



YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth COVID-19 Update: May 27, 2020

The Premier and Dr. Strang announced that as of **June 5**, most businesses ordered to close under the public health order are allowed to reopen and welcome back guests and staff.

The following can open if they are ready and choose to do so:

- restaurants for dine-in, as well as takeout and delivery
- bars, wineries, distilleries, and taprooms
- personal services, such as hair salons, barber shops, spas, nail salons and body art establishments
- fitness facilities, such as gyms, yoga studios, and climbing facilities
- veterinarians

Other health providers can also reopen on **June 5**, provided they follow protocols in their colleges' and associations' plans, as approved by public health. These include:

- dentistry and other self-regulated health professions such as optometry, chiropractic, and physiotherapy
- unregulated health professions such as massage therapy, podiatry, and naturopathy

June 15 is the tentative reopen date for the child care sector, but **the confirmed reopening date will be shared with Nova Scotians once the plan is fully approved.**

[Please read the province's full press release here for more details.](#)

We ask that you continue to check our COVID-19 Update link on our homepage www.ymcahfx.ca for the most current information regarding all YMCA programs and reopening dates.

YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth COVID-19 Update: May 15, 2020

The Province of Nova Scotia has lifted some restrictions as of May 15 and have created a list of FAQs to support changes to the Public Health Protection Act Order.

We are easing some restrictions, but we need to do this safely by continuing to follow public health directives:

- physical distancing (staying 2 metres or 6 feet apart)
- no social gatherings of more than 5 people
- good hygiene – washing your hands or using hand sanitizer often
- sneeze or cough into your sleeve
- avoid touching your face



People can also consider using non-medical masks when they are out in public and physical distancing is challenging or cannot be consistently maintained, such as when you are in a grocery store.

[View list of FAQs](#)

YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth COVID-19 Update: April 28, 2020

As of April 28, as announced by the Province of Nova Scotia, schools and daycares are to **remain closed until May 18 (inclusive)**.

YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth COVID-19 Update: March 31, 2020

Following the recommendation of Dr. Robert Strang, Nova Scotia's chief medical officer of health, all public schools and licensed child care providers will **remain closed until at least May 1**.

The YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth suspended in-person programs and activities as of March 16th for both the YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs and YMCA NS Works Centres.

Clients and participants are still able to access these services online and over the phone. **These facilities will remain closed until May 1st inclusive.**

These closures are in compliance with recommendations by the Nova Scotia Health Authority to aggressively manage physical distancing in public places to prevent community spread. **All closures will be reassessed after May 1st.**

This includes:

- The Community YMCA
- Purdy's Wharf YMCA Child Care
- YMCA Outreach fitness programs (Forever Fit, AIM, and Warm Water Aquafit)
- YMCA before and after school programs

For details on Premier McNeil's plan for at-home student learning, and online guidance for business visit:

<https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20200330004>

Please check <https://novascotia.ca/closures/> for up-to-date provincial government office and facility closures. To find accurate, up-to-date information on COVID-19 please visit:

<http://novascotia.ca/coronavirus>



The YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth will continue to serve its communities in any way that we possibly can, guided by our core values of honesty, inclusiveness, respect, responsibility and caring.

YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth COVID-19 Update: March 23, 2020

As of Monday, March 23rd Nova Scotia has 41 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Nova Scotia declared a provincial state of emergency yesterday to help contain the spread. Effective immediately social gatherings of more than five people are prohibited, and provincial parks, beaches and tourist attractions are closed.

The YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth suspended in-person programs and activities as of March 16th for both the YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs and YMCA NS Works Centres.

Clients and participants are still able to access these services online and over the phone.

YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs – for a list of services and contact information please visit <http://www.ymcafx.ca/immigrant-programs/> or email ymis@halifax.ymca.ca for general inquiries.

YMCA YREACH continue to provide information, and settlement/integration support to Immigrants, Refugees, and their families who are new to communities outside of HRM. In 9 support sites, and over 20 Language Instruction sites across the province.

For **Language Instruction** program inquiries please contact Josh White at josh.white@halifax.ymca.ca (902) 457-6886

YMCA Nova Scotia Works locations across HRM – call (902) 301-4687 or email novascotiaworks@halifax.ymca.ca for general inquiries.

The YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth will continue to serve its communities in any way that we possibly can, guided by our core values of honesty, inclusiveness, respect, responsibility and caring.

