



Hamilton

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 897  
Hamilton, ON L8N 3P6  
www.hamilton.ca

Public Health Services, Healthy and Safe Communities  
Epidemiology, Wellness and Communicable Disease Control  
110 King Street West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hamilton, ON L8P 4S6  
Phone: (905) 546-2063 Fax: (905) 546-4078

## **MEDICAL ADVISORY COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test Distribution**

TO: Family Physicians  
Emergency Departments  
Infectious Disease Physicians  
LTCH Administrators/Directors of Care  
Medical Laboratories  
Infection Control Professionals (**please inform Labs**)

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Central West Medical Officers of Health  
Academy of Medicine  
Dr. Michael Stacey, VP Medical, Hamilton Health Sciences  
Mr. Bruce Squires, President, McMaster Children's Hospital  
Dr. Sarah Jarman, Chief of Staff, St. Joseph's Healthcare  
Dr. Greg Rutledge, Deputy Chief of Staff, St. Joseph's Healthcare  
LHIN, Dr. Jennifer Everson, Primary Care Lead and Dr. Bill Krizmanich,  
Emergency Department Lead.

FROM: Dr. Brendan Lew, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Jordan Walker,  
Director, Communicable Disease Control Division

DATE: July 4, 2023

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On June 12, Hamilton Public Health Services (HPHS) received a CMOH memo - **Rapid Antigen Test Access Through Public Health Units (PHUs)** - indicating the Province of Ontario has discontinued its broad distribution of COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) effective June 30. Public Health Units across the province have been asked to consider community distribution through existing public health services and community partners.

HPHS will be distributing RAT kits through select Recreation and Community Centres across Hamilton. Visit [www.hamilton.ca/covidtesting](http://www.hamilton.ca/covidtesting) for up to date locations.

We anticipate outreach from the Province to health system partners in the coming months to promote RAT distribution to your respective patients and/or clients. In advance of that outreach, you can access the Provincial Antigen Screening Program onboarding platform here: [Ontario Together](https://ontario.together.ca) to access the PPE Supply Portal. For those already onboarded to the program, you can continue to order directly through the PPE Supply Portal. Any questions regarding orders and/or shipment can be directed to [sco.supplies@ontario.ca](mailto:sco.supplies@ontario.ca).

Health system partners can access RAT kits directly from HPHS as an interim strategy prior to establishing their PPE Supply Portal account. Reach out directly to [covidantigentests@hamilton.ca](mailto:covidantigentests@hamilton.ca) to access our program.

It is the recommendation of Hamilton Public Health Services that those individuals considered to be at high risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 have access to COVID-19 tests at home, and speak with their health care provider in advance about treatment options and develop a treatment plan to avoid obstacles if they become sick.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Brendan Lew, Associate Medical Officer of Health at [Brendan.Lew@hamilton.ca](mailto:Brendan.Lew@hamilton.ca)