

# Media Scan

**Monday May 3, 2021**

[Nova Scotia reports 133 new cases of COVID-19 Sunday, active cases rise to 822](#)

Nova Scotia is reporting 133 new cases of COVID-19 on Sunday, as the province works through its testing backlog. In a release, N.S. health officials say 117 of Sunday's new cases are located in the province's Central zone. Nine new cases were identified in the Eastern zone, six new cases are being reported in the Western zone, and one new case in the Northern zone.

[Potential COVID-19 exposure list for Sunday, May 2 \(update\)](#)

Nova Scotia Health Public Health is advising of potential exposure to COVID-19 at various locations across the province and six flights. In addition to media releases, all potential exposure notifications are listed here: <http://www.nshealth.ca/covid-exposures>. Anyone who worked at or visited the following locations on the specified dates and times should visit [covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/](https://covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/) to book a COVID-19 test, regardless of whether or not they have COVID-19 symptoms. You can also call 811 if you don't have online access or if you have other symptoms that concern you.

[Nova Scotia opens Moderna, Pfizer vaccines to people aged 50-54](#)

Nova Scotians aged 50 to 54 may now book an appointment for Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines. Appointments opened to the new age group Monday morning, according to a news release from the Department of Health and Wellness. There are about 67,625 eligible Nova Scotians in the 50 to 54 age group. Up until Monday, the two vaccines had been available to Nova Scotians 55 and up. The province has been gradually lowering the age cohort eligible for the shots as part of its vaccine rollout strategy. The vaccines will be available to the new age group at all community clinics and designated pharmacies, and more appointments will be released as vaccine supply is confirmed.

[How labs in Nova Scotia are dealing with a COVID-19 testing backlog](#)

Dr. Todd Hatchette knew something had to give the day 22,000 specimens arrived for COVID-19 testing. "Temporary surges are manageable, but lab capacity cannot be increased at the flip of a switch," he said. Hatchette, the service chief for microbiology in the central zone of Nova Scotia's health authority, told CBC News via email that a small backlog in the microbiology labs is typical. It's the reason Nova Scotians are advised that their results might not be ready for up to 72 hours.

[The COVID-Zero approach: Why Atlantic Canada excels at slowing the spread of COVID-19](#)

Canadians living outside the Atlantic region could be forgiven for rolling their eyes when Nova Scotia called in the military this week, having reported just 96 new cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday. That number may seem small compared to just about anywhere in the rest of the country. But it was a one-day record high for the province of 980,000 residents. And few Nova Scotians were surprised when a strict, two-week lockdown was declared, prompting the closure of schools, malls, gyms, bars, restaurants and most retail stores.

[Ontarians look to Atlantic Canada for chance at better quality of life amid COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Lee Larabie and her wife Rebecca had been dreaming of escaping Toronto for years, rattling off reasons for ditching the hustle and bustle of big-city life whenever the conversation came up. There were the skyrocketing real estate prices, the lack of space in their small apartment, the general yearning for a more quiet lifestyle. But the worsening COVID-19 pandemic helped cement their decision. The Larabies started house hunting online at the beginning of the year, taking virtual tour after virtual tour before purchasing their first home last month in Springhill, N.S., a town of 2,700 that neither woman had ever visited.

[Halifax Transit employees 'concerned' about working without safety measures](#)

The president of the union representing transit workers said the lack of safety measures and restrictions on Halifax Transit vehicles is "concerning" to many employees. Currently, Halifax Transit buses and ferries are operating without any restrictions except a mandatory mask policy. "It still stands as full-service, no restrictions and it's concerning," Ken Wilson, president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 508, told NEWS 95.7's The Rick Howe Show. "It's concerning for my members and it's concerning for our passengers and our clients."

### [10 people ticketed at Halifax gathering for breaking COVID-19 rules](#)

What began as a weapons call for Halifax police ended up as a wound to the wallet for 10 pandemic-rules scofflaws Sunday night. Police were called to the 100-200 block of Old Sambro Road in Halifax on Sunday evening after someone reported that a man was seen pointing a firearm. Streets were blocked to traffic for a short time. No charges resulted from the weapons complaint but "as a result of the investigation, it was determined that 10 people, (not all belonging to the home) were gathered and violating 71(1)(b) of the Health Protection Act," police said in a news release early Monday morning.

### [Market for Atlantic lobster sees a rebound, but COVID challenges still at play](#)

The market for Atlantic Canadian lobster appears to be on the rebound. Last year, restaurant shutdowns and other effects of the pandemic pushed the average price paid to harvesters down to about \$4.50 to \$5 per pound. And in Newfoundland and Labrador, prices hit a low of \$3.71. No one is certain how the 2021 season will play out, but the prices for the first catches may be anywhere from \$8 to \$9 per pound.

### [Changes to hotel isolation complicate rules for travellers entering New Brunswick](#)

New Brunswick reported 18 new cases of COVID-19 on Saturday, as well as changes to its hotel isolation rules for some travellers – and not everyone is happy about them. Kelly Laing and her husband are driving across the border Saturday into New Brunswick after attending a funeral out-of-province. Laing says they were planning on staying in one of the province's designated isolation hotels. But, with some changes to the isolation rules, the province says there may be individual cases that will require alternatives, which could allow for some people to stay at a residence.

### [Increase in N.L. visitors to Tourism P.E.I. website little 'glimmers of hope' for future travel](#)

Island tourism officials say it's too early to say what the end result will be, but so far unique visitors to the Tourism P.E.I. website from Newfoundland and Labrador are up compared to 2019. That was considered a "banner year" for tourism in the province, says Brenda Gallant, director of marketing for Tourism P.E.I. So far there are over 4,600 unique visitors from Newfoundland and Labrador to the Tourism P.E.I. website, compared to roughly 3,000 in 2019 — an increase that hasn't paid off yet, but is a promising rise in traffic.

### [SOS named service provider in affordable housing for tourism and hospitality workers](#)

The Society of Organized Services (SOS) will soon be able to provide certain tourism and hospitality workers a bit of relief. At the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) board meeting on Tuesday, April 27, directors voted to name the SOS as the facilitator to provide affordable housing for area tourism and hospitality workers. The funding to do so will come from the municipal regional district tax (MRDT) accrued from online accommodation platforms (OAP). OAPs are also known as online marketplaces that facilitate transactions for short-term accommodations, like B&Bs.

### [Games postponed at women's curling worlds after 4 positive COVID-19 cases found amongst broadcast crew](#)

There have been four confirmed positive COVID-19 cases at the women's world curling championship. The medical officials are currently carrying out their investigation that incorporates additional testing, including testing for variants of concern, as well as contact tracing. In a news release, the World Curling Federation says after a series of scheduled testing, the positive cases were detected amongst the competition broadcast staff.