

## HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

TEL: 905-825-6000 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-442-5866 • FAX: 905-825-1444

TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Deepika Lobo, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: October 3, 2024

RE: Test-to-Treat COVID-19 Testing Eligibility Updates for the Fall 2024-25

---

### QUICK FACTS

- Effective immediately, publicly funded COVID-19 testing should only be available to:
  1. Ontarians eligible for COVID-19 treatment (i.e., symptomatic individuals who are immunocompromised, or 65 years of age or older, or those with high-risk medical conditions).
  2. People in high-risk and some congregate living settings (including long-term care homes) and other specific populations to support outbreak prevention and management.
- The antigen test ordering pathway for eligible health system partners will continue to be through the [PPE Supply Portal](#).
- Further information about COVID-19 testing eligibility and test access can be found at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-testing-and-treatment>.
- The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) has shared a memorandum regarding COVID-19 Testing Eligibility, inclusive of both rapid antigen tests and PCR testing (attached).

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL [DOCTORS@HALTON.CA](mailto:DOCTORS@HALTON.CA).

**Ministry of Health**Health Programs and Delivery  
Division438 University Ave, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 1N3  
Tel.: 437-990-7624**Ministère de la Santé**Division des programmes de santé et de la  
prestation des services438 Av University, 4<sup>ème</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M7A 1N3  
Tél.: 437-990-7624

872-2024-1232

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Healthcare Providers Participating in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program

**FROM:** Chief Medical Officer of Health and Health Programs and Delivery Division

**DATE:** October 1, 2024

**RE:** Test-to-Treat COVID-19 Testing Eligibility Updates for the Fall 2024-25 Respiratory Virus Season

---

This communication provides:

1. Updates on which sectors can continue to access rapid antigen tests via the PPE Supply Portal
2. Outlines new Test-to-Treat COVID-19 testing eligibility for the fall 2024-25 respiratory virus season.

Based on advice from the Chief Medical Officer of Health to advance a Test-to-Treat approach, COVID-19 test eligibility (inclusive of both rapid antigen tests and PCR testing) will be updated to align with COVID-19 treatment eligibility. Effective immediately, publicly funded COVID-19 testing should only be available to:

1. Ontarians eligible for COVID-19 treatment (i.e., symptomatic individuals who are immunocompromised, or 65 years of age or older, or those with high-risk medical conditions).
2. People in high-risk and some congregate living settings (including long-term care homes) and other specific populations to support outbreak prevention and management.

Further information about COVID-19 testing eligibility and test access can be found at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-testing-and-treatment>.

Long-term care homes and some congregate living settings can also order rapid antigen tests for use to support outbreak prevention and management, consistent with [relevant provincial guidance](#) or at the discretion of public health unit staff.

The antigen test ordering pathway for eligible health system partners will continue to be through the [PPE Supply Portal](#). For assistance in creating an account or accessing an

existing account, or for any questions about orders and shipment, please contact [Sco.Supplies@supplyontario.ca](mailto:SCO.Supplies@supplyontario.ca). Please note that the distribution of free rapid antigen tests under this program is voluntary and will not be reimbursed by the Ontario Government, and that rapid antigen tests ordered from the PPE Supply Portal, if distributed, must be distributed free-of-charge.

Sincerely,



Patrick Dicerni  
Assistant Deputy Minister



Dr. Kieran Moore  
Chief Medical Officer of Health

- c: Dr. Fiona Kouyoumdjian, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health  
Dr. Daniel Warshafsky, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health  
Lilly Whitham, A/Director, Laboratories and Diagnostics Branch, Ministry of Health  
Angie Wong, Director, Drug Programs Policy and Strategy Branch, Ministry of Health  
Jackie Korecki, Chief Supply Chain Operations Officer, Supply Ontario  
Michele Henry, Operational Director, Provincial Diagnostic Network, Ontario Health