



## **Hefty fines will be issued for people who don't heed social distancing rules**

Local police will be enforcing orders until the Health Protection Act for people who are not following the rules around social distancing and self-isolation.

The Nova Scotia government declared a state of emergency on March 22 which includes strict fines of up to \$1000 for people and \$7500 for businesses that don't follow the rules of the act.

The most effective way to stop the spread of COVID-19 is to stay home, said John Davison, coordinator of Regional Emergency Management Organization, but there are times when healthy people need to go out of their homes for groceries, medications or exercise. If this is the case, please follow provincial guidelines regarding social distancing.

"Social distancing and self-isolating are two of the ways to stop the spread of COVID-19 and when people don't want to do this, our local police will issue fines to make them listen," he said "We need everyone on onboard to flatten the curve so our lives can return to normal as soon as possible."

New Glasgow Regional Police are issuing a stern warning that strict fines can result, to the few residents who do not follow directives issued by the Nova Scotia Chief Medical Officer.

"With the COVID-19 pandemic evident in our community, everyone needs to take these directives outlined in the Emergency Measures Act and the Health Protection Act, extremely serious. These measures of area closures and physical distancing are put in place to help protect the community against COVID-19 crisis," said New Glasgow Regional Police Constable Ken MacDonald, who is also member of the REMO communications team. "It is extremely important to become familiar with the required directives under the Emergency Measures Act and the Health Protection Act. As this directive is meant to save lives, by slowing down the virus and flattening the curb. Not following health directives can spread the virus and place the most vulnerable in harm's way."

New Glasgow Regional Police would also like to thank those residents of all Pictou County who are following proactive measures and directives. Also, a special thanks to many residents that are working long hours to help community, neighbors and family in these unprecedented times.

### Self-isolation:

Nova Scotia borders have tightened to travelers and all entry points (land, sea, air) will be closely managed. Anyone entering the province will be stopped, questioned, and told to self-isolate for 14 days. Exemptions for cross-border travel include healthy workers in trades and transportations sectors who move goods and people (e.g. truck drivers); healthy people going to work (e.g. health-care workers); and people travelling into the province for essential health services (e.g. chemotherapy treatment).

### Social distancing:

Nova Scotians are required to practice social distancing to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Social distancing means limiting your contact with other people – stay about 2 metres (6 feet) apart. Government is requiring individuals, employers and organizations to limit social gatherings to no more than 5 people.

**Police are authorized to enforce orders under the Health Protection Act. If Nova Scotians and businesses do not practice social distancing and self-isolation, they will face fines of \$1,000 for individuals and \$7,500 for businesses. Multiple fines can be given each day an individual or business fails to comply. Police can also enforce offences under the Emergency Management Act. For example, fines for charging higher than fair market prices for goods and services.**



The graphic is titled "Social Distancing Advice" and features the Nova Scotia logo in the top right corner. It is divided into three vertical columns: "AVOID" (red background with a white 'X' icon), "USE CAUTION" (yellow background with a white exclamation mark icon), and "SAFE" (green background with a white checkmark icon). Each column lists activities categorized under that level of risk.

AVOID	USE CAUTION	SAFE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Athletic Events</li><li>• Group Gatherings (e.g. birthday parties, weddings, funerals)</li><li>• Visitors in your Home</li><li>• Sleepovers</li><li>• Playdates</li><li>• Crowded Stores</li><li>• Public Spaces (e.g. malls, gyms, social events, theatres)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parks</li><li>• Church/Faith Gatherings</li><li>• Grocery Store</li><li>• Get Take Out</li><li>• Travel</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Family Game Night</li><li>• Streaming TV</li><li>• Video Chat</li><li>• Spring Cleaning</li><li>• Read a Book</li><li>• Listen to Music</li><li>• Sit on your Deck</li><li>• Take a Walk/Ride your Bike</li><li>• Yard Work</li><li>• Play outside</li><li>• Cook</li><li>• Check on a Friend</li></ul>

Law enforcement enforce orders under the Emergency Management Act and Health Protection Act. If you are aware of someone not following provincial direction, have a conversation with them first – they may need help. If a call to police is needed, please call a [non-emergency number](#) for the police that serve your community. Do not call 911.

### Local police non-emergency numbers are:

New Glasgow Regional Police: 902-752-1941  
Stellarton Police Department: 902-752-6160  
Westville Police Department: 902-396-2777  
Pictou County District RCMP:  
Stellarton Detachment: 902-755-4141  
Pictou Detachment: 902-485-4333

