanIMMUNIZE?

Yes, you can reschedule your appointment by clicking on the "Manage My Appointment" button on your appointment confirmation email and then clicking the "Reschedule Appointment" button on the appointment summary screen.

Will I be able to choose the brand I want for my COVID-19 vaccine?

Brands will not be listed online during booking, which is consistent with other routine vaccines. If you are concerned about receiving a particular brand of vaccine, please speak to your provider. It's important to note that providers may not be able to accommodate special requests.

The brand you received will be listed on your vaccine record, which you can access online at yourhealthns.ca/records or in the records section of the YourHealthNS app.

What if I am homebound and not able to go to a vaccination clinic?

Continuing care offers some in-home vaccination options for clients that are homebound. The toll-free number for information for Continuing Care is 1-800-225-7225. This number operates between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., seven days a week. Call to learn more about what options may be available for you. Please note that while COVID-19 in-home vaccinations are available to all who meet screening criteria, in-home influenza vaccines are limited to people already receiving other Continuing Care services.

Why should I get vaccinated?

Even if you are otherwise healthy, respiratory illnesses like COVID-19 and influenza can make you very sick. You can also pass these illnesses on to others, who may be more at risk for severe illness, like seniors, people with compromised immune systems, or people living in long-term care. Getting vaccinated protects you, your family and your community.

How can I book a pneumococcal vaccine?

People aged 65 and older, and those with **certain health risks or conditions**, are eligible to receive a free pneumococcal vaccine. You can book this vaccine by calling your primary care provider, or you can book with a participating pharmacy online or by phone.

Book online through CanImmunize or call 1-833-797-7772

Are there any other vaccines that I should consider at this time?

Parents with young children should make sure they are up-to-date on their childhood and school age immunizations. For adults, pneumococcal vaccine is available to all Nova Scotians 65 years of age and older, and to specific high-risk groups throughout the year. Measles immunization is also very important as cases continue to rise in Canada. More information about free, routine vaccines can be found online at www.nshealth.ca/immunizations.

Helpful Links

 [Flu & COVID-19 Vaccines: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

 [Influenza Vaccine Information](#)

 [COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)

 [Influenza Vaccine Information and Aftercare](#)

 [COVID-19 Vaccine Information and Aftercare](#)

Accessing Primary Care

There are many ways to access primary care, even if you're not currently attached to a primary care provider.

Answer a few quick questions to receive personalized instructions for accessing Nova Scotia Health's primary care options near you including in-person, virtual and telephone options.

[GET STARTED →](#)

Find Emergency Care

Use this tool to identify the emergency care options that are currently available nearest to you.

If this is a medical emergency, please call 9-1-1 for immediate assistance

[GET STARTED →](#)

YourHealthNS App

Much of Nova Scotia's healthcare program and service information is now available on the YourHealthNS mobile app. Download for free on the Apple Store and Android Apps for Google Play.

