

Joanne Powers

From: HP-MHA Correspondence <HPMHACorrespondence@novascotia.ca>
Sent: December 20, 2021 9:00 AM
To: MODL Mayor
Cc: Tina Robichaud-Bond
Subject: RE: Active Firefighters - Mandatory Vaccinations

CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender.

Dear Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson,

Thank you for your letter dated December 2, 2021 regarding mandatory vaccination for active firefighters. As Senior Executive Director responsible for Public Health in Nova Scotia, the Premier has asked me to respond on his behalf.

We recognise the important role firefighters and other types of first responders play in ensuring community safety. We appreciated the continued compliance of fire departments with public health measures and the proactive stance taken to protecting their employees and the larger community.

At present, the COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Protocol that came into effect on November 30, 2021, was put into place for specific groups who provide services and supports to some of our most vulnerable citizens – such as people in long-term care, hospital patients and children unable to be vaccinated. The rollout of this protocol prioritized employees of facilities that have the greatest risk for interacting with vulnerable individuals. This was seen as a starting point for this policy and the expansion to include other types of health service providers and first responders, such as employees of the police or fire department, is under review on an ongoing basis.

Businesses and organizations currently outside of the mandatory vaccination protocol are at liberty to set their own vaccination policies for employees. Any policies should take legal and ethical implications into consideration. Questions about employer and employee rights can be addressed by contacting [Labour Standards](#). For questions or concerns about human rights, please contact hrcinquiries@novascotia.ca.

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns with us.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Chouinard
Senior Executive Director, Public Health
Department of Health and Wellness