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DATE: September 18, 2023

TO: Ontario Healthcare Providers

FROM: Health Programs and Delivery Division

SUBJECT: **Update on the Distribution of Rapid Antigen Tests in Ontario under the Provincial Antigen Screening Program**

As the province prepares for the Fall/ Winter 2023-24 respiratory season, the Ministry of Health (ministry) has undertaken planning to support the health system's readiness to respond to seasonal surges of respiratory viruses, which includes providing access to rapid antigen tests (RATs) for COVID-19, through the Provincial Antigen Screening Program (PASP). **To support ongoing access to COVID-19 testing and therapeutics through the Fall/ Winter respiratory season, starting the date of this memo, the ministry is inviting health care providers to order and provide RATs to their patients.**

Health care providers are invited to order and distribute RATs to patients on a voluntary basis, while provincial supplies last and prior to their expiry. Health care providers do not need to screen patients for eligibility. Please note the distribution of RATs will not be reimbursed by the Ontario Government and that RATs must be distributed to patients free-of-charge. Health care providers can make use of convenient, low barrier methods to support patients' access to RATs (i.e., a basket of tests on the reception desk). In accordance with the PASP Agreement, health care providers can continue to order RATs for their employees and can now also order RATs to distribute to their patients as "eligible persons" under the PASP Agreement.

Health care providers already enrolled in PASP have received a separate communication regarding this change. Health care providers who are not currently enrolled in PASP and who would like to distribute RATs to their employees and/or patients, may enroll at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/provincial-antigen-screening-program>.

Ordering pathways for health care providers who intend to distribute RATs to their patients or employees, 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.

For more information about the expansion of the PASP to allow healthcare providers to distribute RATs to patients, please contact the ministry at PASP@ontario.ca.

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Thank you again for your support and commitment to ongoing efforts to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.

Health Programs and Delivery Division

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