



Ontario Association of
Children's Aid Societies



every
shot
counts



The purpose of Vax Facts is to provide up to date, credible information about the COVID-19 vaccination process in Ontario. Please feel free to also use these resources to augment your local discussions about vaccinations. If you have a resource that you think the sector would benefit from, send it to covid19@oacas.org.

Resources are available now, and will be added to regularly, at oacas.org/EveryShotCounts for staff and stakeholders to access information about COVID-19 vaccines in one place.

- The **provincial system continues to be updated with information about eligibility in specific PHUs**, which is changing regularly. Click [here](#) to find out the latest about eligibility and to book appointments for most PHUs or call the provincial call center at 1-833-943-3900.
- As of April 23, 2021, **all pregnant individuals are eligible to register for vaccination appointments**. The Society of Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada made a statement on COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy that you can read [here](#).

- On April 26, 2021, **the province expanded eligibility to the provincial booking system for childcare workers working in licensed settings and anyone 45+** in 2021 in one of the 114 high-risk neighborhoods.
- **Timing for the 2-shot vaccines (AstraZeneca, Pfizer, and Moderna) in Canada is currently 16 weeks apart**, except for those with the most vulnerable health conditions (e.g. organ transplantation history, active chemotherapy, etc.). This recent [article](#) by the BC Medical Journal explains why this approach is prudent to allow as many people as possible to receive at least one shot.
- After only one shot, the evidence is compelling that you are protected from the most severe complications of COVID such as hospitalization and death, but **it is integral to continue masking, physically distancing, and following other infection control measures** until advised otherwise by Public Health officials.
- **Losing track of what vaccine does what? Here is a refresher:**
 - **Astra Zeneca**
 - This two (2) dose, viral vector vaccine is available exclusively through the provincial Pharmacy Program and through a small number of doctor's offices. It is available for anyone 40+ (those born in 1981 or earlier) and you can find a pharmacy near you to book an appointment [here](#).
 - Early reports of blood clots in the media have increased hesitancy for some. This recent [article](#) and [video](#) by medical experts in Ontario may help you weigh the risks vs. benefits.
 - **Johnson + Johnson**
 - This vaccine was approved by Health Canada on March 5th and the first 300k doses arrive this week, for distribution next week.
 - Although this viral vector vaccine is new in Canada, it has been used in other jurisdictions for some months.
 - This vaccine is approved for people 18+ and requires one (1) shot.
 - It is not yet known how these doses will be distributed amongst the provinces or if it will be offered by your PHU.
 - **Pfizer**
 - This two (2) dose mRNA vaccine has transportation and storage requirements that make it hard to administer in the community, so it is typically only accessible through hospital vaccine programs or via some PHU led clinics.
 - This vaccine is approved for people 16+ (or in special circumstances for children 12-15 with complex medical needs)
 - Pfizer has submitted approval to Health Canada for youth 12-15 and it is likely that this approval will come online in the coming weeks/months after its review.
 - **Moderna**
 - This two (2) dose mRNA vaccine has transportation and storage requirements that make them hard to administer in the community, so it is typically only accessible through hospital vaccine programs or via some PHU led clinics.
 - This vaccine is approved for people 18+.

Resources

- **Questions about vaccines?** Participate in this live Town Hall, moderated by Clara Hughes as she asks your questions to a panel of top doctors across Canada. Wednesday April 28th at 8 PM EST. Go to www.thisisourshot.ca to access the link.
- **Students and Essential Workers...we see you!** As does the Black Scientist' Task Force. Join them on Saturday, May 1 for a Zoom Town Hall: *Fundamental Knowledge and Actions for Protecting Black Health and Lives During Wave 3 of COVID-19*. Learn more [here](#) and check back for the registration details.