

Guidance for Nurse Practitioners Regarding Medical Exemptions for COVID-19 Immunization, Mask Wearing and Testing

Layered public health measures including immunization, mask wearing, and participation in surveillance testing have been shown to be effective against COVID-19 and the risk of transmission.

Throughout New Brunswick, many organizations are requiring that staff and visitors be immunized against COVID-19, and/or participate in mask wearing, and surveillance testing. As such, it is not unreasonable to expect that, in response, nurse practitioner (NPs) may be asked to provide medical exemption notes from immunization, mask wearing and/or testing.

As NPs continue to work to mitigate any further spread of COVID-19, NANB aims to support their leadership with guidance on their responsibilities in this circumstance. NPs must only support requests for a medical exemption for clients with a legitimate medical condition that would warrant an exemption.

The New Brunswick Department of Health and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health has provided guidance on the process and criteria for medical exemptions to COVID-19 immunization (including temporary or permanent Medical Immunization Exemption Form) and examples of medical exemptions to wearing masks and testing (links below).

[Exemption for medical reasons form the Public Service COVID-19 Immunization Policy](#)

[Medical Immunization Exemption Form for COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

[Request for medical exemption for mask wearing and testing](#)

When caring for a client who does not qualifying for an exemption note NANB advises that the NP:

- Advise the client that an exemption note cannot be provided.
- Clearly explain the rationale, referring to this or other guidance as necessary.
- Provide the client (or refer them to) valid and reliable information about the COVID vaccine.
- Document the encounter in the client record.

NANB thanks all NPs for their tireless work, ongoing professionalism, and commitment to their clients.

Adapted by the Nova Scotia College of Nursing