

Ministry of Health

Monkeypox Vaccine Information Sheet

Version 1.0 – June 14, 2022

This guidance provides basic information only. This document is not intended to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, or legal advice.

What is Imvamune®?

Imvamune® vaccine is approved in Canada for protection against smallpox, monkeypox, and other orthopoxvirus-related illnesses. The vaccine contains weakened virus and cannot make you sick.

Who should get the monkeypox vaccine?

Currently, in Ontario, one dose of Imvamune® can be received as:

1. **Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)**, which means receiving the vaccine *prior* to any monkeypox exposure (for those who are likely to be exposed).
2. **Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)**, which means receiving the vaccine after a potential exposure.

The vaccine should ideally be given within 4 days but can be given up to 14 days after the last exposure.

If you think you have been exposed to monkeypox, contact your local public health unit to see if you may be eligible to receive vaccine.

Imvamune® is **not a treatment** for monkeypox.

Is the vaccine safe and effective?

Yes, Imvamune® is safe to receive. The vaccine is effective at protecting against monkeypox when given before exposure to the virus.

If you received another vaccination in the past 4 weeks, please let your health care provider know before getting Imvamune®.

There is currently limited information on the use of the vaccine in certain populations. If you are less than 18 years of age, pregnant, breastfeeding, immunocompromised or have atopic dermatitis, you should speak to your health care provider.

Your health care provider will review the risks and benefits of receiving the monkeypox vaccine.

Who should not receive the vaccine?

Imvamune® is not indicated for the treatment of monkeypox infection. If you are experiencing any symptoms of monkeypox, please let your health care provider know before receiving the vaccine. Imvamune® should also not be given to individuals who have allergies to any of the ingredients in the vaccine.

If you have a history of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) or pericarditis (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart) linked to a previous dose of a 1st or 2nd generation smallpox vaccine, speak to your health care provider.

Please talk to your health care provider about the potential risks of getting this vaccine.

Does Imvamune® leave a scar like the smallpox vaccine?

No, Imvamune® will not leave a scar like previous smallpox vaccines as it is not given through scarification. Imvamune® is delivered through the subcutaneous route, which means that the needle is placed into the fatty tissue below the skin and above the muscle tissue.

Does Imvamune® have side effects?

Imvamune®, like other vaccines, may cause side effects, although not everyone will experience them. The most reported side effects are pain, redness or swelling at the injection site. Other common side effects may include fatigue, headache, muscle aches and pain, and nausea. These side effects are typically mild to moderate and on average did not last longer than 7 days after receiving the vaccine.

No cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) or pericarditis (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart) have been identified in clinical trials of Imvamune®. If you develop any cardiac symptoms after receiving the vaccine, please contact your health care provider.

When should I call my health care provider?

Call your health care provider or go to the nearest emergency department if you experience any of the following symptoms after receiving the monkeypox vaccine:

- Hives
- Swelling of the face or mouth

- Trouble breathing
- Cardiac symptoms such as chest pain, shortness of breath or palpitations

Where can I get more information?

For more information on monkeypox, please see resources below, or talk to your health care provider.

Ontario Ministry of Health - [Monkeypox information page](#)

Public Health Ontario - [Monkeypox information page](#)

Public Health Agency of Canada - [Monkeypox: Outbreak update](#)

World Health Organization - [Monkeypox information page](#)

World Health Organization - [Monkeypox Q&A](#)

United States Centers for Disease Control - [Monkeypox information page](#)