

STATEMENT

Supporting the FASD community during COVID-19

June 11, 2021

The Canada Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Research Network (CanFASD) is aware of the many challenges faced by individuals with FASD, families and communities during this ongoing pandemic. CanFASD is committed to providing Canadians with reliable information to encourage evidence-informed decision making about FASD. We are dedicated to this vision now more than ever during this challenging time in our history.

This health crisis has highlighted the systemic inequities that persist in our country, and in the FASD community, but also the commitment and dedication of our advocates and community partners to work together to tackle these inequities, including barriers to vaccination.

In an effort to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus, CanFASD is encouraging everyone to obtain a vaccine. People with FASD can be at a higher risk for contracting Covid-19 and may be at a higher risk of falling seriously ill. Therefore it is not only critical that they obtain the vaccine, but that those around them do as well. This includes family members, direct service providers and support personnel.

Stopping the pandemic requires using all the tools we have available—wearing masks, staying at least 6 feet from people who don't live with you, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, washing your hands frequently, **and getting vaccinated**.

Vaccines will reduce the spread of COVID-19 and assist your immune system if you do contract/come in contact with the virus.

Many service agencies have adapted their supports to be virtual for families and individuals, while some are continuing to provide in-person services following the recommendations of their public health authority. It is important that all service agencies encourage staff to obtain vaccinations as part of the protection for themselves and those they work with. All workspaces should provide their staff with accurate information about the COVID-19 vaccines and allow staff to take time off to get vaccinated.

We are all in this together. Please join us in helping to ensure the health and safety of our global communities by staying up to date with reliable and evidence-based resources.

The [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) provides regular updates on:

- The current situation, including the number of confirmed cases in Canada
- The risk to the Canadian population, and
- How Canada is monitoring the spread of COVID-19 cases
- Vaccination information

What CanFASD Stakeholders can do:

- Follow the safety precautions set out by the Public Health Agency of Canada
- Follow the [CanFASD Connect Blog](#) for up to date information and helpful resources
- Reshare the information within their own networks.
- Stay connected to local FASD support groups and service agencies as many continue to operate virtually.
- Encourage and support those around you to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Other Resources:

- [FASD Success podcasts](#)
- [Saskatchewan FASD Network](#)
- [Canada FASD Research Network](#)
- [New Brunswick FASD Centre of Excellence](#)
- [Edmonton Fetal Alcohol Network](#)

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