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MEMO

TO: Physicians and Nurse Practitioners

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

DATE: July 12, 2022

SUBJECT: Update on Medical Exemptions for COVID-19 Vaccination

The provincial Proof of Vaccination (NLVaxPass) program has ended and the **COVID-19 Vaccine Regulations** are suspended. The federal government has also removed its vaccine mandate for boarding flights. Consequently, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will be removing the medical exemption documentation templates from the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) and HEALTH-e NL systems.

Please also note that due to recent changes to the [Vaccine Portal](#), people with documented medical exemptions and a valid MCP will no longer be able to access a QR code through the Vaccine Portal. QR codes that have already been downloaded will continue to function, but the system updates preclude any new downloads from occurring. As a result, patients with documented medical exemptions may ask you to issue documentation exempting them from COVID-19 vaccination. As noted above, there will no longer be a provincial template available for this purpose, so providers will be responsible for developing and issuing appropriate documentation to patients in this situation.

Almost all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians can, and should, receive a COVID-19 vaccine. There are very few acceptable medical exemptions to the COVID-19 vaccine. The [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#) has provided guidance regarding contraindications for COVID-19 vaccines. It is recommended that providers follow NACI's guidance, as well as guidelines issued by the appropriate regulatory body, when evaluating conditions that may warrant a medical exemption.