

April 8, 2021

Dear Nova Scotia TFW Employer,

You would have received an important email from Minister Colwell on March 25, 2021 about changes to Nova Scotia Provincial housing of Temporary Foreign Workers effective immediately. A copy is attached to this email for your reference. **All workers will need now to be quarantined in Provincial Government approved hotels.** We have included details below to answer some of your initial questions.

We continue to work with coordinating bodies such as FARMS and Human Logistics for some Charter flights but for all others (Charter and Commercial), **Please let us know if you have workers coming in on charter flights or domestic from another Canadian City right away** or if you have changes in worker numbers or names, please send us any changes of worker numbers or names as soon as possible.

ACCOMODATIONS:

- All workers will need to be quarantined in Provincial Government approved hotels/facilities.
 - **Perennia will coordinate and book the hotel/facility stays directly with the hotel and let you know in advance where your workers will be staying.**
 - The revised Nova Scotia Guidance Document is attached – the most up to date information will continue to be posted on the Perennia website at www.perennia.ca/coronavirus If any further documentation is needed from you – we will address that with you as soon as we know.
 - Costs are being covered for rooms, meals, snacks, laundry, security (specific room service, long distance calls, Pay Per View are not covered)
 - Length of stay will depend on whether workers have had a 3 day stay in Canada already (11 days or 14 days)
 - Food will be provided for your workers upon arrival at the isolation facility or on the bus if the isolation facility is a distance from the airport
 - Workers will have a key contact at the hotel and the hotel will be given your contact information in case needed for any reason
 - At check in, workers will be asked to sign a NS Health form enabling negative test results to be shared with you the employer. Perennia does not have any of the test results – NS Health has those results.
 - You will be permitted to make drop offs of care packages to your workers – we recommend that you let the hotel know in advance that you are coming.
 - ESDC will not need photos of the locations as it is coordinated Provincially

- We have asked the hotels to communicate these types of rules (above) to the workers as they arrive

AT THE AIRPORT AND TRANSPORTATION:

- NS Public Health will be at the airport conducting day one testing upon arrival
- Perennia will advise you if they will be at the airport depending on the type and size of flight
- Your workers will be transported from the airport to the Isolation location by Perennia coordinated transportation and paid for by the Provincial Government.

- You will need to transport your workers from the isolation facility to your work location at the end of the isolation period.

DAILY CHECK-INS:

- You are still expected to be in touch with your workers daily (electronically or otherwise) and maintain the log.
- It is recommended that you have your workers maintain health logs during their stay so that you have that documented evidence for your files.

COVID-19 TESTING:

- Instead of SWITCH HEALTH - Nova Scotia Public Health will be conducting the arrival (Day 1) and Day 12 testing – there has been an agreement reached with the Provincial government and federal government to do only the day 12 test (not both Day 10 federal and Day 12 provincial)
- Federal ArriveCan App registration and check ins are still required by workers – follow the requirements of the federal government. Details can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/arrivecan.html>
- If federal Arrive Can messages insist that a day 10 test be completed → in Nova Scotia – NS Health is looking after that test on day 12 via an agreement with Provincial/federal government.
- If other testing is required for any reason, provincial Public Health will be in touch with you and your workers directly. Perennia does not have access to the test results.

COMMUNICATION with your TFW EMPLOYEES Before they arrive:

- **If you can, please let your workers know:**
 - that they will be picked up at the airport and transported to the hotel.
 - that there is a change in their isolation location (not on the farm). Note: If any former locations have been submitted to the ArriveCan app – a change may need to be submitted to them – but our Provincial Government representative is in touch with ESDC to let them know of the recent location changes and our new process.
 - that there will be a form to sign at the hotel when they check in – to enable negative test results to be shared with you, their employer.
 - that they will be in a single occupancy room and need to stay in their rooms except for testing and scheduled outdoor time.
 - that meals and snacks will be provided.
 - that rooms are non-smoking (they will be permitted to go outside each day – see below)
 - that they will have the ability to go outside each day – but they need to be wearing their masks and stay distanced.
 - that COVID testing will be occurring by NS Public Health.
 - That you (the employer) will be in touch with them daily.

What do you need to do immediately after the arrival of your workers:

- You are to notify Service Canada of your workers arrival (info on Perennia website) unless that was already done for you by a coordinating body like FARMS.

What you need to do during the isolation period (amongst other things):

- Check in with each of your workers daily (please refer to the Provincial website for COVID symptoms and when to trigger a test <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/symptoms-and-testing/#symptoms>)
- Drop off care packages or special snacks if possible, during the isolation timeframe.
- Ensure your workers are doing federal ArriveCan app check ins.
- Ensure your workers are completing their daily self evaluation Health Logs (you can provide copies to the hotel to have them in the rooms or drop them off)
- Connect with NS Public Health as needed to ensure your workers have their day 12 testing completed – Day 1 testing will be completed at the airport and Public Health will be travelling to the isolation locations to do the day 12 testing.

Some key details to answer some questions you may have at this point:

Hotel Details

- number of hotels and facilities have been contacted in various locations around the Province to house workers for both the agriculture and seafood companies involved. These hotels will vary depending on availability and numbers and work location of arriving workers.
- Due to the nature of flight arrivals, dates and numbers arriving, various hotels may be used for each flight as needed depending on availability. Every effort will be made to group workers from associated or cooperating employers and also grouping those destined for similar geographic areas. Please bear with us as this process evolves.
- We are working with the hotels involved to have bottled water in the rooms, 3 meals a day with cultural food choices that are suitable for your workers and an opportunity to be escorted safely to have outdoor time each day.
- A food survey was sent out to TFW employers during the week of April 5 and results have been shared with the accommodations to inform their menu creation as every attempt is being made to ensure your workers have food they enjoy.
- Some hotels have Spanish speaking staff available and whenever possible, we will endeavour to make that connection of workers and hotels.

Mandatory (federal) 3-day hotel stay in other Province before coming to Nova Scotia

- If you have workers first arriving in Canada in Ontario or Quebec before coming to Nova Scotia – the 3 day (federal) mandatory hotel stay remains in effect and you should coordinate directly or with your coordinating body (such as FARMS).
- The federal Mandatory Isolation Support Program for temporary foreign workers is one to look at for assisting with recovering some of these costs.
<https://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/agricultural-programs-and-services/mandatory-isolation-support-for-temporary-foreign-workers-program/?id=1588186409721>