



February 2, 2022

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!

Spotlight on Youth

- On January 24, 2022, NACI made recommendations on the use of booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines in adolescents 12 to 17 years of age. They recommend a booster dose for those who may be at higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease due to biological risk factors, social risk factors, and/or experience systemic barriers to accessing health care. Please discuss the option with the youth you interact with and read a summary of the issue [here](#).
- Youth (older youth in particular) have some of the lowest vaccination and [booster rates](#) in the province. Emerging evidence suggests that youth that intersect with

child welfare and youth known to have increased vulnerabilities generally, benefit from support from “trusted adults” and access to quality information to help mitigate risk and tackle vaccine hesitancy:

- A recent [study](#) published in the British Journal of Medicine found that individuals that report higher adverse childhood events (ACEs) were found to have lower trust in health information and increased vaccine hesitancy while having a greater likelihood of developing chronic health conditions that could put them at more risk of COVID-19 infection.
- CAMH [recently published research](#) about hesitancy in the homeless 2SLGBTQ+ youth population. One of their suggested strategies to mitigate risk is to educate frontline staff to discuss COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy.

COVID-19 Vaccination Resources

- Caring for someone with COVID? The Ontario College of Family Physicians and the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto have created this helpful resource to outline ways to determine whether or not a child has COVID, how to self-isolate, how to care for your child and manage their symptoms, as well as when to seek out additional care for your child. Access it [here](#).
- 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. If you'd like some Max stickers to help engage families in conversations, email us at MaxtheVax@oacas.org.
- If you are working with someone who has questions best answered by a health care provider, help them arrange to speak to an expert. If their questions relate to kids, call the Sick Kids [COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service](#). Adults? Call VaxFacts by setting up an appointment [here](#). Both services are free and have multilingual health care providers available to answer questions.

Please watch...

- Dr. Akwatu Khenti, chair of the Black Scientists' Task Force on Vaccine Equity, discusses his concerns about the demonstrations in Ottawa, offers a fantastic

summary of the issues impacting many Black and racialized communities, and provides a strong rationale for us all to keep doing the work of increasing vaccine confidence. Watch the clip [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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Our mailing address is:

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