

Tracking Travelers from Outside Atlantic Canada to Nova Scotia – July 7

Key Messages:

- Anyone traveling to Nova Scotia from outside Atlantic Canada must self-isolate for 14 days to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- With the increase in visitors, we are stepping up our protocols at high volume entry points – introducing a new process to track people from outside Atlantic Canada who come to Nova Scotia.
- The tracking form is available at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/alerts-notice/Self-declaration-Form-Tracking-Travellers-to-Nova-Scotia.pdf>
- We expect visitors to follow our rules to protect the health of Nova Scotians. They should prepare in advance by reviewing information at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>

Q&As

Who needs to fill out the form?

Any adult traveling to Nova Scotia from outside Atlantic Canada must complete the tracking form. Someone under the age of 18 who is traveling alone must have a parent or legal guardian complete the form in advance.

What type of information is Nova Scotia gathering?

The key information we are asking for is names, contact information and the location where they can be reached during their 14-day self isolation. This is in line with other Atlantic Canadian provinces.

What will I need to do at the border?

There are two options for the form:

- You can email the completed form to border@novascotia.ca in advance. You will get an auto-reply email confirmation. You can show that email on your electronic device at the border as proof that you submitted the form.

OR

- You can present a hard copy of the form at the border.

You should also be prepared to show valid ID that confirms your residency.

What will provincial staff do with the form at the border?

Border staff are collecting hard copies of the form OR confirming that you submitted it to border@novascotia.ca by looking at the auto-reply email confirmation on your electronic device.

What if somebody doesn't know about this new process in advance or doesn't have the technology to do it in advance?

We have paper copies at the border.

What constitutes valid ID? Drivers' license

- Health card
- Government identification card
- Bank statement with permanent home address
- Utility bill with permanent home address

Who will follow up with travelers during their stay to make sure they are self isolating for 14 days?

811 operators are calling each day of the 14-day isolation period. If, after three tries in one day, an individual does not respond to calls, police will visit the address provided to confirm compliance.

What are the penalties if someone doesn't self isolate?

Penalties are the same as other violations of the Health Protection Act. For a first offence, there is a \$1,000 fine. If you are found guilty of a second or subsequent offence, you could be fined up to \$10,000 or to imprisonment for up to one year, or both.

Which entry points is Nova Scotia staffing?

- Amherst land border (New Brunswick)
- Halifax airport
- Sydney airport
- North Sydney ferry (Newfoundland)
- Digby ferry (New Brunswick)

Why not staff the border crossing at Tidnish or PEI-Pictou ferry entry point?

The vast majority of people coming in and out through Tidnish are Nova Scotia and New Brunswick residents.

PEI requires pre-travel approval for people from outside Atlantic Canada to come to the island, and they must self-isolate for 14 days. Once that is done, they are free to travel into Nova Scotia without the need to self-isolate again. So we are comfortable not staffing the PEI-Pictou entry point.

What are you doing to relieve traffic congestion at the border, especially for trucks?

All commercial vehicles and people who regularly cross the border for work have always been exempt from self-isolation under the Health Protection Act order. That hasn't changed. We have a chit system in place for them to pass without stopping for questions. We are working to help improve traffic flow, especially for commercial traffic.

Why introduce this now?

We've just opened the Atlantic borders and are seeing many more visitors. That creates new risk, so we are stepping up our protocols at the border and want to be sure new visitors know their obligations when they come into Nova Scotia.

are you concerned about people lying on their form?

We expect people to be truthful. There will be follow-up to verify they are meeting self-isolation requirements.

Are there any privacy issues with collecting this information?

We are collecting information that's very similar to what the other Atlantic Provinces are collecting. Government officials have authority under the Health Protection Act to collect the information. We are required under law to protect the information once we have it.