



Lisa Gretzky

MPP Windsor West

Queen's Park
Room 172, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5
☎ 416-325-0235 📠 416-325-0873
✉ LGretzky-QP@ndp.on.ca

Community Office
2443 Dougall Ave.
Windsor, ON N8X 1T3
☎ 519-977-7191 📠 519-977-7029
✉ LGretzky-CO@ndp.on.ca
lisagretzkympp.ca

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The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building - Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

I am again urging you to release free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests to Windsor-Essex immediately and ensure they are easily and widely accessible. For far too long your government has dragged their feet on distributing free COVID-19 rapid tests across Ontario, announcing just Wednesday that your government has finally decided to free the rapid tests. I have been calling on you to take the right action and quickly provide free rapid tests to every household in Windsor-Essex.

Windsor-Essex continues to see a much higher COVID-19 positivity rate than the rest of the province and our case numbers continue to rise. We need action today. We know that we have to test, trace and isolate in order to slow down the spread of COVID-19 and keep people safe and healthy. Yet your pop-up holiday schedule for rapid tests does not include any sites in the Southwestern region, let alone Windsor-Essex County. It is preposterous that your government would not include some of the hardest hit communities in your decision.

We need tests in easily accessible locations such as public libraries, community centres, and municipal buildings. Some Ontarians are uncomfortable going into an LCBO and that should not be the only free, accessible option to obtain a COVID-19 rapid test. Teachers and educational staff were also not provided with any COVID-19 rapid tests for the holiday break. We should be handing out as many free rapid tests as possible in Windsor, especially as people start to get together over the holidays. Families in Windsor deserve a government that is willing to do everything possible to keep people safe.

I am imploring you to take action immediately before our healthcare system becomes severely overwhelmed again. The time to act is now.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gretzky MPP
Windsor West