

Council of Atlantic Premiers' Communique

ASTRAZENECA VACCINE/ATLANTIC BUBBLE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 20, 2021— The Atlantic Provinces will continue to use the AstraZeneca vaccine in their effort to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Atlantic Canada.

Premier Blaine Higgs chaired a teleconference of the Council of Atlantic Premiers to discuss this issue. He was joined by Premier Dennis King of Prince Edward Island, Premier Iain Rankin of Nova Scotia and Premier Andrew Furey of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Based on advice from their respective Chief Medical Officers of Health, Premiers agreed the AstraZeneca vaccine will continue to play a useful role in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

This Health Canada approved vaccine will continue to be provided to Atlantic Canadians over the age of 55. Premiers agree that a robust vaccine program, aimed at vaccinating as many people as quickly as possible, is necessary to reduce the threat posed by COVID-19 in the region.

Premiers will continue to monitor the use of this vaccine, based on expert advice and an assessment of risks and benefits to Atlantic Canadians.

Premiers are continuing their discussions on the timing of a reduction in travel restrictions within Atlantic Canada. Premiers will meet again next week to assess the most appropriate timing for the reopening of the Atlantic Travel Bubble. Given present conditions in the region and elsewhere in Canada, Premiers will also consider dates later in May 2021 for reducing travel restrictions.

For more information about the COVID-19 response and specific public health requirements for each of the Atlantic Provinces, please consult the following links below:

- New Brunswick: <http://www.gnb.ca/coronavirus>
- Newfoundland and Labrador: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/>
- Nova Scotia: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>
- Prince Edward Island: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/covid-19>

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