

## Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan

---

**From:** Terence Hawco <Terence.Hawco@emci.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 2:55 PM  
**To:** Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan; Eleanor Roulston  
**Cc:** Andrew Travers; Dale Bartlett; Phil Stewart; Jean Spicer-Moore  
**Subject:** RE: [External] East Hants Concerns - EHS MFR Services

Good Afternoon:

Thank you for your letter dated April 27, 2021 representing the concerns of the Council of the Municipality of East Hants.

As first responders, this past year has presented us with unprecedented challenges and risks. All of our decisions have been made with a sharp focus on responder and public safety, taking into consideration the severe global shortage of N95 masks and spikes in COVID-19 cases. This shortage hindered our ability to mask-fit test and train 2,500 Medical First Responders (MFRs) in 250 agencies across the province.

We continue to work with our MFR agencies and maintain open lines of communication with weekly updates. We apologize for any misunderstanding that may have occurred with the East Hants Fire Service and seek to provide clarity where needed. We value the dedication and service of every single MFR in Nova Scotia and every single MFR agency – regardless of size – is equally deserving of our time, energy and efforts. Our goal has been to stretch the resources we have as far as possible to benefit the maximum number of Nova Scotians – especially those in rural areas. To date we have conducted 37 mask fit testing sessions – many in rural fire halls.

Knowing that it takes approximately 20 minutes to test each person, we did place a limit of six MFRs per agency on initial rounds of testing. This was so that we could bring as many agencies as possible online as quickly as possible. Training more responders per agency would have delayed the training of several agencies across the province. Recognizing that we needed to move faster and that this is a monumental task, we took the following measures to accelerate the process:

1. Added significant resources to help mask fit test several locations simultaneously
2. Purchased additional fit testing machines to increase our testing capacity.
3. Increased our scheduled sessions from one night per week (Thursday) to four nights per week (Tuesday night, Thursday night, Saturday and Sunday)
4. Increased our number of testers per session
5. Worked with Nova Scotia Government to drastically increase our N95 mask supply to facilitate the accelerated training schedule

All of this has moved the expected completion of mask-fit testing for MFRs in Nova Scotia from November to June of 2021.

In addition, we have worked with the MFR Stakeholder group to publish MFR COVID-19 PPE Guidelines to further help protect MFRs on all patient interactions and we have created a plan to allow MFR agencies to safely respond to more than just cardiac arrest calls if they choose to do so.

Last week marked the completion of phase three of our overall service resumption plan, where all agencies would have been offered a mask fit testing session for their members. We will quickly progress into the final round, which will revisit all areas of the province to test and train all remaining MFRs in Nova Scotia. During this round, we are working with each agency individually to determine the number of MFRs they have

remaining. Once we determine these numbers, we will again reach out to each agency to schedule them at a centralized site taking into consideration the need to minimize the number of people at the site at any one time. This will continue through May and June until all members have been mask fit tested.

By the end of this week, each of the Chiefs/Coordinators in the East Hants MFR agencies will be contacted to determine the total number of MFRs that they have remaining to be trained. By the end of next week we will be back in touch to schedule the final round of mask fit testing and training.

Thank you for your passion and advocacy for the MFR program. It is important that we all work together on this valuable program that serves all Nova Scotians.

Best regards,

Dr. Andrew Travers, EHS Provincial Medical Director

Terence Hawco, Manager Provincial Programs – EHS MFR Services



Terence Hawco, ACP, ASc., EMD  
Manager – Provincial Programs (Acting)  
EHS Systems Support

902 497 8207 (M)

---

**From:** Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan <smacewan@easthants.ca>

**Sent:** April-27-21 12:29 PM

**To:** Andrew Travers <andrew.travers@novascotia.ca>

**Cc:** Gregory Down <Gregory.Down@emci.ca>; Terence Hawco <Terence.Hawco@emci.ca>; margaretmillermla@bellaliant.net; Health.Minister@novascotia.ca; info@nsfm.ca; Kate Friars <kfriars@easthants.ca>; Eleanor Roulston <eroulston@easthants.ca>

**Subject:** [External] East Hants Concerns - EHS MFR Services

Good morning,

Please find attached a letter from Warden Eleanor Roulston on behalf of East Hants Municipal Council regarding concerns with the recently announced resumption of MFR services in the province.

Best regards,

*Sheralee*



Sheralee MacEwan,  
Assistant Municipal Clerk  
Municipality of East Hants  
902-883-6217  
[www.easthants.ca](http://www.easthants.ca)



Sign up today for curbside collection reminders and alerts via text, email, twitter, or phone.  
[www.easthants.ca/solid-waste](http://www.easthants.ca/solid-waste)

The information contained in this electronic mail transmission is intended by the Municipality of East Hants (East Hants) for the use of the named individual or entity to which it is directed and may contain information that is privileged or otherwise confidential. If you have received this electronic mail transmission in error, please delete from your system without copying or forwarding it, and notify the sender of the error by reply email or phone (collect), so that the sender's address records can be corrected.

---

Verified virus free by MessageLabs

Confidentiality Warning: This message and any attachments are intended only for the use of the intended recipient(s), are confidential, and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, retransmission, conversion to hard copy, copying, circulation or other use of this message and any attachments is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail, and delete this message and any attachments from your system. Thank-you!

Information confidentielle: Le présent message, ainsi que tout fichier qui y est joint, est envoyé à l'intention exclusive de son ou de ses destinataires; il est de nature confidentielle et peut constituer une information privilégiée. Nous avertissons toute personne autre que le destinataire prévu que tout examen, réacheminement, impression, copie, distribution ou toute autre utilisation de ce message et tout document joint est strictement interdit. Si vous n'êtes pas le destinataire prévu, veuillez en aviser immédiatement l'expéditeur par retour de courriel et supprimer ce message et tout document joint de votre système. Merci!

---

Verified virus free by MessageLabs