

FAQ for Support Lines

Fall COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccines



Where can I find information about the fall vaccine program?

The website www.nshealth.ca/seasonal-vaccines has all of the details for the fall immunization program, including how to book vaccines for yourself and your family.

How do I book a vaccine appointment?

If booking with your physician or primary care provider

Call your physician or primary care provider to book an appointment. Be sure to ask if they are offering COVID-19 vaccines in addition to standard and seniors influenza vaccines.

If booking with a pharmacy or Public Health Mobile Unit

Book your vaccine appointment online at novascotia.ca/vaccination or call **1-833-797-7772**. If you do not have a Nova Scotia health card, please call to schedule your appointment rather than booking online.

Visit www.nshealth.ca/PHMU for **drop-in clinics**.

What vaccines are available this fall?

Nova Scotia is offering the following vaccines:

- COVID-19 vaccines for people aged 6 months and older.
- A standard influenza vaccine for everyone aged 64 and under.
- A seniors influenza vaccine for people aged 65 and older, which is an enhanced influenza vaccine. This product is different from the standard influenza vaccine and is shown to have better protection for people in this age range who are more likely to experience severe illness from influenza.

Vaccine information can be found at www.nshealth.ca/coronavirusvaccine and novascotia.ca/flu.

Is the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine available?

The new formulation of Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is authorized by Health Canada but will not be distributed within Canada to be used by provinces and territories for COVID-19 vaccination this season. Any further questions about Novavax should be directed to the federal government.

Is it safe to get both vaccines at the same time?

It is safe and recommended to receive both the COVID-19 and influenza vaccines at the same time, when your provider has both vaccines in stock. However, some people may choose to get the

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influenza vaccine first, and then book a second appointment for a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available. You will be able to schedule both vaccines at the same time on the booking website.

Can I schedule vaccine appointments for more than one person?

Yes, you can reach out to your primary care provider to schedule appointments for your fall immunizations. New this year, you can also [book vaccines online](#) or by phone for up to six people at a time, making it easier for families who would like to get their vaccines in one appointment. This saves you time while booking, and saves you extra trips to vaccine appointments for all members of your family.

Will I be able to choose the brand I want for my COVID-19 vaccine?

Brands will not be listed online during booking, which is consistent with other routine vaccines. If you are concerned about receiving a particular brand of vaccine, please speak to your provider. It's important to note that providers may not be able to accommodate special requests.

The brand you received will be listed on your vaccine record, which you can access online at yourhealthns.ca/records or in the records section of the YourHealthNS app.

Why should I get vaccinated?

Even if you are otherwise healthy, respiratory illnesses like COVID-19 and influenza can make you very sick. You can also pass these illnesses on to others, who may be more at risk for severe illness, like seniors, people with compromised immune systems, or people living in long-term care. Getting vaccinated protects you, your family and your community.

Are there any other vaccines that I should consider at this time?

Parents with young children should make sure they are up-to-date on their childhood and school age immunizations. For adults, pneumococcal vaccine is available to all Nova Scotians 65 years of age and older, and to specific high risk groups throughout the year. More information about free, routine vaccines can be found online at www.nshealth.ca/immunizations.