

Frequently Asked Questions

Antigonish Community Health Clinic



Q: Why is this clinic being built?

A: The clinic is being created to improve access to primary health care in Antigonish and support physician recruitment and retention. It will bring timely, team-based care to 10,000–14,000 people in Antigonish, reduce pressure on emergency departments, and provide a sustainable care model for future generations.

Q: When will the new clinic open?

A: Construction is now underway and is expected to be complete in Spring 2026. More information regarding a specific opening date will be provided to patients of the new clinic in early 2026.

Q: Will my family doctor or nurse practitioner be moving and when?

A: We anticipate construction to be complete in spring 2026. Primary care teams will be moving into the clinic gradually through spring 2026. Pending any delays, we anticipate all team members will be operating out of this clinic by the end of summer 2026.

If your family doctor or nurse practitioner is relocating, you'll be notified in early 2026 with all the details. For now, you don't need to do anything, and your care will continue as usual.

Q: How and when will I be able to book my first appointment at the new clinic?

A: More information regarding appointment scheduling, both by phone and online, will be shared by your family doctor or nurse practitioner in early 2026. Patients should continue to contact their current clinic in the same way they always have, until they are provided with new information. If there are changes to the location/times of any appointments you currently have booked, you will be notified in advance.

Q: How can I get to the Antigonish Community Health Clinic?

A: The clinic will be located at Sears Ross Drive, next to Teasdale Apothecary and Access Nova Scotia. Free parking will be available on site, including accessible parking spaces. Current bus routes do not stop directly at the clinic, but municipal partners are planning adjustments to be shared later in 2026.

Q: Is there parking available?

A: Yes. The clinic will have free parking available for all patients, as well as accessible parking spaces.

Q: Will I still have my same family doctor or nurse practitioner?

A: Yes, your family doctor or nurse practitioner will stay the same. What's changing is how your care is delivered. In a Health Home, your doctor or nurse practitioner collaborates with a team to support your care, and that may mean seeing different healthcare providers at different times to best meet your needs. You can learn more about Health Homes at <https://www.nshealth.ca/health-homes>.

Q: Will my health care or appointments change from what I am used to?

A: We anticipate that patients will feel that they have better access to care in many different ways. Care will be expanded, not reduced. Patients will benefit from same-day/next-day care, extended evening and weekend hours, virtual options, and a full team approach.

Q: What is a Health Home?

A: A Health Home is the word we use to describe a way that care is delivered, where family doctors or nurse practitioners work with a team, that could include family practice nurses, pharmacists, and social workers, to provide coordinated, easy to access, and patient focused care. You can learn more about Health Homes in Nova Scotia at [nshealth.ca/health-homes](https://www.nshealth.ca/health-homes).

Q: Will I see someone other than my family doctor or nurse practitioner at an appointment?

A: Yes, that is possible, if your care team feels that is the best care option for you. Depending on your needs, you might be seen by a family practice nurse, social worker, pharmacist, dietitian, or another provider on the team. This allows you to get timely, comprehensive care – and your family doctor or nurse practitioner is still involved in your care plan. You can learn more about Health Homes in Nova Scotia at nshealth.ca/health-homes.

Q: Will there be evening and weekend appointments available?

A: Yes. The clinic will operate one weekend clinic and two evenings clinics per week. Specific days and hours of the weekend and evening clinics will be provided in early 2026.

Q: Do I have to transfer my medical records here?

A: No. Your medical records will be automatically transferred to the new clinic by your family doctor or nurse practitioner.

Q: Will there be other departments in the new clinic like X-ray, pharmacy, etc.?

A: No, the new clinic will not include departments such as X-ray or a pharmacy. The clinic will be focused on providing primary health care through a team-based approach. This means that in addition to family doctors and nurse practitioners, patients may also see allied health professionals such as social workers, dietitians, and family practice nurses who all work together to support your care.

Q: Will there be blood collection services at the health clinic?

A: No. There will not be blood collection services at the clinic. Patients will continue to be directed to existing blood collection clinics in the Antigonish area.

Q: Are walk-in appointments accepted?

A: At this time, services will be available by appointment only.

Q: Is masking required?

A: Masking is not required but is encouraged in Nova Scotia Health facilities. Anyone who is symptomatic is encouraged to wear a mask to enter a facility.

Q: Will the Antigonish Community Health Clinic be accepting new patients?

A: At this time, no. But when providers at the Antigonish Community Health Clinic have capacity, they will be accepting patients from the Need a Family Practice Registry. To register for the Need a Family Practice Registry, please visit needafamilypractice.nshealth.ca or call 811.

Q: Will services in our community, like the emergency department, close and be replaced this new facility?

A: No. This clinic is intended to add to the existing services in our community and not replace any. Some existing clinics may move from their current location into this clinic, but it will not reduce the health care services that are available in our community. This clinic will support our community in receiving the right care, at the right place, at the right time.