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Ontario Association of
Children's Aid Societies

VAX FACTS

every
shot
counts



August 18, 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!

Back to School Edition 📖

Thinking about children and youth going back to school in a few weeks can be both exciting and daunting. In this edition of *VaxFacts* we focus on resources and info that supports planning for September.

- Wondering about how to best protect young people as we head back to school (and increasingly indoors) while cases rise? Dr. Schoenthaler, an American paediatric oncologist, has some good suggestions in her latest blog post, "*Protecting the Kids: How to build a wall of protection around those you love*" that you can read [here](#).

- It might also help to know that education workers are now subject to a mandatory vaccine policy. This means that staff are expected to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 unless they provide a medical reason for not being vaccinated. In these cases, the completion of a COVID-19 vaccination education session and regular rapid tests are required. You can read the full announcement [here](#).
- School based clinics will feature prominently in September for anyone 12+ who still requires a vaccination. OACAS was pleased to see that the right of capable children to consent to their own vaccination was highlighted in the recent announcement about school based clinics: *With respect to consent at school-focused clinics, COVID-19 vaccines will only be provided if informed consent is received from the individual, including eligible students, and as long as they have the capability to make this decision. Health care providers, the school, and families must respect a young person's decision regarding vaccination. Parents and guardians are encouraged to discuss vaccination with their children prior to attending a school vaccination clinic.* You can read more about the plans, as announced on August 16th, [here](#).
- The process for case, contact and outbreak management in schools was released last week. You can read our [Issue Note](#) for more information about the path for young people and household member which varies depending on vaccination status. As a rule, those that are vaccinated have more permissive processes to follow in the event of exposure to COVID-19.
- Supporting older youth heading to college or university? This helpful slide show offers tips on how to stay safe on topics ranging from vaccination to mental health. It's available in [French](#) and [English](#).
- Masking indoors and around people that are unvaccinated remains key to staying safe. Our youth friendly guide for mask wearing is available in [English](#) and [French](#). Prefer a video explainer for young people? [@punjabikidshealth](#) has a quick video you can watch [here](#).

Children under 12

- Children **turning** 12 before the end of 2021 are now eligible for the vaccine. This measure was taken to protect the Grade 7 cohort and has already been the practice in BC and Manitoba. Bookings are via the provincial system or at pop ups as per anyone over 12. Read more about the details [here](#).
- Trials for children 5-11 are advancing and data is expected to be in for authorization in early Fall. The folks [@ScienceUpFirst](#) give a good summary of where we are at [here](#).

Back to School Special!

- *Easing Back-to-School Anxiety*. Join experts from the Child Development Institute for a Facebook Live event on Thursday August 19th at 7pm EST, as they provide tips and resources to support young people returning to school. Sign in here: <http://go.oacas.org/e/529102/childdevelop/78cxk5/1067381198?h=NzD6LkWZlhM0Cat1j953zKWrf5B3v49kmGN87-pONys>.

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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