

Questions about Nova Scotia's Proof of Full Vaccination Policy - October 5, 2021

Effective October 4, 2021, [Nova Scotia's Proof of Full Vaccination Policy](#) requires documentation of full vaccination to go to or participate in specified non-essential events and activities. This document provides information for Nova Scotians about who to contact with their privacy questions or concerns and the role of the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC).

1. I have questions/concerns about my privacy and the Provincial Government's Proof of Full Vaccination Policy? Who do I contact?

You can contact the Department of Health and Wellness' Privacy Office with privacy-related questions and concerns about the policy.

Department of Health and Wellness, Privacy Office
1894 Barrington Street, PO Box 488
Halifax, NS B3J 2R8.
Telephone: Toll free (within NS): 1-855-640-4765 / local: 902-424-5419
Email: phia@gov.ns.ca
Website: <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/phia/contact.asp>

2. Can I complain to the OIPC about private businesses that ask me to show proof of vaccination?

No. The OIPC does not have authority to investigate private sector businesses, such as restaurants, movie theatres, fitness establishments and so on. Some of these businesses might be subject to Nova Scotia's [Human Rights Act](#) and the federal privacy law (*Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act*), overseen by the [Privacy Commissioner of Canada](#).

3. What role does the OIPC play in response to the Provincial Government's Proof of Full Vaccination Policy?

The OIPC is an independent oversight body that can review and investigate complaints about the collection, use and/or disclosure of your personal information by public sector organizations or health custodians. The laws only allow the OIPC to start an investigation *after* you have exhausted the public body or health custodian's internal privacy-complaint procedure. What that means is you must first complain to the public body or health custodian and only if you are unsatisfied with its response to your privacy complaint can you ask for the OIPC to review it.

Please see our [Citizens Guide to Access & Privacy Rights in Nova Scotia](#) for information about how to make a privacy complaint to a health custodian or public body.