

Dear Members:

Many provinces across Canada are entering their second wave of COVID-19. Some provinces have returned to partial lockdowns in specified locations. It is vitally important that all REALTORS® continue to follow public health guidelines to keep New Brunswick in the yellow zone and to minimize any spread of COVID-19. What was once considered a normal activity, such as hosting an in-person open house, can lead to dire consequences such as spreading COVID-19 to other REALTORS® and to several members of the public. [An example of this recently occurred at an in-person open house in Ontario](#) whereby several members of the public were exposed to COVID-19 after attending an in-person open house at which an ill person was residing.

We ask that you please continue to be vigilant by following all public health guidelines including:

- **washing your hands regularly.**
- **maintaining physical distancing (2 meters or 6 feet apart).**
- **wearing non-medical masks when physical distancing cannot be maintained.**
- **completing COVID-19 screening.**
- **cleaning and disinfecting.**
- **consistently carrying out all the actions outlined in your operational plan.**

Mandatory Masks – An Update

On Friday October 2, 2020, Premier Higgs reiterated the importance of wearing non-medical masks. The current State of Emergency Mandatory Order states:

“ Everyone who finds themselves in any location, other than their own home, in which distancing as per this Order is not possible, must either remove themselves promptly from the location or must wear a face covering that covers their mouth and nose.”

While this order does appear to leave some room for interpretation on where masks must be worn, Premier Higgs indicated that if New Brunswickers do not comply with this emergency order by wearing non-medical masks when required, a mandatory mask policy could be implemented as soon as Thursday October 8, 2020.

NBREA strongly recommends that all REALTORS® and their clients wear masks when attending any in-person property showing. NBREA also recommends that REALTORS® remind their clients to bring their own mask when attending an in-person showing of a property. In addition REALTORS® should consider carrying with them extra masks to provide to their clients in situations when their clients forget to bring their own mask.

Covid Alert App

We would also like to advise REALTORS® that the COVID-Alert app is now available to New Brunswick residents. When downloaded to your phone, this Alert app can let you know if you have possibly been exposed to COVID-19 before any symptoms appear by telling you if you are currently near someone who has tested positive. The app can also advise you if there has been an outbreak in your city or neighbourhood. The app is completely voluntary and when downloaded does not collect, store or access any personal data or health information. The app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Play. For the app to work, you must carry your phone with you at all times. For further information and links to download the app, please refer to the link [Covid Alert App](#).

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Thanksgiving and Halloween

On Friday October 2, 2020, the Province of New Brunswick issued guidelines for Thanksgiving and Halloween.

Thanksgiving

The Province of NB recommends that Thanksgiving gatherings should be held outside, weather permitting. It is also recommended that hand sanitizer should be made available and everyone should wash their hands before preparing or eating food. For a complete list of recommendations for Thanksgiving celebrations, please refer to the link [Thanksgiving](#)

Halloween

The Province of New Brunswick also issued guidelines which can be followed for a safe and happy Halloween. Halloween will be permitted provided New Brunswick remains in the yellow zone. Those planning to participate in Halloween activities should keep cleanliness in mind and wash or sanitize hands between visitors. Those who do not wish to participate in Halloween activities, such as those who are in a COVID-19 high risk group, may place a sign on their door indicating "Have a Happy Halloween: No Visitors Please." For a complete list of guidelines for Halloween, please refer to the link [Halloween](#)

Testing

In an effort to reduce wait times for obtaining a test for COVID-19, the Province of New Brunswick recently added the ability to request a COVID-19 test online rather than calling 811. Please note this is an alternative to calling 811 not a replacement. It may reduce the time you need to wait before receiving an appointment at a testing centre. To access the request to be tested online, you must first complete the self assessment tool as found in the link [Self-Assessment Tool.](#)

Please keep in mind that COVID-19 is still with us and we remind you to continue to follow all public health and WorkSafe NB guidelines to help keep New Brunswick's COVID-19 case count low.

Thank you