

## Professional Notice

**To:** Pharmacy Practitioners  
**From:** Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists  
**Date:** April 28, 2021  
**Re:** Temporary Pharmacy Closures; COVID-19 Vaccine Screening

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### Temporary Pharmacy Closures

Transmission of COVID-19 during this third wave is happening more easily and pharmacies are being impacted by self-isolation requirements. Pharmacies should review the following documents at this time:

- [Temporary Pharmacy Closures Policy](#)
- [Nova Scotia Health Universal Pandemic Precautions](#)

Pharmacies providing opioid agonist therapy (OAT) should once again prepare for continuity of care in the event of a temporary closure (e.g., partnering with another store and/or working with the patient's care team).

If you believe your pharmacy may need to close because of the unavailability of a pharmacist to be on duty, please contact the NSCP at the earliest opportunity to explore options that are available during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please note:

- The NSCP does not need to be notified of reduced business hours.
- Should you need to temporarily close, please complete the [Notification of Temporary Pharmacy Closure Form](#) so that the NSCP can address any calls received from the public.
- The NSCP and PANS have developed temporary closure signs that can be used by pharmacies to notify the public. These can be found on the NSCP COVID-19 page under Pharmacy Operations.
- Should a pharmacy staff member test positive for COVID-19, Public Health will provide guidance on next steps.

### COVID-19 Vaccine Screening

Now more than ever it is critical to minimize disruption to the vaccine rollout. To that end, Public Health is emphasizing to the public that they must CANCEL their vaccine appointment if:

- If they are COVID-19 positive
- If they have any symptoms, **even one mild symptom**
- If they have been told by Public Health staff to self-isolate

Pharmacies should ensure that their vaccine screening tools include all three of the above criteria.

Note: Rotational workers are required to isolate upon return until they receive a negative COVID test, after which they may attend any routine medical appointments including receiving their COVID-19 vaccine.