International post-secondary students

Is Nova Scotia allowing international students enrolled at a Nova Scotia post-secondary institution to travel to Nova Scotia?

Yes. On November 3, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada published a list of post-secondary institutions that can welcome international students. Nova Scotia institutions, such as universities and language schools, are on that list.

Do international students need to quarantine (self-isolate) for 14 days when they arrive?

Yes. All international students coming to Nova Scotia from outside of Atlantic Canada must quarantine (self-isolate) for 14 days.

How will you ensure international students complete the full 14-day quarantine? Will they be provided with accommodations, meals and other supports?

The post-secondary institutions that are receiving international students have oversight responsibility for them during their 14-day quarantine, whether on or off-campus. This includes arranging quarantine accommodations, ensuring students have suitable transportation from the airport, and providing meals and other supports during their quarantine period.

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Do international students need to get tested like students who arrived earlier in the semester?

No. Students who arrived in late summer/early fall were tested during their isolation period because of the large number of them arriving in a short period of time. We are no longer testing post-secondary students unless they develop symptoms.

Do international students have to complete any forms or paperwork before arriving in Nova Scotia?

Yes. All international students entering Nova Scotia from outside Atlantic Canada must complete the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in form. They must also complete a daily digital check-in during their 14-day quarantine period.

Also, international students will need to use the federal government's ArriveCAN app. As of November 21, it is mandatory for travellers entering Canada to use the app to provide their information to the Public Health Agency of Canada. People can download the ArriveCAN app or call 1-833-641-0343.

As post-secondary institutions are required to provide or arrange quarantine accommodations for international students (and co-arriving family members), student should reach out to their institution to ensure arrangements are finalized before travel. Please check with the institution as they may require additional paperwork from the student.

What happens if an international student begins to experience COVID-19 symptoms during their 14-day quarantine in Nova Scotia?

International students are asked to self-monitor during their quarantine. Anyone who develops symptoms should complete the online COVID-19 self-assessment to determine if they need to get tested. Anyone who can't do the assessment online can call 811.

Post-secondary institutions that are receiving international students have plans in place to support any student who receives a positive diagnosis of COVID-19.

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Why are we allowing international students to arrive in Canada when the positive COVID-19 cases in many countries are increasing? Won't that increase the risk in Nova Scotia?

Canada's borders are a federal responsibility. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada started allowing international students with the proper documentation and quarantine plans to enter Canada on October 20.

Nova Scotia's post-secondary institutions are working with international students to ensure they understand the federal and local public health directives when they arrive in Nova Scotia, including the 14-day quarantine period. Further, they will be monitoring and supporting international students to ensure they successfully complete their quarantine period.

Nova Scotia was very successful in welcoming over 3,500 post-secondary students from outside the Atlantic bubble this past September. Institutions will be following the same protocols to welcome international students safely back to Nova Scotia.

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