

# NOVA SCOTIA COVID-19 RESOURCES

*Nova Scotia Government Updates:* <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus>

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## Information for Individuals and Families

### Access Nova Scotia

Only urgent Registry of Motor Vehicles transactions are available at the Amherst, Bridgewater, Dartmouth, Kentville, Stellarton, Sydney and Yarmouth locations by appointment. You need to call **1-800-670-4357** to make an appointment. Other locations and in-person services are unavailable until further notice.

### Child Care Subsidy Program

Helps eligible families pay for childcare at licensed child care facilities or family home day cares administered by a family home day care agency.

**General Inquiries: 1-844-804-2084**

**Online:** <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/families/childcaresubsidy.shtml>

### Courts

Visit the [Nova Scotia Courts website](#) for information about court services and scheduling.

### Educational Resources

A dedicated learning website for families is available at: <https://curriculum.novascotia.ca/learning-home>

### Food Banks/Food Security

For information on food banks/food security in your local area, please contact Feed Nova Scotia

**Information Line: 1-902-457-1900**

**Online:** <https://www.feednovascotia.ca/>

*United Way* is offering COVID-19 Atlantic Compassion Grants to address the most pressing needs in the Atlantic region. The program is coordinated through United Way Halifax and each regional United Way office across the region has an application process. Applications are due by **April 3, 2020**. <https://gmsenbunitedway.ca/atlantic-compassion-fund/> (please see the United Way website for your area).

*Breakfast Club of Canada* COVID-19 Special Grant Application:

<https://www.breakfastclubcanada.org/covid-special-grant-application/>

### Income Assistance

Every individual and family member on income assistance will receive an additional \$50 starting Friday, 20 March. Individuals currently on income assistance will receive the payment automatically and do not need to apply

**Information Line: 1-877-424-1177**

**Online:** [https://www.novascotia.ca/coms/employment/income\\_assistance/index.html](https://www.novascotia.ca/coms/employment/income_assistance/index.html)

### Mental Health and Wellness

The Mental Health Provincial Crisis Line is available 24/7 to anyone experiencing a mental health or addictions crisis, or someone concerned about them, by calling **1-888-429-8167**.

*Kids Help Phone* is available 24/7 by calling **1-800-668-6868**.

*This document is intended to be a resource to help identify possible provincial and federal supports*

*\*Updated as of April 8, 2020    \*\*Document will be updated and distributed weekly*

*\*\*\* All information collected and provided in this document was sourced from publicly available websites*

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## Information for Individuals and Families

### Support for Seniors

Community Links and Seniors' Safety Programs are programs that respond to the needs of vulnerable older adults across the province. Government of Nova Scotia is investing \$230,000 in these programs to expand their capacity to provide more supports and services. If you need non-emergency, non-medical help, **call 211** or visit [ns.211.ca](https://ns.211.ca).

### Student Loans

Nova Scotia Student Loan payments are paused until 30 September 2020. You don't need to make any payments, and your loans won't accrue interest. The suspension is automatic – you don't need to apply.

### Tenants

Under the new measures (announced March 19), tenants cannot be evicted because their income has been affected by COVID-19, effective immediately, for the next three months. For eviction information/concerns, contact Nova Scotia Legal Aid (<https://www.nslegalaid.ca/>) or, Dalhousie Legal Aid (<https://www.dal.ca/faculty/law/dlas.html>). Additionally, Nova Scotia Legal Aid hosts an online chat on its website, [nslegalaid.ca](https://www.nslegalaid.ca/), every Wednesday from 3- 5pm.

### Vehicle Registrations and Driver's License Renewal

All vehicle registrations expiring 31 December 2019 and later are extended until 31 August 2020  
All driver licenses expiring in March, April and May are extended until 31 August 2020.

### Provincial Programs and Services

To find services and programs offered by local community groups, non-profits and government departments, contact 211 Nova Scotia at: **Phone: dial "2-1-1" / Text: 211 / Online: <http://ns.211.ca/>**

### Updates for April 8:

#### The HEAT Fund

The Home Energy Assistance Top-up (HEAT) Fund supports Nova Scotians in need with home heating cost during the winter months. With the impacts of COVID-19, the HEAT Fund criteria has been updated.

<https://salvationarmy.ca/maritime/home/programs/heat/>

For more information and/or to forward your application electronically, call **902-422-3435** or email [heat\\_fund@can.salvationarmy.org](mailto:heat_fund@can.salvationarmy.org)

#### Nova Scotia Power - Support for Covid-19

For at least the next 90 days, we will not be disconnecting customers for nonpayment. We're also committed to being flexible, relaxing payment timelines, waiving penalties and fees on unpaid bills, and providing options for residential and small business customers. If you're struggling to pay your bill, our Customer Care team is ready to listen and work with you, so you can stay as current as possible with your payments.

#### Community Testing for Covid-19

More options for testing of COVID-19 were announced April 5, to help identify spread within Nova Scotia communities. For information on Nova Scotia Covid-19 assessment centres please visit: <http://www.nshealth.ca/coronavirus-assessment>

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## Information for Individuals and Families

### Online Learning

All Nova Scotia public schools will remain closed until at least 1 May 2020. To support students and families, we're making online and at-home learning resources available for students from grades primary to 12. For resources and links to the Nova Scotia learning plan please visit: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/education/> and <https://curriculum.novascotia.ca/learning-home>

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## **Information for Businesses**

### **Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency**

Businesses that are impacted by sudden shifts in the economy are strongly encouraged to get in touch with ACOA officials at **1-800-565-1228**

### **Business Navigators**

Business Navigators are available to help Nova Scotia businesses with any questions they may have. They can be reached Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm at **1-844-628-7347** , **902-424-4475** or by email at [BusNavigation@novascotia.ca](mailto:BusNavigation@novascotia.ca)

### **Business and non-profit registration renewals**

Business and non-profit registration renewals with Registry of Joint Stock Companies expiring in March, April and May are extended until 30 June 2020. **Inquiries: 1-800-225-8227**

### **Changes to payments**

Government will defer payments until June 30 for all government loans, including those under the Farm Loan Board, Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board, Jobs Fund, Nova Scotia Business Fund, Municipal Finance Corp. and Housing Nova Scotia.

Government will defer payments until June 30 for small business renewal fees, including business registration renewal fees and workers compensation premiums (a list of fees will be posted online early next week).

Changes to the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program, administered through credit unions, include deferring principal and interest payments until June 30, enhancing the program to make it easier for businesses to access credit up to \$500,000, and for those who might not qualify for a loan, government will guarantee the first \$100,000.

Small businesses which do business with the government will be paid within five days instead of the standard 30 days.

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