



SAFETY NOTICE COVID-19

(rescinds the “*Order Respecting Essential Employees*”, revised *April 29, 2020*)

Purpose

This Safety Notice serves as notice that the “Order Respecting Essential Employees” issued on March 25, 2020 and revised on April 29, 2020 is rescinded effective March 21, 2022. This date recognizes and coincides with the end of the State of Emergency in Nova Scotia with respect to COVID-19.

This Safety Notice is further intended to clarify ongoing expectations of Operators and Employers regarding the effective management of COVID-19 exposure risk in respect of offshore workplaces. This will help ensure the health and safety of employees, passengers and other individuals consistent with the duties of workplace parties under Part III.1 of the *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act* (Accord Act).

Background

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic in relation to COVID-19. While there have been changes in the COVID-19 variant present and the rate of infection locally and globally, the global pandemic is ongoing.

The public health response to COVID-19 has adapted over this time as well, generally with stricter precautions imposed at times when infection and hospitalization rates have increased. As of March 21, 2022, the State of Emergency in Nova Scotia is no longer in effect. Nova Scotia’s Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) has also updated the Order issued under Section 32 of the *Health Protection Act (Nova Scotia)*. While most public health restrictions in Nova Scotia have been relaxed, the CMOH Order continues to describe COVID-19 as a communicable disease posing a risk to public health, and includes requirements relating to symptoms, testing, isolation and quarantine.

The *Health Protection Act (Nova Scotia)* is social legislation as defined by Part III.1 of the Accord Act and has application to any workplace in the Canada-Nova Scotia offshore area (Accord Act section 210.007). While the CMOH Order under the *Health Protection Act (Nova Scotia)* continues to identify COVID-19 as a risk to public health, Operators and Employers must also consider COVID-19 to be a risk to the health and safety of employees, passengers and other individuals consistent with their respective duties under the Accord Act.

Legislative Requirements

1. Operators and Employers must be familiar with applicable COVID-19 measures, including those required in the CMOH Order issued (and as amended from time to time) under Section 32 of the *Health Protection Act (Nova Scotia)*.
2. Operators and Employers must consider COVID-19 exposure as a risk; describe appropriate COVID-19 measures in their respective occupational health and safety management system (Accord Act section 215.015), and occupational health and safety program (Accord Act section 210.02); and implement all necessary COVID-19 measures in their workplace(s).
3. Operators must ensure that providers of services and other workplace parties described in section 210.01(1) of the Accord Act are taking the necessary measures to meet their respective duties and responsibilities in managing risk of COVID-19 exposure. This includes measures to effectively manage risk of COVID-19 exposure prior to the transportation of passengers to or from offshore workplaces on vessels or aircraft (Accord Act section 210.014).
4. Operators must ensure that all providers of services, especially those respecting helicopters, supply and standby vessels, be kept informed of the circumstances respecting this Safety Notice (Accord Act section 210.013).

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact:

Chief Safety Officer
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