

April 27, 2021

Premier Iain Rankin  
[PREMIER@novascotia.ca](mailto:PREMIER@novascotia.ca)

Dr. Robert Strang  
[Robert.Strang@novascotia.ca](mailto:Robert.Strang@novascotia.ca)

Tracey Barbrick - [Tracey.Barbrick@novascotia.ca](mailto:Tracey.Barbrick@novascotia.ca)  
Associate Deputy Minister

Good afternoon:

I am writing today as President of the NSGEU, representing thousands of public sector workers throughout this province, and as a concerned Nova Scotian. Today, Nova Scotia announced 96 new COVID cases and, as acknowledged by government, there is now community spread in the province.

We are hearing from many members – Group Home Workers, Home Care Workers, Child Protection Workers and Case Aides, Corrections Officers, NSLC employees and many more frontline workers – who are worried they will contract COVID on the job and bring it home to their loved ones. This is in addition to non-NSGEU members who are required to report to work across the province.

With the increase in case numbers and community spread, the NSGEU is asking that government reconsider the current age-based vaccine rollout approach. Too many unvaccinated frontline workers are being required to interact with the public and are being put at risk on a daily basis.

During a press briefing on March 19th, Dr. Strang explained that due to low case numbers in the province, no one is being put at "substantive" risk by having to wait their turn for their shot. "It's not just the risk of severe disease, but what's your risk of being exposed in the first place? And in Nova Scotia, that's extremely low." Dr. Strang said he would "adapt this plan" if there was a change in the epidemiology.

The risk of being exposed in Nova Scotia is no longer extremely low.

It would seem that now is a logical time to reassess and put the focus on the members of the public most at risk. The age-based vaccine rollout isn't working for too many frontline workers who have been deemed essential. While some people have been allowed to work from home, these frontline heroes are face-to-face with the public every day, unprotected.

Please, with the current community spread, it's time to move to a risk-based vaccine rollout.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JM', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jason MacLean  
President

JM/lb

c.

Tim Houston, Leader of the NS PC Party - [pccaucusleader@novascotia.ca](mailto:pccaucusleader@novascotia.ca)  
Gary Burrill, Leader of the NS NDP - [garyburrillmla@gmail.com](mailto:garyburrillmla@gmail.com)