MPOX Vaccine Fact Sheet

MPOX
MPOX (formerly known as monkeypox) is a virus that causes fever, headache, swollen lymph nodes and tiredness, followed by a rash and blisters on the skin. It is usually spread by very close contact with someone who has MPOX.

Vaccine Overview
The Imvamune® vaccine:
• Is approved in Canada for protection against MPOX.
• Is safe and effective.
• Can be used before getting exposed to the virus (pre-exposure prophylaxis - PrEP) or within 14 days after being exposed (post-exposure prophylaxis - PEP).
• Requires two doses*, given 28 days apart, for full protection – it’s important to get both doses, as two doses provides the best protection.
• May be given to someone who got a smallpox vaccine in the past.
• Is injected into the fat layer on top of the muscle in the upper arm.
• Does not leave a scar like the older version of the smallpox vaccine.
• Teaches your immune system to recognize and fight the MPOX virus.
• Takes two weeks after vaccination to give you protection.
• Contains modified virus and cannot make you sick.
*The second dose is a full dose exactly like the first

The vaccine is free and available to eligible people. No ID or OHIP required. Appointments are needed for City-run Immunization Clinics.

Vaccine Eligibility
Based on Ontario Ministry of Health guidelines, one dose of the vaccine is being given to the following eligible groups:
• For Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP):
  a) Two-spirited, non-binary, transgender men and women or cis-gender individuals who self-identify or who 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:
    · Had a sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the past 2 months, such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis;
    · Recently had 2 or more sexual partners or may be planning to;
    · Recently attended a bathhouse, sex club or similar place for sexual contact or may be planning to, or who work/volunteer in these settings;
    · Recently had anonymous/casual sex or may be planning to, including using online dating or hookup apps;
    · Are a sexual contact of an individual who engages in sex work.
  b) Individuals who engage in sex work or may be planning to.
  c) Research laboratory employees working directly with replicating orthopoxviruses.

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Household and/or sexual contacts of people who are eligible for Pre-Exposure Vaccination listed above in parts (a) and (b) AND who are either moderately to severely immunocompromised (have a weak immune system) or are pregnant may be at risk for severe illness from a MPOX infection. These individuals may be considered for Pre-Exposure Vaccination, and should contact a healthcare provider or Toronto Public Health for more information.

- For Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP):
  - People who have a known exposure/close contact with someone with MPOX should get the vaccine as PEP within 4 days, but can get it up to 14 days after the last exposure

Based on Ontario Ministry of Health guidelines, two doses of the vaccine may be given 28 days apart for the following eligible groups:

- Individuals who meet the Provincial eligibility criteria for PrEP and are moderately to severely immunocompromised. A referral letter from a healthcare provider or proof of medication is required in order to get the second dose.
- Research laboratory employees who work directly with replicating orthopoxvirus. This completed form must be provided.

Contact a healthcare provider or Toronto Public Health to find out if you’re eligible for PrEP or PEP.

**Side effects and risks**

Like other vaccines, this vaccine may cause some side effects. Most are mild to moderate, and go away on their own within 7 days. Common side effects include:

- Redness, pain or swelling at the injection site
- Feeling tired
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Nausea

Contact a health care provider or go to the nearest emergency department if you have any of these symptoms after getting the vaccine:

- Hives
- Swelling of the face or mouth
- Trouble breathing or shortness of breath
- Chest pain or a pounding heart

**Speak to a Health Care Provider before getting vaccinated if you:**

- Have allergies to any of the vaccine ingredients including: Tris/tromethamine, bromobutyl, benzonase, chicken protein, egg, gentamicin and ciprofloxacin.
- Had any serious reaction to another type of smallpox/MPOX vaccine.
- Are getting the Imvamune vaccine less than 4 weeks before or after another vaccine.
- Are less than 18 years of age.
- Are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Have a weak immune system (including organ transplant or HIV with low/unknown CD4 counts).

Wait to get vaccinated if you have any COVID-19 symptoms, and/or you are required to self-isolate.

If you think you have MPOX, it’s important to isolate right away and contact a health care provider. At this time, people who have or have had MPOX are not eligible for the vaccine.

**For more information:** Talk to a healthcare provider or visit toronto.ca/MPX