

MEMO

TO: Physicians and Nurse Practitioners

FROM: Dr. Rosann Seviour, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health

DATE: October 8, 2021

SUBJECT: Medical Exemptions for Proof of Vaccination Program

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is implementing a Proof of Vaccination program, which requires that all individuals accessing certain businesses and activities present proof of COVID-19 vaccination. This is a way to protect residents and help us live safely with COVID-19. Residents will be issued a COVID-19 vaccination record QR code, which will be scanned by businesses and organizations to confirm they are fully vaccinated or have an approved medical exemption. By October 22, 2021, anyone ages 12 years and older will be required to be fully vaccinated or have an approved medical exemption to access certain businesses and settings.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will be introducing a new workflow associated with documenting medical exemptions to the COVID-19 vaccine. It is understood that not all residents can avail of the offered vaccinations so we will be introducing this workflow to ensure individuals who are not fully vaccinated have continued access to businesses and settings where proof of vaccination is required.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador have provided guidance on [medical exemptions for COVID-19 vaccinations](#). While that guidance is not specific to a Proof of Vaccination program, the electronic documentation of medical exemption will closely follow this guidance.

To facilitate this new electronic documentation of a medical exemption, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will be introducing modifications to the existing COVID-19 immunization documentation template located in the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system. For non-EMR users, there will be a new PDF exemption form added to the HEALTH-e NL system. This new functionality will allow for the data associated with documented exemptions to be used in the creation of a COVID-19 Vaccination Record QR code. This QR code will provide residents with documented medical exemptions the ability to partake in activities where proof of vaccination is required. This modification is being finalized and you will be notified once the template and PDF are available.

As part of this new workflow, we will be developing a set of communications and training materials on how to document medical exemptions in the EMR including a process for non-EMR users to report medical exemptions. This information will be shared with you in the coming days.