



## **COVID-19 - Return to Practice Guidelines (12th Edition, January 2022)**

As Nova Scotia navigates the COVID Omicron variant, Adventure & Safety Atlantic (AdvSA) continues to abide by all public health requirements.

The following constitutes our current operational status:

### **Proof of Vaccination**

Effective 04 October 2021, Nova Scotia Public Health Officials require individuals to show proof of vaccination to gain access to non-essential services.

Vaccination against COVID19 is a critical public health measure. There is overwhelming scientific evidence that these vaccines are safe. As such, AdvSA has established an internal policy wherein all our instructors / staff who engage the public be fully vaccinated.

Meanwhile, First Aid & CPR training is an essential service, because:

1. First Aid & CPR certification is legislatively required under provincial and federal Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) regulations.
2. First Aid & CPR certification may be compulsory to obtain / maintain employment.
3. First Aid & CPR education is a societal necessity which helps ensure the health and safety of our communities.

At present, the Province of Nova Scotia does not require vaccination for individuals seeking essential services, such as ours.

Quoting the Province of Nova Scotia's proof of vaccination directive:

*"Proof of full vaccination isn't required for most places that don't host formal gatherings and places that offer essential, non-discretionary services and activities, including... safety training that's required for a person's job and can't be done virtually."*

As a result, AdvSA will not require proof of vaccination on the part of our participants, **unless the facility we are using or agency contracting our services requires such.**

Notwithstanding, we join Nova Scotia Public Health officials in urging all Nova Scotians to fully vaccinate as soon as possible.

### **Masking**

Ours is a classroom environment. Until further notice:

AdvSA participants and instructors SHALL always require masks unless they are eating or drinking at their socially distanced participant or instructor station.

## **PPE / Sanitizers / Disinfectant**

All participants are encouraged to bring a 3-ply face covering. Participants will be offered a 3-ply procedural face mask and non-latex gloves. All items shall be provided at no additional cost.

Per above, the wearing of **masks** is mandatory unless eating or drinking at a socially distanced station.

The wearing **masks** is mandatory when participants are in physical contact (ie the performance of a skill).

The wearing of eye protection and gloves is optional.

Easy, visible access to sanitization stations shall be provided near to and within the classroom space.

## **Skills Requiring Close Proximity to Another Participant**

Mannequins shall be used as often as possible. Meanwhile, certain skills necessitate the use of a fellow human being. These skills include but are not limited to:

- Moving and rolling a person (i.e. into the recovery position, etc)
- Conscious adult choking
- Wound care
- Spinal and Splinting
- Scenarios
- Stretcher practice

Per above, First Aid & CPR training inherently requires close proximity when covering certain skills. In situations where students are in physical contact with one another, the use of full PPE is mandatory.

Full PPE includes:

- Procedural face mask
- Non-latex gloves

## **Conclusion**

Safe, effective, learner-centered and practical training remains achievable provided we all exercise continued diligence.

I am extremely proud of our team and have the utmost have faith in both staff and participants to move forward as we learn to live with COVID19.

Best Regards,  
Blair Doyle

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