



Ontario Association of  
Children's Aid Societies

# VAX FACTS

every  
shot  
counts 

**September 22, 2021**

The purpose of *VaxFacts* is to share credible and up to date information about the COVID-19 vaccine to assist with 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](mailto:covid19@oacas.org) and don't hesitate to share this email.

Check out [oacas.org/EveryShotCounts](https://oacas.org/EveryShotCounts) for a collection of the best resources from previous editions of *VaxFacts* and more

## Recent News

- The province is rolling out “vaccine passports” in two stages:
  - **Stage 1** comes into effect today, which means you need to show proof of vaccination (paper or electronic copy) with another piece of photo ID, to access certain business and recreation settings. You can download your vaccine from the provincial system [here](#).
  - **Stage 2** comes into effect October 22nd, when you will need to show an upgraded proof of vaccination that includes a QR code. Until then, if you are an Apple user you can add your vaccine receipt to your Apple by following the instruction [here](#).
  - **Children under 12** are exempt from these requirements.

- **People with medical exemptions** will be required to bring their physical doctor's note during Stage 1 and will have their exemption integrated into the app for Stage 2.
- The Ontario Human Rights Commission released a statement on [COVID-19 vaccine mandates and proof of vaccine certificates](#).
- If you supported someone who did not use an address, health card or full ID to get their shot, they can call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 to receive their receipts by email.
- The real world evidence continues to show that vaccination is a crucial tool to end the fourth wave and decrease the severity of infection in both adult and pediatric populations.
- There is a particular need to increase vaccination rates in the 18-39 age group that @COVIDvaccinefacts lays out [here](#). Please help if you can.

## Children Under 12

- Pfizer has been in the [news](#) after they released information stating that their data shows that the vaccine is well tolerated, safe (no new side effects identified) and protective in children 5-11 year old.
- The next step is for the data to be reviewed by the regulators (NACI in Canada) who will make the decision if and how to authorize the vaccine for use in this age group.
- Authorization still seems likely in October, however, if the vaccine needs to be repackaged (e.g., to accommodate different dosing, there may be some delay in accessing the vaccine). There is much in public health community right now amplifying the need for quick, equitable access to limit the impact of the fourth wave on children. You might be interested in this [op ed](#) which provides further details of rationale and offers some suggestions to government.
- Now is the time to begin conversations with children and families about the vaccine and why it's important. Toronto Public Health has a simple [infographic](#) that can help caregivers engage in these conversations.

## Schools

- Although it will not seem the case if your child is sent home to isolate because there is a COVID-19 case in their class, COVID-19 transmission in schools appears to be "[minimal](#)". Provincial data to track cases across the education system may be accessed [here](#).
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- As a reminder, over 180 secondary schools in 13 priority public health catchment areas (Grey Bruce, Eastern Ontario, Durham Region, York Region, Peel Region, Niagara Region, Middlesex-London, Windsor-Essex, Northwestern, Thunder Bay, Porcupine, Haldimand-Norfolk, and Chatham-Kent) have been invited to participate in the self-collection rapid test kit pilot to make testing easier for families. View the list of [participating schools](#).

## The one thing we'll be watching this week

- Tonight at 5pm EST, Dr. Cora Constantinescu, a pediatric infectious disease specialist at the University of Calgary will be hosting a session on **COVID-19 Vaccines and Children**, discussing what is known so far about the the Pfizer data, plans for vaccinating 5-11 year olds and will answer questions. You can join via Instagram [here](#).

### 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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