

MEMORANDUM

TO: Licensed Child Care Centres and Family Home Child Care Agencies

FROM: Sarah Melanson, Acting Executive Director, Early Learning and Child Care

DATE: March 14, 2022

SUBJECT: Mandatory Vaccination Update

As most of you know, on March 21, 2022, Nova Scotia is moving into Phase 3 of its [reopening plan](#). As we manage living and working with COVID-19 in our communities, Public Health will continue to provide guidance for regulated child care settings and updated resources.

Changes to the Mandatory Vaccination Policy

When the province enters Phase 3 of its COVID-19 reopening plan, unvaccinated staff of the regulated child care sector who are currently on unpaid administrative leave pursuant to the *COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Protocol in High Risk Settings* will be able to return to their workplaces.

Additionally, proof of vaccination will no longer be required for visitors or volunteers.

Masking

As has been previously shared, effective March 21, masking will be optional in regulated child care settings. We know that removing restrictions, including mandatory masks, may feel unusual, especially in the beginning. We want to take this opportunity to remind everyone that wearing a mask is an individual choice. Please be respectful and remember to treat one another with kindness and understanding as we all adjust.

Coronavirus Resources

Public Health continues to remind us to follow core measures. They include getting vaccinated, staying home if you are sick, self-isolating as per current Public Health advice, washing/sanitizing hands frequently and cleaning high-touch surfaces. You can find the most up-to-date Public Health guidance on the coronavirus provincial website <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/> and Nova Scotia Health website <https://www.nshealth.ca/coronavirus>.

It's been a long two years living with uncertainty and adapting to constant change. Thank you for all you have done to support staff, families and children. Remember, we are still in this together, even as we move into this next phase of living with COVID-19.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Early Childhood Development Consultant who is available for any questions that you may have.