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## **Pharmacy Technicians in Nova Scotia Now Able to Administer Vaccines**

### **For immediate release**

Pharmacy technicians across Nova Scotia are now able to administer injections offered in the province's 310 pharmacies, including flu shots and other vaccines. This makes Nova Scotia the first province in Canada to make full use of all regulated pharmacy practitioners in the administration of vaccines.

This change is the outcome of work the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists (NSCP) began in 2018 and comes during a year where demand for vaccines – particularly flu shots – is significantly higher than normal. With over 250 registered pharmacy technicians in Nova Scotia, this represents a substantial increase in the number of practitioners able to meet this demand. This expansion of technicians' scope of practice means they will also be able to support a future COVID-19 vaccination campaign for Nova Scotians.

"This important advancement in pharmacy care delivery reflects a commitment to ensure there are no regulatory barriers to pharmacies, as community healthcare providers, operating effectively to meet the needs of the public and to support the province's public health strategies," said Beverley Zwicker, CEO and Registrar of the NSCP.

Pharmacy technicians are regulated healthcare providers who are trained in the technical aspects of preparing and dispensing prescriptions. Technicians administering vaccines will have completed an accredited injection training program and will work in partnership with a pharmacist. By taking this team-based approach, pharmacies will be better able to meet the healthcare needs of Nova Scotians.

"As we enter cold and flu season in a pandemic, health remains a top concern for many Nova Scotians, and pharmacies will be busy places in the weeks to come. This change will help manage that demand," explained Zwicker.

The NSCP encourages individuals to check with their pharmacy by calling or visiting their website to learn how they can be immunized or receive other healthcare services. This will help to avoid crowding in the pharmacy, keeping them a safe space for the public.