

The Guardian

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



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PUBLIC HEALTH

Morrison makes the call

P.E.I.'s chief public health officer sets rules for Charlottetown's major junior squad

DAVE STEWART
THE GUARDIAN

✉ dave.stewart
@theguardian.pe.ca
🐦 @DveStewart

Charlottetown's major junior hockey team will have to follow strict COVID-19 rules when it resumes play this weekend or face the penalty box.

During her weekly briefing on Tuesday, Dr. Heather Morrison, P.E.I. chief public health officer, said she was scheduled to meet with management of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL) team later in the day to go over the rules.

Three teams in the Maritimes — Charlottetown Islanders, Halifax Mooseheads and Cape Breton Screaming Eagles — have been cleared to play. The teams based out of New Brunswick are still in limbo due to the high case counts in the province.

The Islanders travel to Sydney, N.S., for a game on Friday against Cape Breton followed by a stop in Halifax on Sunday. Charlottetown's first home game is against Halifax on Wednesday, Feb. 3.

"I do need to be clear that players, coaches and managers leaving P.E.I. to play hockey, similar to P.E.I. residents, will need to isolate for 14 days when they return to the province," Morrison said, adding that those players, coaches and



Charlottetown Islanders captain Brett Budgell, second from right, tries to feed a pass to Zac Beauregard during Monday's practice at the Eastlink Centre. **JASON MALLOY ■ THE GUARDIAN**

managers are eligible to apply to work isolate.

"That means they are in self-isolation except when attending the rink for official practices or games. They will not be allowed to visit with friends, go to stores or school, work outside the arena, go to restaurants and they cannot leave their

property except to go to the arena. When their games or practices are over, they are to go directly home to self-isolate away from others."

Anyone on the team breaking the rules will be charged, which will impact the team.

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AT A GLANCE

Here are the COVID-19 numbers from around the Atlantic region for Tuesday, Jan. 27:

P.E.I.: No new cases, with six active cases.

Nova Scotia: One new case with 11 active cases.

Newfoundland and Labrador: No new cases with three active cases.

New Brunswick: 10 new cases, 339 active cases

PANDEMIC

Millions unspent by P.E.I. government

95 per cent of COVID-19 spending in province is federal money

STU NEATBY
POLITICAL REPORTER

✉ stu.neatby
@theguardian.pe.ca
🐦 @stu_neatby

A new report says the federal government is doing the heavy lifting when it comes to COVID-19-related spending on P.E.I.

The report also says the P.E.I. government has left millions of dollars in federal transfers earmarked for COVID-19 related programs unspent.

The report, *Picking up the Tab*, was written by David Macdonald of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. The think-tank is known for having a left-leaning analysis.

MacDonald's report tracks COVID-19 emergency spending by provincial and federal governments. It found that, nationally, 92 per cent, or \$343 billion, of COVID-19 spending initiatives originated with the federal government. In P.E.I., 95 per cent of all COVID-19 spending was due to the federal government.



David Macdonald, author of *Picking up the Tab*, argues that the federal government is doing most of the heavy lifting in terms of COVID-19 spending in P.E.I. **SUBMITTED**

The biggest areas of spending from the federal government were with business supports, such as the Canadian Emergency Wage Sub-

sidy, and through emergency income relief programs, such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

The report said the prov-

ince left a total of at least \$9.2 million in federal funding allocated for COVID-19 programs unspent. These funds were earmarked for programs in health care, long-term care, affordable housing and training for early childhood educators.

The Guardian reached out to the provincial government, and a representative of the Department of Finance said a response would be forthcoming. However, it had not arrived in time to meet The Guardian's Tuesday deadline.

Macdonald's report says \$4.3 million in health-care funding, transferred to the P.E.I. government under the federal safe restart agreement, has not been spent. The agreement allocated funds for testing and tracing, health-care capacity, personal protective equipment and long-term care.

"The safe restart fund was a straight transfer. So, they got the money. They sent the cheque," Macdonald told The Guardian in an interview.

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Woman charged for failing to self-isolate

A 24-year-old Summerside woman has been charged under the Public Health Act for failing to self-isolate as required after returning from travel outside of P.E.I.

The woman returned to the Island on Jan. 24 and advised screening personnel that she was not going to abide by the self-isolation requirements.

Police were made aware of the woman's comments, and on Jan. 25, a member of the Summerside police was in the Charlottetown area on another matter and found the woman at a Winsloe gas station.

The woman was issued a summary offence ticket for violation of the Public Health Act. The first offence carries a fine of \$1,000.

Recently, Crown attorney John Diamond said in P.E.I. Supreme Court that people are regularly being charged with summary offences under the Public Health Act and have been since the rules went into effect.

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