



December 17, 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!

Omicron

- Omicron is expected to become the dominant strain of COVID-19 in Ontario in the coming days and is responsible for the large increase in cases.
- Because of concern about its prevalence, a number of initiatives were announced by the government on [December 15](#). These include:
 - **Boosters:** Real world evidence has shown the merit of booster shots. Anyone 18 + is now eligible for a booster if your second shot was at least 3 *months* (or 84 days) ago. Booking through [Ontario's booking portal](#)

begins Monday. Appointments through some pharmacies and primary care settings are already available.

- **Rapid testing:** Every young person attending school should receive 5 rapid tests to facilitate testing before holiday events and before a return to school. In addition to this, there will be rapid tests available, for free, at locations across the province. Check [here](#) for a list of locations and [here](#) to read about how and when to use them. It's possible that in the coming days/weeks, rapid tests will be required for entry to additional places like entrainment facilities. Check before you go.
- **Capacity limits:** Indoor capacity limits have been adjusted to reflect the concern and to try and limit spread.
- Further, the Federal government has [advised](#) against non-essential travel.

COVID-19 Vaccination Updates

- Vaccination remains one of the best ways to protect against COVID-19 and its most severe effects. Vaccination rates are plateauing in many areas which is contributing to Omicron's prevalence.
- Know someone who is impacted by misinformation? Try using the [Know It or Not](#) game to engage them. It uses social media trends to help people tell truth from fiction when it comes to vaccine information. Play it, or share it, [here](#).

Resources

- We update the resources on the [Max the Vax](#) website weekly to ensure that you have the best and latest resources to support the conversations you are having with families. This week we added two new [comics for kids](#) — including one they can [colour and write themselves](#)! Check them out and [let us know](#) if the page is missing anything or you have any questions!
- We have heard that finding booster appointments in some areas has been difficult. VaxHunters (remember them?!) is back to help! Visit their [website](#) if you are stuck finding an appointment for any type of vaccination.

Plan to attend...

- An OACAS webinar on **December 21 at 10 AM (EST)** to hear COVID-19 updates from two Ontario experts: Dr. Ripudaman Singh Minhas, a developmental pediatrician at St Michael's Hospital and the creator of [@PunjabiKidsHealth](#) and Dr. Natasha Colia, a pediatrician and pediatric emergency specialist. They will do a brief presentation before answering questions. Staff, caregivers, and youth are all welcome. Please share the event widely so people feel up to date going into the holidays. The link to join is available [here](#).

Thank you

This is our last VaxFacts for 2021 and although we really hoped it would be the last one ever, it looks like we'll be back in January!

Thank you for all the work you have done over the past year to share credible, science informed information about COVID-19 and most importantly, for the conversations you've had with families. It has made a difference.

Happy holidays!

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

[Homepage](#) [Twitter](#) [Linkedin](#) [Email](#)

Copyright © 2021, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies
75 Front Street East, Suite 308
Toronto, Ontario M5E 1V9