

From: Colwell, Hon. Keith (Agriculture) <MIN_DAG@novascotia.ca>

Sent: March 25, 2021 3:46 PM

To: Colwell, Hon. Keith (Agriculture) <MIN_DAG@novascotia.ca>

Cc: Withrow, John <John.Withrow@novascotia.ca>

Subject: TFW isolation change

Good afternoon

I am writing to update you on recent changes related to the approach Nova Scotia is taking to the isolation requirements for temporary foreign workers in the agriculture and seafood sectors.

Effective immediately, all temporary foreign workers entering Nova Scotia will be required to isolate in single room facilities with their own dedicated bathroom, such as hotels and convention centres.

Given that new variants are more contagious, single rooms offer a better option over communal living spaces to help reduce transmission. This should decrease additional hardship of extended quarantine times on all workers and employers should one worker test positive. Hotel isolation will also streamline the coordination of testing.

Recognizing the additional, unplanned cost of this revised isolation requirement, the provincial government is working to cover the cost of hotel isolation, including both the accommodations and food. Perennia will continue to coordinate tracking of arrivals and will now book hotel accommodations on behalf of employers. They will contact employers with workers scheduled to arrive in Nova Scotia in the next week first to book their accommodations.

Temporary foreign workers coming directly to Nova Scotia by charters will be tested on day 1 through our provincial testing system. This satisfies the federal requirement for a test upon arrival. These workers will also be tested locally on day 12 of their isolation, which satisfies the federal requirement for a second test on day 10. Provincial government will arrange for testing at the hotels, which alleviates employers of this responsibility.

We appreciate employers' continued cooperation and support to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 within their sectors and in Nova Scotia communities.

Sincerely

Honourable Keith Colwell, E.C.N.S.

Department of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture