



Updated: Sept 23, 2022

VACCINE INFORMATION SHEET

Monkeypox Vaccine

Imvamune® is a vaccination that has been approved by Health Canada for immunization against smallpox, monkeypox, and other ortho-pox related diseases in adults 18 years of age and older. This vaccine contains modified virus and cannot make you sick. Monkeypox vaccine helps your immune system create antibodies that fight monkeypox infection and disease.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends the Imvamune® vaccine be offered to people who may have or have had high-risk exposures (pre-exposure or post-exposure) to a case(s) of monkeypox, or within a setting where transmission is happening, and high-risk exposures may occur.

Imvamune® is not a treatment for monkeypox. It is used to protect against infection and disease. You should not receive the vaccine if you have monkeypox infection. If you are experiencing any symptoms of monkeypox, it is important to let your health care provider know so testing can be arranged. If you have recently been diagnosed with monkeypox infection, you will have acquired natural immunity to developing the disease again. This means you do not need a vaccination.

How is the vaccine given?

Imvamune® vaccine is given in the upper area of the arm. There is different eligibility for Pre and Post Exposure Monkey Pox Vaccine.

Who can get the vaccine?

If you are 18 years of age or older you can receive Imvamune® as a pre-exposure monkeypox vaccine or a post-exposure monkeypox vaccine. Eligibility for each are listed in the next section. Those who are under the age of 18 years will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by a health care provider.

A Health Care Provider will consult with you regarding your eligibility to receive one or two doses of the monkeypox vaccine.

Pre-Exposure Monkeypox Vaccine Eligibility

- A. Two-spirited, non-binary, transgender men and women or cis-gender individuals who self-identify or have sexual partners who self-identify as belonging to the gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) community AND at least one of the following:
 - Diagnosed with a bacterial sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the past year (e.g. chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis);
 - Recently had two or more sexual partners or may be planning to;
 - Recently attended venues for sexual contact (e.g. bathhouses, sex clubs) or may be planning to, or who work/volunteer in these settings;
 - Recently had anonymous/casual sex (e.g. using hook up apps) or may be planning to;
 - A sexual contact of an individual who engages in sex work
- B. Anyone who engages in sex work or may be planning to.
- C. Household and/or sexual contacts of people who are eligible for pre-exposure monkeypox vaccine – listed above in parts (a) or (b) – AND are immunocompromised or are pregnant. These individuals should contact a healthcare provider for more information.

Post-Exposure Monkeypox Vaccine Eligibility?

A. People who have had a known high-risk exposure contact with someone with monkeypox

When the vaccine is used as post-exposure monkeypox vaccine, it should be given within four days, but can be given up to 14 days after the last exposure.

Second Dose Eligibility

The vaccine is in limited supply worldwide and in Canada. Two doses of vaccine (as pre or post exposure) 28 days apart are recommended for those who may have ongoing risk of exposure and for those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals.

Who should NOT get the vaccine?

Anyone with symptoms of monkeypox or those who are infected should not receive monkeypox vaccine. Imvamune® should not be given to people who have allergies to any of the ingredients in the vaccine. If you previously had a reaction to the smallpox vaccine, this should be discussed with your health care team prior to receiving the Imvamune® vaccine.

What are possible side effects from the vaccine?

Vaccines, like all medications, can have side effects.

Rarely, allergic reactions can occur after receiving a vaccine. Symptoms of an allergic reaction include:

- Hives (bumps on the skin that are often very itchy)
- Swelling of your face, tongue or throat
- Difficulty breathing

Seek immediate medical care if you develop any of these symptoms.

What should I do after getting the vaccine?

It's very important to stick around for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine in the very rare case you have a severe reaction. A severe reaction sometimes shows up as hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the face or mouth, heart palpitations (beating fast). Immediately seek emergency care if you experience severe reactions after receiving the monkeypox vaccine.