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December 1, 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 and oacas.org/maxthevax for a collection of the best resources from previous editions of *VaxFacts* and more!

COVID-19 Updates

- Omicron, a new variant of concern has been identified. Little is known yet about how transmissible or impactful this variant is/will be. Until more is known, Public Health experts are urging Ontarians to continue to vaccinate, hand wash, mask, and social distance. Read a summary of what is known so far [here](#). For even more information, consult [this helpful Q&A](#) from Science First.
- A reminder that you can find updated data about COVID-19 cases and vaccination rates in your community, spliced all kinds of ways, via the ICES dashboard [here](#).

- Wondering how an area out of your jurisdiction is faring to help assess the needs of children and youth who may be placed there? We love this easy to read bubble chart to quickly see the current impact of COVID-19 across the province. Have a look [here](#).

Resources

- We continue to add to our [Max the Vax](#) website to support vaccine literacy and the conversations you are having with families. This week's updates include a post vaccine aftercare sheet, a [downloadable vaccine certificate](#) to celebrate vaccination, and our FAQs translated into Mandarin and Punjabi (Cantonese coming soon!).
- Healthy Debate published an excellent FAQ this week that speaks to topical issues for caregivers to consider as they vaccinate children, including how to order COVID-19 and flu shots and how holiday plans are impacted by vaccination and Omicron. Read it [here](#).
- OACAS became a signatory to the Community Vaccine Pledge for the *Federation des Canadiens Noir/Federation of Black Canadians* and we are committed to amplifying their efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on Black Canadians. Consider doing the same for your organization by signing the pledge, sharing their resources, and promoting the research study they have commissioned to better understand the experiences of Black Canadians during the pandemic. Find out more about their work [here](#).

What we're watching...

- Tomorrow, December 2, from 12-1 PM SickKids will host a Specially Targeted Education Programme (STEP) webinar to support conversations with Black and racialized communities about the COVID-19 vaccine. The focus will be on *Vaccine Confidence Conversations – The VaxFacts Approach* with Dr. Latif Murji, physician lead of the [VaxFacts Clinic](#) and moderated by Dr. Upton D. Allen. Register [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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