



Ontario Association of  
Children's Aid Societies

# VAX FACTS

every  
shot  
counts



**October 6, 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.

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## Resources for Parents, Families and Caregivers

- Sick Kids has launched a [COVID-19 vaccine consult service](#) for children, youth and their families. This service is free (no OHIP card required!) and available to anyone across the province who has questions about the vaccine. This service is gearing up to answer questions about vaccines for younger children and is an excellent service for anyone who is hesitant-or wants to learn more about the vaccine. You can book an appointment by clicking [here](#) or by calling 437-881-3505. If you require language support

for the appointment, email [vaccine.consults@sickkids.ca](mailto:vaccine.consults@sickkids.ca) and indicate your name, appointment date and time, and your preferred language.

- The Centre for Vaccine Preventable Diseases at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto and the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine at McMaster University have released a series of guidance relating to paediatric vaccines to help caregivers understand the way forward in a COVID-19 environment. You can access the helpful *Caregiver's Guide to Safeguarding School-Aged Children's Health through Vaccination* [here](#).

### **Newly Published Data**

- The Canadian Pediatric Surveillance Program released a year-long study looking at the pediatric cases of COVID-19 in hospitals and ICUs. The study found that although children fared better than adults in the first three waves of the pandemic, children with obesity and neurological and respiratory conditions (other than asthma) were more likely to have severe or critical COVID-19. Our friends @COVIDvaccinefacts break down the data in this [slideshow](#) and again lay out the protective factors of vaccination of anyone eligible to help protect children who cannot be vaccinated.

### **Vaccine News**

- Out of an abundance of caution, Ontario has issued a [preferential recommendation](#) of the use of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for individuals aged 18-24 years old effective immediately based on the current available analysis from Ontario's adverse events following immunization (AEFI) surveillance system.
- Although Pfizer data for 5-11-year olds has been submitted to Health Canada for approval, there are not yet any timelines for authorization.

### **Rapid Testing in Schools**

- The government [announced](#) yesterday that rapid antigen screen will be available in *some* areas for asymptomatic testing of unvaccinated students. The tests will be provided in conjunction with local Public Health Units and will be administered at home.
- Children who receive a positive result will be required to seek a confirmatory lab-based PCR test at a local assessment centre or specimen collection centre and isolate until the result of that lab-based PCR test is known.
- Children who receive a negative result on a rapid antigen screening test will be able to continue in-person learning.
- More detailed information including participating Public Health Units, duration and frequency will follow.

**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.

## Connect with Us

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