

Media Scan

Monday November 23, 2020

[Halifax, Hants County now under tighter rules as COVID-19 cases rise in Nova Scotia](#)

The Halifax region and neighbouring Hants County are now under stricter public health rules that will last until Dec. 21 as new COVID-19 infections rise in Nova Scotia. The province had 44 active cases of COVID-19 as of Sunday, including 19 new infections identified on Friday and Saturday. The limit for gathering without physical distancing in the two hardest-hit regions is now five people rather than 10, and while that group doesn't have to remain consistent, health officials are urging people not to gather in random or spontaneous groups.

[N.S. reports 11 new COVID-19 cases; active cases rise to 44](#)

Nova Scotia reported 11 new cases of COVID-19 on Sunday, bringing the total of active cases to 44. All 11 new cases are in the Central Zone. Six are connected to previously reported cases, while five are under investigation. The announcement comes after the province said it saw its single largest jump in COVID-19 cases in recent months on Saturday.

[Here are all the potential COVID-19 exposure sites in Nova Scotia](#)

Click on the communities below for updated information on possible COVID-19 exposure notices around Nova Scotia. Anyone who was at any of these sites during these times should self-monitor for possible symptoms of COVID-19 before calling 811 for assessment, unless otherwise specified.

[As Halifax restaurants adjust to new COVID-19 rules, some go step further](#)

While some restaurant and bar owners in the Halifax area say new restrictions are tough but necessary to slow COVID-19 cases, one business is going a step further. Starting Monday, people won't be allowed to sit at a table with more than five people, and contact tracing information is now mandatory for patrons. But Ivan Chan, owner and chef at The Orient on the Bedford Highway, has decided to close his restaurant's doors for two weeks. He said the situation around the city is too unpredictable with the dozens of possible exposure notices that have been recently announced.

[Long-awaited federal rent subsidy program for businesses hurt by COVID-19 opens today](#)

Businesses struggling to pay the bills because of the COVID-19 pandemic will be able to start applying today for a long-awaited new commercial rent-relief program offered by the federal government. The new Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy replaces an earlier rent-support program for businesses introduced in the spring that saw little pickup because it relied on landlords to apply for help. The new program will cover up to 65 per cent of rent or commercial mortgage interest on a sliding scale based on revenue declines, with an extra 25 per cent available to the hardest-hit firms.

[Halifax police issue \\$1K fine after more than 60 students gather at house party](#)

Halifax Regional Police said that more than 60 people were at a party on Edward Street in Halifax on Friday, which resulted in a summary offence ticket being issued. The person was issued a \$1,000 ticket for failing to comply with regulations under the Nova Scotia Emergency Management Act and Health Protection Act related to COVID-19. Police said the call was reported by a concerned citizen just after 11 p.m. A resident of Edward Street, Louis Brill, said the students came unmasked onto the streets, "causing havoc to this neighbourhood once again.

[Travelling sports teams in question as COVID-19 cases grow in N.S.](#)

With COVID-19 cases rising in the Halifax area, some people in Nova Scotia's rural areas are becoming increasingly nervous about travelling to the region's largest city. Additionally, as sports teams in the province continue to travel to Halifax, some people are lashing out online. On Sunday, it was game day for hockey players in Glace Bay. Meanwhile, other teams' game itineraries included travelling to Halifax for a weekend spent playing the game they love. Despite their enthusiasm, some teams are worried about more than winning games, with COVID-19 cases rising in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

[Immigration report looks at who is staying and leaving Nova Scotia](#)

A recent report on immigration in Nova Scotia highlights who is staying and who is leaving, as well as what factors make the province a desirable place to live for newcomers. The report, titled Immigration in Nova Scotia: Who Comes, Who Stays, Who Leaves and Why?, was prepared for the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration. The report's author, Ather Akbari, is a Saint Mary's University professor and chair of the Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging and Diversity (ARGEIAD) at the Sobey School of Business.

[AstraZeneca: COVID-19 vaccine 'highly effective' prevention](#)

AstraZeneca said Monday that late-stage trials showed its coronavirus vaccine was up to 90% effective, giving public health officials hope they may soon have access to a vaccine that is cheaper and easier to distribute than some of its rivals. The results are based on interim analysis of trials in the U.K. and Brazil of a vaccine developed by Oxford University and manufactured by AstraZeneca. No hospitalizations or severe cases of COVID-19 were reported in those receiving the vaccine.

[New pilot project offers 360-degree video tours to boost Indigenous tourism in Ontario](#)

Northern Ontario tour operators have signed on to a new pilot project designed to save the province's \$600 million Indigenous tourism industry from being decimated by the pandemic. Maheengun Shawanda is a tour operator in Northern Ontario who shares the culture of the Anishnabek people through in-person tours of the land. He says the financial impact of the pandemic has been astronomical. "Those first few weeks and early months were really scary, genuinely scary, wondering what was going to happen," Shawanda told CTV News. "We're looking at losing about 75 to 80 per cent of those contributions to the economy."

[New 'wild west' restrictions confusing, Alberta business owners say](#)

They've been retooled and slightly altered after they were first announced, so it should come as no surprise that Alberta business owners say COVID-19 related health rules have them scratching their heads. The provincial restrictions, first announced ten days ago, put new measures in place that impact restaurants, bars and fitness studios, among other places, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. But there seems to be confusion almost across the board about what is and isn't allowed.

[Toronto and Peel Region enter lockdown phase of province's pandemic plan](#)

Toronto and Peel Region have entered the lockdown stage of Ontario's pandemic protection plan. It means that for at least the next 28 days, non-essential retailers can only offer curbside pickup, while restaurants are closed to all but takeout and delivery orders in the two COVID-19 hot spots. Personal services have also been forced to close, but schools and child-care centres remain open.