



COVID-19 RAPID SCREEN INITIATIVE

Rapid tests available for small- to medium-sized businesses! **up to 150 employees*

Contact us to place your order

In partnership with the

 **ontario chamber of commerce**

 **Greater Amherst Chamber of Commerce**

 **RENFREW & AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

 **UPPER OTTAWA VALLEY Chamber of Commerce**

**MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 29, 2021**

Businesses in Renfrew County Can now Order Their Rapid Antigen Tests
Ontario Chamber Network is distributing rapid tests to help keep businesses and communities safe through COVID-19 Rapid Screening Initiative

PEMBROKE – June 29, 2021 – The first shipment of COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Screening Tests have arrived at the Renfrew County Chambers and the 3 Chambers are ready to start taking orders for the test kits. Any small-medium-sized business (under 150 employees) can go to any one of the Chambers’ websites to place their order.

The COVID-19 Rapid Screening Initiative will provide free rapid antigen tests for employees of small and medium-sized businesses. The tests will be distributed through participating local Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade in Ontario. Businesses **(including non-chamber members)** with 150 employees or less are welcome to participate in this program. The goal of the program is to identify asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 in the workplace that might otherwise be missed, helping to curb the spread in the workplace, at home and around communities in Renfrew County.

“Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade have been indispensable resources in their communities since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis. Public health and the health of our economy are interdependent. That is why our Chambers are proud to distribute

rapid tests to small businesses in Renfrew County. We hope that through this program, we will be able to curb the spread and reopen our local economy safely,” said Lorraine MacKenzie, Executive Director, Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce. “Today over 2.4 million tests have been distributed to SME businesses in Ontario” continued Ms. MacKenzie.

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The Initiative was first successfully piloted in the Waterloo region by the Greater Kitchener Waterloo and Cambridge Chambers of Commerce in partnership with Communitech, the Government of Ontario and Government of Canada. Through this pilot, the chambers have delivered 120,000 kits to nearly 1,400 businesses in the region. This means that up to 30,000 employees in essential workplaces are receiving regular screening twice weekly in the Waterloo region alone. The COVID-19 Rapid Screening Initiative builds upon the success of this existing program and delivers tests into the hands of small and medium-sized businesses across the province.

“Rapid testing is one of the key ways to keep workplaces as safe as possible during the pandemic as we wait for vaccinations to roll out. It will be an essential part of curbing the spread of COVID-19 in our communities so that we can get on the path to economic recovery faster,” said Rocco Rossi, President and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

Interested SMEs will be able to log into one of the 3 Renfrew County Chambers’ websites or visit <https://sites.google.com/view/rapidtestsrenfrewcounty/home> to order their two-week supply of rapid tests.

Once businesses have submitted the required signed agreement, they will be contacted by their preferred Chamber location to arrange for a scheduled time to pick up their kits. There are 3 locations within Renfrew County, Arnprior, Renfrew and Pembroke. A designate from each SME, responsible for supervising the self-screening collection onsite, will be required to attend the site for the initial pick-up where they will receive video training to properly supervise the screening process and safely dispose of the used kits.

Each SME will be required to electronically submit their screening results weekly to the Chamber they received their kits from.

If a test results in a preliminary positive for COVID-19, the employee will be required to leave the workplace, arrange for a PCR Test within 24 hours at an approved COVID-19 assessment site, and self-isolate until a confirmatory test result is received.

“As the indispensable partner of business, we are proud that many of our member Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade, including the 3 Renfrew County Chambers will be offering this program, distributing rapid tests to small and local businesses across the province” added Rossi.

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