



From: Alison Petten [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: NSCN and Mandatory Vaccinations
Date: August 19, 2021 at 9:01 PM
To: Sue Smith [REDACTED]
Bcc: Alison Petten [REDACTED]

Hi Sue and Jason

Thank you so much for getting back to me. I appreciate you taking the time to do that because I think this is an important issue and we have a leadership role to play here in protecting the public. Thank you for sharing the video link. I have been following much of the processes as closely as I can to be well informed.

Knowing that these vaccines have emergency use authorization, they have not yet had the long-term studies that vaccines usually undergo. I understand that using the term experimental in relation to these vaccines makes people very uncomfortable and we have avoided that term when communicating with the public. I used it in my email to you because there have been no long-term studies with these vaccines as yet because there simply hasn't been time. The long-term safety of them is unknown. So whatever term we use to describe them, this basic concept is incredibly important in moving forward until we know more.

I do think it is important that our politicians hear from NSCN. They don't know informed consent and other important concepts in healthcare like we do.

I think it is good that NSCN has not taken the position of mandating COVID-19 vaccines for nurses, and instead is recommending them. It is appropriate that nurses are being encouraged to use current science-based sources and their knowledge, standards and ethical frameworks as the foundation for their decision. This is what is guiding me to contact you and Jason to ask for NSCN intervention.

I think the politicians and public health need our information and support in order to make some of these important health-related decisions. If a decision is made to mandate these vaccines it would be hard to change it. It would be better to have the information before they make decisions.

I think that it would be appropriate and helpful for NSCN to speak up and communicate with our provincial government, at least, that making an emergency use authorized vaccine with no long-term studies mandatory is likely not appropriate, safe or ethical.

I appreciate your efforts to help nurses practice safely through this pandemic and would be very happy to discuss this.

Respectfully,
Alison J. Petten RN
[REDACTED]

On Aug 11, 2021, at 11:34 AM, Sue Smith <sue.smith@nscn.ca> wrote:

Dear Alison.

Thank you for taking the time to reach out to us.

We agree that vaccinations play an important role in positively impacting the health of our population, which has been articulated in the Nova Scotia Nursing College's (NSCN's) [Regulatory Update for the COVID-19 Vaccine](#). As Nova Scotia's nursing regulator, we have recommended that nurses be vaccinated against COVID-19. We have also indicated that nurses should use current science-based sources and their knowledge, standards and ethical frameworks as the foundation for their decision. This resource is on our website and shared publically with all stakeholders.

We think it is important to clarify that the COVID-19 vaccines approved and licensed for use in Canada are not "experimental" vaccines. Rather, they are *new* vaccines that have been approved and licensed by Health Canada in response to the urgent health care needs of the

public during an unprecedented global pandemic.

We are also sharing an informative awareness video created by the Government of Nova Scotia. It may help address your comments about the vaccines not having undergone long-term studies. Here is a [link to that video here](#) for your reference.

We appreciate the impact the ongoing public debate about vaccines continues to have on Nova Scotians and health care providers, including nurses. While NSCN has not taken the position of mandating COVID-19 vaccines for nurses, we have recommended that nurses who can be vaccinated against COVID-19 do so as a means of protecting themselves and others.

Thank you again for sharing your thoughts with us,

Kind Regards,
Sue

Sue Smith
CEO & Registrar
Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN)
902-499-1628
Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 9, 2021, at 1:36 PM, Alison Petten <[REDACTED]> wrote:

ATTENTION! This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not open attachments or click links unless you are sure this email is from a known sender and you are confident that the content is safe.

Hi Jason and Sue

I don't know if this message is best sent to the Board Chair or the Chief Executive Officer so I am sending it to both of you.

I am compelled to communicate with you because I am a registered nurse who practises according to our Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics and I see that our government needs our assistance.

As leaders in healthcare who advocate for those we serve in the public's interest, I think that nurses and our regulatory body need to act on the issue of mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations in NS.

I appreciate that we all want this pandemic to be over and that vaccinations are critical to help make that happen. I very much value immunizations and appreciate the positive impact on health locally and globally.

However, we seem to be at the edge of possibly making a grave error and I ask that we discuss and debate this and act accordingly.

I will explain briefly and ask that we meet to discuss this further.

I understand that organizations such as the Canadian Nurses Association, the Canadian Medical Association and the federal government and our own public health leaders are communicating that they think COVID-19 vaccination should be mandatory for those who work in healthcare and for people employed by the federal government.

Educating and encouraging people to be vaccinated using a vaccine that is still experimental with no long-term studies during a state of emergency and pandemic seems appropriate. We can educate, encourage, facilitate and more, but to mandate that people be vaccinated with an experimental vaccine, although legal during a state of emergency, is potentially dangerous and conflicts with well-established safety practises and protocols in healthcare.

"The Code of Ethics is a resource to help you practise ethically and work through ethical challenges that arise in your practice setting with individuals, clients, families, communities, and the health system." (NSCN, 2017)

I ask that the Nova Scotia College of Nursing speak up and communicate with our provincial government, at least, that making an experimental vaccine with no long-term studies mandatory is likely not appropriate, safe or ethical.

I propose that we have an ethical challenge with our health system and government and that we need to act for the safety of the people we serve and the integrity of our systems.

Thank you. I look forward to discussing this with you further. I am willing to help with this as needed.

Respectfully,
Alison J. Petten RN
(902) 453-2737