



Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia

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Review of Masking Policy for Dental Offices – May 15, 2023

In an [October 25, 2022 email to registrants](#), we communicated that the PDBNS Board determined it would continue to align its masking policy for dental offices (e.g., in waiting rooms) with Nova Scotia Health's policy for ambulatory settings pending future re-evaluation. The most current version of that NS Health policy can be accessed [at this link](#).

There have been recent changes regarding masking in health care facilities in other Canadian provinces. Additionally, [as communicated on May 5](#), the World Health Organization (WHO) has determined that while the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is not over, it no longer constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). It is therefore understandable that we have been fielding questions both from dental offices and the public about masking. (Interestingly, we hear from members of the public who oppose the continued masking policy, and from others expressing that COVID-19 protocols in dental office are not stringent enough.)

We have been in touch with officials at Nova Scotia Health regarding the possible future evolution of their policies related to COVID-19. This topic will be on the agenda at the May 26 meeting of the PDBNS Board and an update will be issued following that. Until then, the policy on masking in dental offices as initially communicated in the [March 19, 2022 advisory](#) and clarified [on March 20, 2022](#) remains in effect.

We thank dental offices and the public for their continued diligence and patience with all things pandemic-related.

Dr. Doug Mackey, DDS
Registrar