

COVID-19

Nova Scotia Summary of Education Updates

July 31, 2020

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NOVA SCOTIA | Summary of the Government's Response to COVID-19

School System	Status, Date of Closure, & Expected Date of Re-Opening	Current Graduating Classes	Access to Online Learning	Provincially Mandated Assessments & Report Cards	Financial Aid for Schools and Parents	Tuition, Scholarships & Entry Fees
Child-Care – Department of Education & Early Childhood Development						
Day care facilities, family day care homes, & pre-primary programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On March 24, 2020, the Government of Nova Scotia issued an order that mandates closure of all (i) child-care facilities and family day care homes regulated under the Day Care Act, and (ii) pre-primary programs established under the <i>Pre-primary Education Act</i> from March 17, 2020 to April 3, 2020. The order issued on April 2, 2020 mandates the continued closure of these facilities until May 1, 2020. The situation will be reassessed thereafter (<i>current as of April 6</i>). The Government of Nova Scotia extended closures until June 5, 2020 (<i>current as of May 8</i>). Covid-19 Guidance for Child Care Settings published and updated on June 5, 2020. Licensed childcare centres (daycare facilities) and family daycare homes under a family home daycare agency (childcare providers) can reopen as of June 15th, 2020. Childcare centres can reopen at 50% capacity. They can scale up to full capacity if they can meet Public Health's COVID-19 guidelines for childcare settings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No school-specific update as of May 21, 2020, but the Government of Nova Scotia announced that, amongst other measures, it will defer payments until June 30 for all government loans, including those under the Farm Loan Board, Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board, Jobs Fund, Nova Scotia Business Fund, Municipal Finance Corp. and Housing Nova Scotia (<i>current as of March 27</i>). The Government of Nova Scotia announced the COVID-19 Small Business Credit and Support Program (also called the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program) for those "small businesses" that do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit". To be eligible, small businesses must have a payroll less than \$20,000 in the previous fiscal year and have experienced a decline in revenue from sales of at least 15 per cent in March or at least 30 per cent in April, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families won't be required to pay fees if they can't access their childcare space or if they are not ready to return. Families are encouraged to talk to their providers about when they plan to re-enroll their children (<i>current as of June 18</i>).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On July 3rd, a COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings document was released to provide public health guidance on how to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19 in regulated child care settings. 				<p>May or June. Funding for the grant will come from the existing contribution agreement between the province and Dalhousie University. The portal is available as of April 29 (<i>current as of April 28</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A full list of support programs is found here (<i>current as of April 28</i>). Government will give operators funding on a sliding scale to cover unused spaces until September, as they increase their capacity from 50% (<i>current as of June 18</i>). 	
Unlicensed child-care facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The order issued on March 24, 2020, states that the social distancing and the self-quarantine requirements therein do not apply to unlicensed child-care facilities. The order issued on April 2, 2020, states that unlicensed child-care facilities are exempt from the two metre rule and 5-person rule (<i>current as of April 6</i>). As of June 15th, 2020, Family daycare homes can reopen at full capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020. 	
Kindergarten to High School – Department of Education & Early Childhood Development						
Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Nova Scotia has not specifically required the closure of private schools, but the Government has declared a state of emergency in the province (<i>current as of March 25</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The order issued on April 2, 2020 states that “subject to specific closures or limitations, all non-for-profit and for-profit business and organizations operating or carrying on business may continue to operate but must: (i) implement social distancing of six feet within these workplaces, and (ii) limit the number of customers or clients on its premises to no more than 5 persons at a time” (<i>current as of April 6</i>). 					
Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On March 24, 2020, the Government of Nova Scotia issued an order that mandates that all public schools under the jurisdiction of (i) a regional centre for education, or (ii) the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial (CSAP) will be closed during the weeks of March 23, 2020 and March 30, 2020. The school year for students will end on June 5. Teachers will continue to work until the end of June to complete assessments and other tasks (<i>current as of June 18</i>). As per the province’s Back to School Plan, public school students in Nova Scotia will return to the classroom on Tuesday, Sept. 8. (<i>Current as of July 22</i>). All staff and students in high school will be required to wear a mask in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 students who need a preliminary paper transcript for bursaries, scholarships, or university or college applications can get one by contacting their Regional Centre for Education or CSAP (<i>current as of April 6</i>). Students will not be penalized because of COVID-19. All students who were on track to move to the next grade level will still move to their next grade on time (<i>current as of June 18</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All grades primary to 9 students will receive at-home learning packages distributed bi-weekly by SaltWire Network (<i>current as of April 6</i>). A dedicated learning website for families is available here. Students in grades 10 to 12 who require at-home learning packages will work with their individual teachers to address their specific needs; additional information on distribution will be forwarded to each 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All tests and exams are cancelled. This includes provincial assessments, Nova Scotia Exams, final exams in all courses, Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française (DELF) exams and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams (<i>current as of June 18</i>). Families will receive March and April report cards (<i>current as of April 15</i>). Grade 12 students who need a preliminary paper- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and families will still have access to student support services, including SchoolsPlus (<i>current as of April 6</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable.

