



Ontario Association of
Children's Aid Societies

VAX FACTS

every
shot
counts



September 9, 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 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 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.
- The Ontario government [announced](#) the “enhanced COVID-19 vaccine certificate” system (a.k.a. vaccine passports) last week, which will come into effect September

22 (digitized system to follow October 22). Ontario residents will need to show proof they are fully vaccinated to dine indoors and go to gyms and theatres.

Young People 12+

- Public Health Ontario is [reporting](#) that as of August 30, **79.2%** of 12-17 year olds have at least one dose and **68.4%** have had both.
- School based immunization programs are ramping up across the province, which may provide easier access for some youth. We speak some more about them and provide links to other Back to School friendly resources [here](#).
- For youth starting post-secondary education, the Public Health Fact Checkers folks ([@phfactcheck](#)) have a good [cheat sheet](#) on how to stay safe.
- Sadly, there have been reports provincially of the anti-vaccine/anti-mask protests that have been organized outside of hospitals, moving to youth vaccine clinics. We encourage you to work with the youth you are supporting to offer accompaniment to vaccine appointments. Continue to check in with them afterwards to offer any support needed should they be affected (or just feel a bit poorly after their shot!).
- 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. You can view the list of participating schools [here](#) and expect more information in the coming weeks.

Children Under 12

- Authorization for this age group is still expected in “the fall”, possibly as early as October for those in the 5-11 year old cohort. It is likely that vaccines for this age group will be available in many different environments: pharmacies, primary care clinics, and pop-up clinics in communities at places like schools (or child welfare agencies!).
- We can begin to have conversations with children about the vaccine — why it’s important, what it will feel like — to help them prepare and feel less anxious.

Toronto Public Health has a simple [infographic](#) that might help caregivers engage in these conversations.

Thank you

We know that you have been amazing ambassadors for vaccination campaigns in your communities and have been trusted adults for the children and families that intersect with child welfare. We also know that you are tired, and this work is hard. We can't wait for the day that we don't need *VaxFacts* but until then, we are here to help. Just like these two, final resources!

- Struggling to find the right clinic for someone with additional needs, someone living outside your area, etc.? Vaccine Hunters has an app for that! Use their new [SOS service](#) to get personalized help to find a vaccine.
- You can now easily access vaccine records, which you will need when the [Vaccine Passport](#) comes into effect later this month. Click [here](#) to get access and download records.

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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