



NSCN’s COVID-19 Vaccine Regulatory Update will be updated for stakeholders as required to align with Public Health Orders in Nova Scotia. Please see the revision dates tracked at the bottom of this document.

*The Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN) is the regulatory body for licensed practical nurses (LPNs), registered nurses (RNs) and nurse practitioners (NPs) in Nova Scotia. Our mandate is to protect the public by promoting the provision of safe, competent, ethical and compassionate nursing services by our registrants. The term nurse in this document refers to LPNs, RNs and NPs unless otherwise stated.*

Immunizations have a significant and positive impact on the health of our population. Widespread vaccination shortens the duration of disease outbreaks, maintains public safety, reduces the burden on the health care system and keeps health care providers safe to care for clients in need.

Throughout history, nurses have stepped into times of crisis providing care and innovation that has saved lives and reduced suffering. As the largest group of health professionals in Nova Scotia, nurses play a vital role in contributing to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nurses have a duty, as outlined in their respective standards of practice to provide clients with safe, competent, ethical and compassionate care, including protecting them from the risk of infection. Respective applicable standards and indicators include:

LPN	RN
<p><b>Standard 3</b></p> <p>Licensed Practical Nurses practice nursing in collaboration with clients and other members of the health care team to provide and improve health care services in the best interests of the public.</p>	<p><b>Standard 1</b></p> <p>Registered nurses are responsible to practise safely, competently, compassionately and ethically and are accountable to clients, the employer, and the profession and the public.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 3.3</b></p> <p>LPNs support and contribute to an environment that promotes and supports safe, effective and ethical practice.</p>	<p><b>Indicator 1.7</b></p> <p>RNs contribute to safe, supportive quality practice environments.</p>

Nurses abide by this duty by following the advice of Public Health officials, following the [Nova Scotia’s Health Protection Act Order](#), adhering to their standards of practice, and following organizational policies and guidelines with respect to infection control.

As per the Order of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Public Health’s mandatory vaccination protocol, nurses working in high-risk settings such as the Nova Scotia Health Authority, IWK Health, long-term care facilities and home-care agencies must be vaccinated against COVID-19 by November 30, 2021. A full list of those impacted by the mandatory vaccination protocol can be found [here](#).

While NSCN does not require proof of vaccination status in order to renew, obtain or maintain a nursing licence, NSCN recommends that all nurses, regardless of where they work, be vaccinated against COVID-19.



## Additional Resources

- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
- [Government of Canada](#)
- [Government of Nova Scotia](#)
- [NACI Recommendations on the Use of COVID-19 Vaccine\(s\)](#)
- [Information from the Government of Nova Scotia: COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#)

If you have any questions, contact an NSCN Practice Consultant at [practice@nscn.ca](mailto:practice@nscn.ca).

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Our practice support tools are developed using current reference material. The source of this material is available upon request.

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