

# COVID-19 Update – Reinstatement of Mandatory Order

Dear Members:

The Province of NB recently announced that due to the current level of COVID – 19 hospitalizations, effective 11:59pm on September 24, 2021, the province reinstated a [Declaration of State of Emergency and Mandatory Order](#).

## **Previous Public Health Measures still in effect.**

All public health measures previously announced will remain in place under the following [Regulation under the Public Health Act](#). (click link). This includes mandatory use of masks in indoor public spaces, requirement to show proof of full vaccination when accessing certain events, services, and businesses and the requirement to pre-register your travel through [New Brunswick Travel Registration Program](#). **We previously communicated these all measures to you (including details relating to REALTORS® and client's vaccination status) in a dispatch issued on September 23, 2021(click link).**

## **New Mandatory Order**

In addition, the following public health measures outlined in the new [Mandatory Order](#) will be implemented.

- People must limit their contacts to their household plus 20 consistent contacts.
- Indoor private gatherings will be limited to 20 consistent contacts.
- There will be no limits on outdoor gatherings as long as physical distancing is maintained.
- Physical distancing is required at businesses, services or events where proof of full vaccination is not required such as grocery and retail stores, private business and libraries. Further information on REALTORS® requesting proof of vaccination from their clients was included in the [dispatch issued on September 23, 2021](#).
- Businesses and events where people gather or exercise, including museums, cinemas, theatres, bingo halls, casinos, amusement centres, arenas, game rooms, pool halls, live entertainment venues, weddings, funerals, gyms, yoga studios and similar venues must ensure all employees are fully vaccinated or are continuously masked and tested regularly. Patrons and participants entering such events remain required to be fully vaccinated.
- Faith venues have the option to either ensure all participants show proof of full vaccination, or implement the following measures:
  - o Operate at 50 per cent capacity;
  - o Maintain physical distancing;
  - o Ensure continuous mask use;
  - o Record names of all attendees or have assigned seating;
  - o Eliminate singing from services; and
  - o Prevent anyone displaying COVID-19 symptoms and those who have been instructed to self-isolate from entering.

### **Rapid Testing Kits Available**

If your Agent (firm) requires rapid testing kits to test any REALTORS® or staff who may not be vaccinated, you can obtain these from your local Chamber of Commerce (see links below). You do not need to be a member to participate in the program.

Fredericton: <https://www.frederictonchamber.ca/covid-19-rapid-testing/>

Saint John: <https://thechambersj.com/rapid-testing>

Moncton: <https://ccgm.ca/rapid-testing/>

Edmundston: <https://ccedmundston.com/en>

It is important to note that spot checks will be conducted by enforcement officers at borders and businesses and fines will be issued if businesses or individuals are not complying with the rules. Under the Mandatory Order, fines can range between \$480 and \$20,400.

### **Operational Plans/CDPP Plans**

We would like to remind all REALTORS® and Agent(firms) of the requirement, as an employer, to comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Act. This includes prevention efforts to eliminate or minimize the risk of transmission of communicable diseases in your workplace. **For Agents(firms) who have not already done so, you may wish to reinstate your COVID-19 Operational Plan or implement a Communicable Disease Prevention Plan (CDPP) outlining procedures for how your business wishes to limit the spread of COVID-19.** To assist with this process, please refer to the following resources:

Source	Resource Link
WorkSafe NB	<a href="#">Communicable Disease Prevention. A guide for New Brunswick Employers</a>
WorkSafe NB	<a href="#">Green and Beyond: Communicable disease prevention (WorkSafe NB website)</a>
Province of NB	<a href="#">Living with COVID-19 Protective Health Measures</a>

Below are a few highlights and best practices that should be considered as you prepare/update your own CDPP.

- Assess the risk of your staff or clients contracting or spreading communicable diseases. This may include considering vaccination rates within your office; if you work significantly with members of the public; if you have any clients, REALTORS® or staff who are particularly vulnerable, layout of the office etc..
- Designate a lead person to monitor your CDPP and to stay up to date on information issued by NB Chief Medical Officer of Health or WorkSafe NB. Continue to evaluate and update your CDPP to reflect changing risk levels and work practices.
- Consider continuing to implement public health measures and practices such as physical distancing, mask wearing, hand-hygiene, enhanced cleaning procedures, contact tracing,

signage, screening, use of protective barriers, rapid-testing, or any other measures that are suitable to the risk of your business.

- Consider what if any, additional measures you may put in place during periods of increased risk which would be communicated by Public Health. This may include requesting proof of vaccination of REALTORS® or staff or as requested by your clients. This may also include using rapid testing kits for REALTORS® or staff.
- Consider limiting in-person open-houses or holding them virtually.
- Have procedures in place outlining what to do if a REALTOR® or client develops two or more symptoms or is diagnosed with COVID-19 or if they are told by public health to self-isolate.
- Communicate your procedures to all employees, REALTORS® and clients as required.

**Remember, the best way to protect you and your clients from COVID-19 is to wear masks, physical distance, wash your hands frequently and stay home if you are sick.**

Thank you for doing your part to protect your clients, your fellow REALTORS® and all New Brunswickers!