

Our Action Plan

to improve emergency care

The Government of Nova Scotia is taking immediate action to ease pressure on our hardworking emergency response teams and get more Nova Scotians the emergency care they need, faster.

These actions are a part of the larger Action for Health plan which includes new investments in recruiting more healthcare workers to Nova Scotia and encouraging them to keep working in communities across the province.



Our action plan will ease pressure on our emergency departments:

- **New doctor-led teams** to focus on getting patients out of ambulances and into the emergency department faster
- **More physician assistants and nurse practitioners** to provide care in emergency departments
- **More care providers and patient advocates** to support patients in waiting rooms
- **More access to onsite virtual care** for patients with less urgent needs, freeing up resources for those who need it most
- **Faster real-time data** for healthcare workers, to identify where there are free beds or additional capacity in any hospital throughout the healthcare system



Our action plan will reduce ambulance wait times and support paramedics:

- **Expanded paramedic training** at locations throughout the province
- **New incentives to recruit and retain paramedics** with a tuition rebate of \$11,500 to paramedics who agree to work in the province for at least three years
- **A second air ambulance** between Sydney and Halifax and Yarmouth and Halifax
- **More medical training for first responders**



Our action plan will make it easier to get healthcare outside of the emergency department:

- **Investing in new family practices** and helping existing practices expand so they can see more patients
- **Expanding healthcare services that can be provided by pharmacists** in their local communities
- **Making more doctors available for virtual care** and expanding the hours for virtual care appointments
- **New mobile healthcare services**, including mobile respiratory care and urgent treatment centres
- **More information and transparency for patients** with a mobile app that will help Nova Scotians find the right services for their needs where and when they are offered

Learn more about the Government of Nova Scotia's broader strategic plan to improve healthcare, Action for Health at NovaScotia.ca/ActionForHealth