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	school spaces where social distancing is not possible (<i>Current as of July 22</i>).		<p>school (<i>current as of April 6</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More information is posted here (<i>current as of April 6</i>). Students in grades 9 to 12 will also have access to the Homework Hub, an online resource for learning math (<i>current as of April 17</i>). 	<p>based transcript for bursaries, scholarships, or university entrance will receive one by contacting their Regional Centre for Education or CSAP.</p>		

Post-Secondary Institutions – Department of Labour and Advanced Education: Higher Education Branch

Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Nova Scotia has not issued an order mandating the closure of universities and colleges, but several institutions have informed students that in-person classes, in-person labs, and in-person exams will not resume for the term (<i>current as of March 25</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No school-specific update as of May 21, 2020, but the Government of Nova Scotia announced that, amongst other measures, it will defer payments until June 30 for all government loans, including those under the Farm Loan Board, Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board, Jobs Fund, Nova Scotia Business Fund, Municipal Finance Corp. and Housing Nova Scotia. The Government of Nova Scotia announced the COVID-19 Small Business Credit and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).
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					<p>Support Program (also called the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program) for those “small businesses” that do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit”. To be eligible, small businesses must have a payroll less than \$20,000 in the previous fiscal year and have experienced a decline in revenue from sales of at least 15 per cent in March or at least 30 per cent in April, May or June. Funding for the grant will come from the existing contribution agreement between the province and Dalhousie University. The portal is available as of April 29 (current as of April 28).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full list of support programs is found here (current as of April 28). 	
Public					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update as of May 21, 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nova Scotia Student Loan payments are suspended until September 30, 2020. The suspensions are automatic. No applications are required (current as of July 31).

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the institutional level, some schools have expressed that the changes in class delivery will not affect a student's loan eligibility (<i>current as of March 27</i>). • General Educational Development (GED) testing at NSCC is suspended until further notice. Requests for transcripts and certificate replacements may experience a processing delay (<i>current as of April 17</i>).

A special note about the Federal Government's directive with respect to post-secondary students and recent graduates:

- Post-secondary students and recent graduates who are ineligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit or for Employment Insurance, but who are unable to find full-time employment or are unable to work due to COVID-19, may apply for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB). The CESB would provide \$1,250 per month for eligible students from May through August 2020, and \$2,000 for students with dependents and those with permanent disabilities. The CESB will be delivered by CRA. More information is found [here](#) (current as of May 13).
- The Government of Canada introduced a new Canada Student Service Grant which will provide up to \$5,000 to support student's post-secondary education costs in the fall. More details to follow (current as of April 22).
- The Government of Canada will revise the Canada Student Loan Program's eligibility requirements in 2020-21 to allow more students to qualify for supports and be eligible for greater amounts, including doubling the non-repayable Canada Student Grants for full and part time students, as well as for students with disabilities and students with dependents, in the coming academic year. The changes are expected to expand the reach of the program and the benefit to more than 760,000 students at an estimated cost of approximately \$1.9 billion over two years starting in 2020-21 (current as of April 22).
- The Government of Canada will revise various student and youth employment programs, such as the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy. More information is found [here](#) (current as of April 22).

A special note about the Federal Government's directive with respect to international students:

- As announced on March 20, 2020, international students who held a valid study permit or had been approved for a study permit when the travel restrictions took effect on March 18, 2020, will be able travel to Canada by air or land. They will be exempt from air travel and border restrictions. This exemption is to accommodate students who are in the middle of their course of study or who have just been approved to study in Canada but were outside Canada when the travel restrictions took effect (current as of March 26).
- Courses of study being delivered online on an exceptional basis due to COVID 19 will not affect Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) Program eligibility (current as of March 26).
- Students who have a study permit or who have been approved for a study permit for a program starting in May or June may begin their classes while outside Canada and may complete up to 50% of their program while outside Canada if they cannot travel to Canada sooner (current as of April 16).
- Individuals who are already legally in Canada will be able to remain in the country (current as of March 26).
- Temporary residents who are currently in Canada are able to apply to extend their status online if they need to extend their status. A temporary resident who has applied to extend their status is allowed to remain in Canada until a decision is made on their new application, even if their initial status expires while they are waiting for that decision. This is called implied status (current as of March 26).
- At least one post-secondary institution has suspended the intake of new incoming International students from overseas for the Spring Semester beginning in May (current as of March 26).

The Government of Canada is temporarily allowing international students holding study permits, who are eligible to work off campus and already present in Canada, to work more than 20 hours per week while classes are in session, provided they are working in an essential service or function, such as health care, critical infrastructure, or the supply of food or other critical goods. This change is in effect until August 31, 2020 (current as of April 22).

Information about the Government of Nova Scotia's response to COVID-19 can be found directly at:

- <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/education/>
- <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/>
- <https://novascotia.ca/news/>
- <https://curriculum.novascotia.ca/>

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