



Ontario Association of
Children's Aid Societies



every
shot
counts



The purpose of Vax Facts is to provide up to date, credible information about the COVID-19 vaccination process in Ontario. Please feel free to also use these resources to augment your local discussions about vaccinations. If you have a resource that you think the sector would benefit from, send it to covid19@oacas.org.

Resources are available now, and will be added to regularly, at oacas.org/EveryShotCounts for staff and stakeholders to access information about COVID-19 vaccines in one place.

- The provincial vaccine program continues to evolve and change, and this week was no exception! Eligible groups can use Ontario's [vaccine booking system](#) to find out how to schedule an appointment, or can call the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line number at 1-833-943-3900. For general inquiries, individuals can call the Provincial Vaccine Information Line number at 1-888-999-6488 or TTY service is also available by calling [1-866-797-0007](tel:1-866-797-0007).

- The changes [this week](#) include:
 - Individuals with [at-risk health conditions](#) such as dementia, diabetes and sickle cell disease, as well as [Group Two](#) of people who cannot work from home including grocery store, restaurant and transportation workers will be eligible to book an appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Effective May 13th, people 40+ can book via the provincial system above and access mass vaccination clinics, irrespective of where they live.
 - The pharmacy program in selected hot spot regions (Peel, Toronto, Windsor-Essex, Hamilton, Ottawa, York, and Durham) has been expanded to dispense Pfizer and Moderna (in addition to AstraZeneca). This practice is expected to spread to more regions in the coming weeks.
 - People in the following categories are now eligible to book their second shots: highest priority health care workers, dialysis patients and First Nations, Inuit, and Métis individuals.
- *Public Health Ontario* released an epidemiological study based on data from December 2020-April 2021 and found that only .06% of COVID-19 cases were in people who were partially or fully vaccinated. This is good evidence that the vaccination program is working. You can read the full report [here](#) or check out this [excellent summary](#) of this report on Instagram from our friends [@COVIDVaccineFacts](#).
- A note on vaccinations for children 12+:
 - Last week, Health Canada approved the Pfizer vaccine for children 12+. There have not been any further details of the **provincial** plan for vaccine distribution for this group although we know that some PHUs are already pre-registering children.
 - Details about the provincial plan are expected in the coming weeks. In the interim, OACAS has written to the COVID-19 distribution Task Force and the Ministry of Health to advocate for an accessible, community-based vaccination campaign leveraging the lessons learned from the adult roll out. We hope that the supply in Ontario is enough for every child and youth that would like one and prioritization is not required. However, in case it is, we are advocating that children and youth intersecting with child welfare be prioritized. This [op-ed](#) by two community pediatricians outlines an approach that aligns with our advocacy position.
 - The Child Welfare Vaccine Working Group continues to engage with youth serving agencies, clinicians, and youth to ensure that our materials reflect the needs of our children and youth. Further resources to support your conversations with children youth and families will be provided in the coming weeks.
 - In the meantime, here are some additional resources to support your conversations:
 - The Centre for Effective Practice and the Alberta Department of Pediatrics has produced PrOTCT, a framework to thoughtfully approach conversations about the COVID-19 vaccine with families. You can access it [here](#) in French and [here](#) in English.
 - The Indigenous Primary Health Care Council explores common beliefs about the COVID-19 vaccine [here](#).
 - The Black Scientists' Task Force on Vaccine Equity has an excellent section on Vaccine Myths & Misinformation. You can access it [here](#).
 - Our youth focused VaxFacts from March 30 has some great resources! You can find it [here](#).

Resources

- Did you miss the webinar on May 7? Watch [Dr. Lee](#) provide an update on vaccines and answer questions from participants across the sector [here](#).
- The Canadian Collation for the Rights of Children is hosting a webinar *“Impacts of COVID-19 on Children and their Rights: An Ethical Analysis”* on May 13 from 12-1 PM EST. You can register [here](#).