



VAX FACTS



every
shot
counts

July 7, 2021

The purpose of *VaxFacts* is to share credible and up to date information about the COVID-19 vaccine from Canadian sources to help the conversations you are having with children, youth and families. If you have a resource or event that you think the sector would benefit from, send it to us via covid19@oacas.org and don't hesitate to share this email.

Check out oacas.org/EveryShotCounts for a collection of the best resources from previous editions of *VaxFacts* and more!

Recent News

- **The four child welfare agencies in Toronto, OACAS, Sick Kids, and Anishnawbe Health Toronto partnered this week to host a vaccination clinic for anyone connected to child welfare. We vaccinated 140 people**, many of whom were children and youth and spent time speaking to them (and their caregivers) about vaccination. This is what we heard:
 - People who had discussions about the vaccine with their worker, parent, or caregiver were overwhelmingly the most comfortable attending and had few questions for the vaccine team.

- Those that did have questions responded well to in situ education. Showing examples of sources they could easily follow on social media if they had other questions was appreciated and many screen shots were taken of great Instagram/Tik Tok accounts like [@covidvaccinefacts](#), [@19tozero](#), [@bc19tf](#), [@anna.blakney](#) and [@dr_faith_uwadiae!](#)
- People talked about the challenges they had accessing a clinic previously. These included being unsure where to go; scheduling; transport to/from; and/or disclosed needs that made larger, arena sized clinics hard for them to access.
- Many youth attended the clinic with friends and enjoyed the clinic incentives (ice cream, lunch, short lines, etc.).
- People were happy to chat about their experiences during COVID. Almost all expressed hope that life would soon return to “normal” and cited this as one of their main drivers for being vaccinated

So, what can you do?

- Engage children and youth in conversations about the vaccine and work with them to find answers to their questions. [VaxChat](#) has some helpful suggestions about how to go about this if you aren't sure where to start.
- Be prepared to talk about specific issues. Young women told us that they continue to hear that the vaccine will disrupt their menstrual cycle in a malignant or long term way and that this worries them. We know this is untrue, but articles like [this one](#) from gynecologist Dr. Jen Gunther might help alleviate their concerns. Dr. Wormsbecker also addressed this in our recent webinar, which you can view [here](#).
- If you aren't comfortable talking about the vaccine, find someone that is and actively link them together.
- Keep in mind that when one “myth” or exaggeration is debunked, another will arise. That is the frustrating reality and the main reason why continuous conversations and 1-1 education is necessary.
- Offer practical assistance like booking appointments or transport to the clinic to people who want to get vaccinated and check in on them after they have the vaccine to help them manage any side effects. Or bring them an ice cream.

If you watch only one thing this week...

- Make it this [4 minute video](#) by Dr. Samir Gupta. Dr. Gupta talks about the Delta variant and explains why vaccination is so crucial.

About the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies:

Since 1912, OACAS has represented Ontario's Children's Aid Societies in Ontario and provided service in the areas of government relations, communications, information management, education and training to advocate for the protection and well-being of children.

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