

December 16, 2021

Dr. Kieran Moore
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Sent via email to Kieran.Moore@ontario.ca

RE: Community Distribution of Rapid Antigen Test Kits - Ontario Public Libraries

On behalf of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, I am writing to you to offer the collective support of Ontario's public libraries in the province-wide distribution of rapid antigen tests.

Public libraries are Ontario's farthest-reaching, most cost-effective public resource and community hub, reaching 98% of Ontarians in hundreds of Ontario communities of all sizes. Public libraries are local, close to home, and are trusted by the people and communities they serve.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Ontario's public libraries have worked tirelessly to meet the evolving and rapidly changing needs of their communities. This includes supporting the work of local public health authorities in reaching and engaging their communities to provide important health information and resources.

As Ontario prepares to launch the Pop-Up Testing locations as part of the government's enhanced COVID-19 testing strategy, public libraries across the province are ready, willing, and able to support the local distribution of free tests to the general public. With the recent announcement that public libraries in Nova Scotia are performing this role, we wanted to reach out to you and the Ministry with our offer of support.

Public library branches are open, accessible and trusted community hubs in communities throughout the province, and would be pleased to support the successful rollout of any updated rapid testing strategy in Ontario.

We look forward to discussing this further at your convenience.

For your consideration,



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Executive Director
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Sent in support and collaboration with:

Ajax Public Library

Hamilton Public Library

London Public Library

Mississauga Library System

St. Catharine's Public Library

Toronto Public Library

Cambridge IdeaExchange

Sault Ste. Marie Public Library

Milton Public Library

Whitby Public Library

Barrie Public Library

Ottawa Public Library

Guelph Public Library

Burlington Public Library

Brampton Public Library

Oshawa Public Libraries

Brantford Public Library

Kitchener Public Library

Vaughan Public Libraries

Kingston Frontenac Public Library

Richmond Hill Public Library

Pickering Public Library

Clarington Public Library

Cc.

Hon. Christine Elliot, Minister of Health

Hon. Lisa Macleod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

Sarah Harrison, Deputy Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries