

## COVID-19 Update – Province moving to Level 2, changes to contact tracing process and Showlog reminder

Dear Members:

### **All Zones in the Province Moving to Level 2 December 27, 2021**

In response to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, The Province of New Brunswick **will move to Level 2 of its Winter Action Plan** for COVID-19 effective December 27, 2021, at 11:59pm. More information on this action plan can be found at [Covid-19 Alert System](#). Details of the measures at each level can be found in [Alert Level Measures](#).

### **RECENT CHANGES: What to do if a REALTOR® or Client is diagnosed with COVID-19.**

Less than a month ago, NBREA issued guidance on what to do if a REALTOR® or client is diagnosed with COVID-19. Since then, the province announced that they will be changing their approach to contact tracing. **Public Health will no longer notify close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases directly, they will only notify the individual who tests positive for COVID-19.** This moves the responsibility for contact tracing to individuals who have tested positive. This will have implications for licensed salespeople and managers, who may now decide to assist a person who has tested positive with the contact tracing process.

NBREA has always maintained that REALTORS® should retain a list of all their contacts (both personally and professionally) and that this tracking of contacts should form part of an agent (firm)'s Communicable Disease Prevention Plan (CDPP) or Operational Plan. Maintaining a list of close contacts has now become even more important considering the new highly transmissible Omicron variant.

If a REALTOR® or agent (firm) chooses to help with contact tracing for a third party, when communicating with close contacts of a positive case of COVID-19, it is important to consider the privacy of all individuals. REALTORS® and agent(firms) must take extra care not to disclose any personal or medical information of a third party when contacting any close contacts. As a best practice, **the REALTOR® or agent(firm) may want to obtain specific and clear written authorization from the individual who tested positive about what information they can communicate and to whom.** While we understand that public health intends to provide templates to individuals who test positive outlining how best to advise their close contacts, NBREA does not have access to appropriate templates yet.

If a REALTOR® finds themselves in a situation where they or their client have been diagnosed with COVID-19, the REALTOR® or agent(firm) may wish to contact Public Health for instructions on how to properly and safely notify close contacts. The number for public health is 1-844-462-8387.

We will update members in the new year with additional guidance on contact tracing as we learn more.

### **Showlog – A good tool for contact tracing**

One tool which can be used by REALTORS® and agent(firms) for contact tracing is NBREA's Showlog web application <https://app.showlog.ca/home>. This tool was initially developed as a screening tool and has been updated to include questions surrounding vaccination status, however, it is also a very useful tool for REALTORS® to keep track of all their professional contacts for showings (both Buyers and Sellers). For those who are not currently using this application and wish to learn more, you can access the user manual and training video in the following links.

[Click here to access the user manual](#)

[Click here to access a video that will show you how this web application works](#)

### **Other items**

- Due to the dated nature of the questions listed on the current optional Buyer/Seller Property Showing Acknowledgement forms, NBREA will be removing these from WebForms. REALTORS® and agent(firms) may choose to develop their own screening tools should they wish to do so as part of their current CDPP/Operational Plans.
- Rapid test kits are another tool that some REALTORS® or their clients may wish to use as part of their CDPP /Operational Plans. Further information on [COVID-19 rapid test kits including links to rapid test kit pickup locations can be found at this link](#). Remember that any positive rapid test must be confirmed with a laboratory PCR test.

**Reminder: The best way to protect you and your clients from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated (including your booster when eligible), wear masks, physically distance, wash your hands frequently, limit your contacts, download the [COVID Alert App](#), and stay home if you are sick.**

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

*This document was developed for informational purposes only and is based on NBREA's interpretation of policies and advice that were available to us at the time of publication. It is not a substitute for professional medical or legal advice. REALTORS® are urged to act with an abundance of caution and consideration for the safety and wellbeing of themselves, their clients and customers, their fellow members, and the public.*