



**January 7, 2022**

**Statement on Nova Scotia Health’s collection of personal health information by email**

Last week, we were made aware that the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW) and Nova Scotia Health (NSH) had started a practice of encouraging Nova Scotians to email personal health information related to positive COVID-19 tests. This practice raised privacy concerns for our office and for some Nova Scotians.

We committed to reaching out to DHW and NSH with our concerns. We have now met with them to discuss the risks and these important concerns. They have assured us that they are actively working on a solution that will build privacy into the design. A solution will be implemented as soon as possible – we do not have a specific date as to when this issue will be resolved by DHW and NSH.

Nova Scotians may contact the DHW privacy office with any concerns they have using the contact information provided below:

Department of Health and Wellness  
Privacy and Access Office  
Phone: 902-424-5419 / Toll Free: 1-855-640-4765  
Email: [phia@gov.ns.ca](mailto:phia@gov.ns.ca)  
Website: <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/phia/contact.asp>