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Nova Scotia International Student Program

A consortium project of the Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education, Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education, Chignecto-Central Regional Centre for Education, Halifax Regional Centre for Education, South Shore Regional Centre for Education, Strait Regional Centre for Education, and Tri-County Regional Centre for Education in partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

NSISP COVID- 19 FAQ For Host Families and Students

Q1: What is the current situation with COVID 19 in Nova Scotia?

A: The Province of Nova Scotia currently has a small number of either confirmed or presumptive cases of COVID 19 as of March 23. This changes daily and can be monitored on the provincial website referenced below. The Province is in a State of Emergency and anyone returning home from out of province or country must quarantine with their families for 14 days.

The Canadian and Nova Scotian governments are strongly advising families and students to practice social distancing, stay at home as much as possible, and avoid unnecessary travel until further notice. The Canadian border has been closed to all non-Canadians as of March 18 and all cars are being stopped at the Nova Scotia border to inform them of the requirements under the State of Emergency in our province.

Q2: What is the NSISP plan should an outbreak of COVID-19 place in Nova Scotia?

A: The NSISP is in close contact with the Nova Scotia Department of Public Health and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and will follow their advice and policies should this take place.

Q3: Are there any resources you can share about how Nova Scotia and Canada are handling COVID-19?

A: The Province of Nova Scotia has set up a website to provide updated information on the province's response and recommendations: <https://www.novascotia.ca/coronavirus> .

The Canadian Government also has a website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Q4: Will NSISP student medical insurance cover students if they were to contract COVID-19?

A: NSISP health insurance will cover costs associated with health care for any student who contracts COVID-19 if it was contracted while in the program, provided they have not travelled outside of Canada after March 14, 2020. Medavie/Blue Cross has an updated website for further information: <https://www.medaviebc.ca/en/covid19>. However, if students arrive with the disease it would not be covered. This is no different from their policy on any other pre-existing condition.

Q5: Can my health insurance be extended if I have to stay in Nova Scotia past June 30th?

A: Student health insurance can be extended should students be required to stay in Nova Scotia past June 30th.

Q6: Where can I find out more about NSISP student health insurance and what is covered?

A: For more information on NSISP student health insurance coverage please visit: <https://nsispinsurance.ca>



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Q7: Will NSISP students be asked to return home should the crisis worsen?

A: There are no plans to require NSISP students to leave the country or their homestay. At the moment, the NSISP and RCEs are recommending students stay in the country under the care of their host families. Natural parents have the right to bring their students home if this is logistically possible, but it is not our recommended approach at this time. If students, parents, or agents make the decision to leave please communicate this information to your homestay coordinator or RCE Director before finalizing your plans.

Q8: Can NSISP students congregate in small groups with friends (i.e. malls, coffee shops, homes, etc)?

A: Students are advised to follow the advice and updates of the Canadian and provincial governments at the above linked websites. Now, the recommendation is to stay home and to avoid congregating in groups of 5 or more people. Please follow the rules and advice of your homestay families.

Q9: What will happen if students cannot leave Canada on their existing flight reservations at the end of June?

A: We will be evaluating a strategy for all possibilities in the coming weeks and months. At this point the option we can provide for students who wish to stay in Nova Scotia is the NSISP ESL Summer Camp. More information on this program can be found here: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1myBdL0j6BfC3B5-nDpfEKBLXa_l8bw5E

Q10: Will the NSISP refund student application fees and program costs if they are not able to travel to start the program in September 2020 because of an outbreak?

A: Yes, if students are not permitted to travel to Nova Scotia in September 2020 because of either restrictions in Canada or their home country due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NSISP will refund student fees. Any further decisions on fees will be made closer to the September start date.

Q11: What is the NSISP doing to communicate with international students, host families, natural parents, and agents in light of developments with COVID-19?

A: The NSISP and RCEs will continue to work with the provincial Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and Public Health Department to provide important updates to host families and students as needed.

Q12: I need to get biometrics taken in Halifax for my visa or study permit renewal. Is it still possible to give biometrics and if not, how will this impact my application?

A: Biometrics collection has been suspended. Students will now have 90 days (extended from 30) from the date on their renewal letter to get the biometrics done. Once everything is back to normal students can proceed with biometrics collections.