

MEMO

TO: Physicians and Nurse Practitioners

FROM: Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health

DATE: October 29, 2021

SUBJECT: Medical Exemptions for Proof of Vaccination Program (NLVaxPass) - Update

To follow-up on the memo dated October 8, 2021, Medical Exemptions for Proof of Vaccination Program, please see below an overview of the new workflow being introduced to document medical exemptions for eligible individuals to receive a COVID-19 vaccination QR code that can be used for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's NLVaxPass app.

The new workflow will allow COVID-19 vaccine medical exemptions to be documented and will be available for individuals with or without a valid MCP card. An exemption can be documented using the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system or by using a form provided in the HEALTHe NL system.

For physicians and nurse practitioners who have access to the Electronic Medical Record (EMR):

- The existing COVID-19 immunization documentation template has been modified for the medical exemption purpose.
- There is also a letter generated that you must provide to the patient, which they can use as their medical exemption for the Proof of Vaccination Program. There are two letter options, MCP Patients and Non-MCP Patients. The MCP patients' letter has an expiry date of November 30, 2021, as QR codes will be issued for those with an approved medical exemption by that time. The non-MCP patients' letter does not have an expiry date as there is no process in place yet to obtain a COVID-19 vaccination record QR code if you do not have a valid MCP card.

For physicians and nurse practitioners who do not have access to EMR:

- Two new PDF exemption forms are created and located under 'Links' in the left-hand menu in HEALTHe NL.
 - COVID Vax Exemption (MCP)
 - COVID Vax Exemption (Non-MCP)
- One form is for valid MCP card holders and the other is for those who do not have a valid MCP card.
- Instructions are located in the forms. The first two pages of the form are to be completed and couriered or delivered in person to the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for

Health Information. The third page is a copy of the letter, which is to be completed and provided to the patient, as noted above.

As noted in the EMR template and the PDF forms, medical exemptions will be considered only for patients who have a documented:

- Severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis after a previous dose of an mRNA vaccine that cannot be mitigated (for example offering a viral vector vaccine).
- Severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis to any of the components (including polyethylene glycol [PEG], tromethamine, and polysorbates) of the vaccine that cannot be mitigated (for example offering a viral vector vaccine).
- Diagnosed episode of myocarditis or pericarditis after receiving a dose of an mRNA vaccine.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recently updated their recommendations: [recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines-en.pdf \(canada.ca\)](#). NACI recommends that individuals who experienced a severe immediate allergic reaction after a first dose of an mRNA vaccine can safely receive future doses of the same or another mRNA COVID-19 vaccine after appropriate assessment by an allergist or other applicable physician. As this is a new recommendation, and for the purposes of the Proof of Vaccination Program, at this time, individuals with a severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis after one dose of an mRNA can be given a medical exemption.

This exemption process aligns with the COVID-19 medical exemptions outlined by The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador, more information can be found at [2021-09-09-Medical-Exemptions-for-COVID-19-Vaccinations.pdf \(cpsnl.ca\)](#).