

Professional Notice

To: Pharmacy Practitioners
From: Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Date: December 17, 2021
Re: Omicron Infection Prevention and Control Measures

As the Omicron variant rapidly spreads across the province, now more than ever it is important for pharmacies and pharmacy practitioners to be diligent in their infection and prevention control measures. Pharmacies and practitioners should consult Public Health's [requirements and recommendations to protect yourself and others](#) and [workplace safety guidance](#), as well as the NSCP's [Pharmacy Infection Control Measures During COVID-19](#) guidance document.

Please note the following recommendations:

- Pharmacy practitioners should once again institute the use of eye protection/shields when in direct patient contact. This is particularly important when administering vaccinations. Nova Scotia Health has categorized all four health zones as Tier 4 – Extreme Risk according to their [COVID-19 Protocols for a Safe Recovery](#), meaning that all NSH healthcare staff are required to wear eye protection in addition to masking in all clinical areas, regardless of vaccination status.
- Pharmacy teams should eliminate all non-masked interactions with each other and institute physical distancing measures where possible. Pharmacy staff members should ensure that they are spaced at least 6 ft apart when in any designated break/lunch areas and immediately re-mask after drinking or eating.
- Pharmacies should repost any signage that has been removed regarding not entering if an individual is displaying symptoms, has been a close contact or has been at an exposure location.
- Pharmacies may want to consider instituting curbside pick-up/prescription delivery models that were in place in spring 2020.
- Pharmacy services that can appropriately be provided virtually should be considered instead of in-person services.

The use of rapid testing by pharmacy staff members is also encouraged. Nova Scotia businesses can apply to receive free rapid antigen COVID-19 test kits for employees by using this [link](#). Due to the high volume of requests, however, it may be January before the request is processed. Pharmacy practitioners are encouraged to utilize COVID-19 pop-up testing clinics in their area and to obtain home testing kits if available.

It is critical that every effort is made to make pharmacy environments safe for the public and for pharmacy practitioners.