

Bulletin to Municipalities
Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing
June 3, 2020

For the most up-to-date information about COVID-19, please visit:

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

PROVINCIAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

On March 22, the Province of Nova Scotia declared a state of emergency to help contain the spread of COVID-19. The state of emergency was renewed and is extended until noon on June 14, unless government terminates or extends it. For more information about the state of emergency, visit <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/alerts-notices/>.

REACTIVATION OF THE NOVA SCOTIA ECONOMY

Effective June 5, most businesses required to close under the public health order can reopen. Businesses must follow protocols in the plan that is tailored to their sector. This includes following public health protocols to ensure physical distancing, increased cleaning and other protective measures for staff and customers.

To read the news release about this announcement, click [here](#).

A new gathering limit of 10 is now in effect. Physical distancing of two metres or six feet is still required, except among members of the same household or family household bubble. The limit is the same indoors and outdoors, with an exception for outdoor weddings and funeral services which can have 15 people.

The gathering limit applies to things like social gatherings, arts and culture activities like theatre performances and dance recitals, faith gatherings, and sports and physical activity. It also applies to businesses whose main function is gatherings, such as theatres, concerts, festivals and sporting activities, and to businesses that are too small to ensure physical distancing.

Starting June 5, private campgrounds can open for all types of campers. They can only operate at 50 per cent capacity and must ensure public health protocols are followed including adequate distance between campsites. Provincial campgrounds will open on June 15, with the reservation line opening June 8. They will operate at a reduced capacity to ensure a minimum of 20 feet between individual campsites

Pools can now start maintenance work to prepare for reopening, though sleepover camps are not permitted this year.

To read the news release about this announcement, click [here](#).

PROVINCIAL STIMULUS INVESTMENTS

Up to 2,000 local jobs will be created as Nova Scotians get back to work on more than 200 infrastructure projects across the province. The province is investing up to \$230 million to improve infrastructure and help get the economy moving again.

This stimulus spending is directed toward shovel-ready projects, including investments in roads, bridges, school repairs and museum, courthouse and hospital renovations.

To read the news release about this announcement, click [here](#).

VOLUNTEERING DURING COVID-19

VolunteerNS.ca has redesigned its website to highlight opportunities for Nova Scotians to help their neighbours and communities safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. People can browse a list of opportunities to volunteer from home or in the community to support organizations responding to needs during these unprecedented times. Volunteers can create a profile that tells non-profits organizations what they are interested in and what skills they have, and Volunteer Nova Scotia can help make a match.

- 1) Individuals and groups who want to volunteer can [browse current COVID-19-specific opportunities](#) or [add their name to the COVID-19/Volunteer NS database](#)
- 2) Organizations in need of volunteers can [create an organizational profile](#) and post specific community-based or volunteer-from-home opportunities

Here's what municipalities can do right now to support the effort.

- Share the VolunteerNS.ca link with organizations in your area in need of volunteers
- Follow @NS_CCH on Twitter and Nova Scotia Culture on Facebook and retweet or share our Volunteer NS posts with your followers

To learn more, visit <https://volunteerns.ca/index.php?MenuItemID=326>

DMAH OPERATIONAL UPDATES

- **Municipal Elections** – A letter went out to municipalities regarding the concern over the impact of COVID-19 on the October municipal elections. After careful examination, municipal elections will be held in October 2020.
- **Village Directive** – A detailed directive was sent to villages from Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister, Chuck Porter, on the holding of village elections while the province is under a state of emergency. The directive can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact your Municipal Advisor.
- **Federal Gas Tax Program CIP Templates** – The Capital Investment Plan (CIP) templates are now available to complete online for the 2020-21 reporting period. The CIP is due on September 1, 2020 and must be submitted via the Municipal Reporting System portal located at <https://mrs.novascotia.ca/>. Your form will pre-populate with data from the

previous year, please update as appropriate. Please refer to the email sent from Rene Frigault on May 12, 2020 for more detail.

- **Federal Gas Tax Program AER Templates** – The Federal Gas Tax Annual Expenditure Reports (AER) templates are now available to complete online for the 2019-20 reporting period via the Municipal Reporting System (MRS) portal located at <https://mrs.novascotia.ca/>. The Interim (draft) AER version was due online May 31, 2020 and the final version is due July 31, 2020. Please refer to the email sent from Rene Frigault on May 6, 2020 for more detail.

USEFUL RESOURCES

- Provincial website: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>
- Follow the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing on Twitter - @DMA_NS
- Follow Nova Scotia government on Twitter and Instagram – @nsgov
- Follow Nova Scotia Emergency Management Office on Twitter - @NSEMO
- Office of the Fire Marshal: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/government/office-fire-marshal>
- To watch previous live webcasts visit: <https://www.youtube.com/user/nsgov>
- Government of Canada: <https://canada.ca/coronavirus>
- Government of Canada toll-free information line 1-833-784-4397