To find accurate, up-to-date information on COVID-19 please visit: <http://novascotia.ca/coronavirus>

YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth COVID-19 Update: March 16, 2020

As of Monday, March 16th at 6:00 pm the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth is taking a necessary step to temporarily close programs and services in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.



This includes:

- The Community YMCA
- Purdy's Wharf YMCA Child Care
- YMCA Outreach fitness programs (Forever Fit, AIM, and Warm Water Aquafit)

In keeping with HRCE school closures:

- YMCA before and after school programs will be closed

Effective March 17th the YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs will be suspending in-person programs and activities. It will maintain Front Desk services to connect clients to information and to staff working remotely.

Effective immediately, YMCA NS Works Centres across HRM will be delivering client services via phone or virtually. Client-facing appointments and workshops are suspended and will be offered via phone.

Effective immediately, we will be closing the John W. Lindsay Sales Hub and will be directing all sales and inquiries to online at www.jwl2020.ca.

These closures are in compliance with recommendations by the Nova Scotia Health Authority to aggressively manage physical distancing in public places to prevent community spread. All closures will be reassessed after April 6th.

We will be using our website and social media channels for updates.

The YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth will continue to serve its communities in any way that we possibly can, guided by our core values of honesty, inclusiveness, respect, responsibility and caring.

To find accurate, up-to-date information on COVID-19 please visit: <http://novascotia.ca/coronavirus>

YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth COVID-19 Update: March 13, 2020

IMPORTANT TRAVEL ADVISORY UPDATE:

The health and safety of our staff, volunteers, participants, and members is the YMCA's top priority and we are following the lead of the Nova Scotia Health Authority at this time. The press conference held by the Province of NS earlier today has led to the following to be in effect immediately:

1. All YMCA staff, and volunteers who have traveled internationally will be required to self-isolate for 14 days, until further notice.



2. **Visitor Restrictions at our YMCA facilities:** Families, participants, and members are encouraged to self-declare if they have travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days and refrain from entering YMCA facilities, or participate in YMCA programs.

YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth COVID-19 Update: March 12, 2020

You have likely heard through the news or social media about Coronavirus (COVID-19), which is raising health concerns across the globe. Although a small number of confirmed or presumptive cases of the virus have been identified in this country, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), the Nova Scotia Department of Health and other agencies have stated that the risk to Canadians remains low. This outbreak is being closely monitored by all relevant agencies in our province and federally.

The YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth is responding in alignment with the most accurate and up-to-date information and guidance from PHAC and the Nova Scotia Department of Health. We are committed to providing healthy, safe spaces for all staff, volunteers, visitors, participants, and members. As such, we are currently taking steps both in terms of prevention (i.e. hygiene and housekeeping practices), preparedness, and our response in the event of an outbreak. We have a number of systems, policies, and activities that occur on a daily basis in our ongoing effort to keep our programs safe and will work to ensure that our community is engaged and informed along the way.

Here at the YMCA we are:

- Encouraging frequent hand washing
- Encouraging cough and sneeze etiquette (cover your mouth and nose with your arm when coughing or sneezing)
- Recommending that individuals avoid shaking hands
- Cleaning common areas more frequently and deepening our efforts in cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Housekeeping staff utilize a disinfectant and germicidal detergent to sanitize locker rooms, meeting rooms, washrooms, etc.

Please help us by:

- Staying home if you or your family members are sick
- Washing your hands before and after entering program areas, after using equipment or before sending your child to a program. Wash hands with soap and warm water frequently for at least 20 seconds
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your elbow, and disposing of tissues immediately
- Wiping down health & fitness equipment with disinfectant before and after each use
- If using a public workspace, like a computer, please use provided disinfectant wipes to wipe your workspace.

Nova Scotians can find accurate, up-to-date information on COVID-19 at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus>

Additional resources:



The Public Health Agency of Canada maintains a list of affected areas: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Halifax Regional Municipality: <https://www.halifax.ca/fire-police/fire/emergency-management/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

Government of Canada: <https://canada.ca/coronavirus>

YMCA facilities are gathering places for our community. Our YMCA is guided by core values including respect, responsibility, honesty, caring and inclusion. It is through this lens we are approaching this situation and working to ensure the YMCA continues to be safe and welcoming. Thank you for your commitment and support in this matter.