
SUBJECT: Updated Eligibility and Guidance for Monkeypox Vaccine
Date: October 17, 2022
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To: Primary Care Providers
From: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

Earlier this summer, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) began working with HIV/AIDS Resources & Community Health (ARCH) to host pre-exposure (PrEP) vaccination clinics for individuals at greatest risk of exposure to monkeypox. In keeping with provincial eligibility criteria, most clients were offered a single dose in order to maximize vaccine supply.

On September 30, 2022 the Ministry of Health updated its [Monkeypox Vaccine Guidance](#) so that **all individuals receiving PrEP or PEP are now eligible for two doses of the Imvamune** (Modified Vaccinia Ankara-Bavarian Nordic) vaccine with at least 28 days between doses.

For Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

Individuals are eligible for a two-dose monkeypox vaccine series if they are:

- a) Two-spirit, non-binary, transgender cisgender, intersex, or gender-queer individuals who self-identify or have sexual partners who self-identify as belonging to the gay, bisexual, pansexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) community AND at least one of the following:
 - a. Had a confirmed sexually transmitted infection within the last year;
 - b. Have or are planning to have two or more sexual partners or are in a relationship where at least one of the partners may have other sexual partners;
 - c. Have attended venues for sexual contact (i.e., bath houses, sex clubs) recently or may be planning to, or who work/volunteer in these settings; or
 - d. Have had anonymous sex (e.g., using hookup apps) recently or may be planning to; and/or
 - e. Are a sexual contact of an individual who engages in sex work.

- b) Individuals who self-identify as engaging in sex work or are planning to, regardless of self-identified sex or gender.

Household and/or sexual contacts of those identified in parts (a) and (b) above AND who are moderately to severely immunocompromised or pregnant may receive monkeypox PrEP as they may be at higher risk for severe illness from a monkeypox infection. Please refer to the provincial guidance for additional information.

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For Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

After being notified of a monkeypox case, WDGPH follows up with that case's close contacts to conduct a risk assessment. If indicated, WDGPH will make arrangements for a close contact to receive a post-exposure dose of Imvamune, ideally within 4 days but up to 14 days following exposure.

Any individual who has an ongoing risk of monkeypox exposure (i.e. a risk that is expected to continue beyond 28 days) are now eligible to receive a second dose of the Imvamune vaccine.

Individuals who have previously received live smallpox vaccine, or who received Imvamune >2 years ago may receive a single booster dose of Imvamune if they meet any of the criteria above.

Monkeypox vaccination is not indicated if:

- The individual has already completed a two-dose Imvamune series within the previous 2 years;
- The individual has been diagnosed as a confirmed case of monkeypox in the context of the current outbreak.

How to Access First or Second Doses

WDGPH will be offering clinics on an ongoing basis. Individuals who are eligible for a first or second dose of Imvamune should contact WDGPH to make an appointment through the Client and Community Support Call Centre at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 7006.

WDGPH will be attempting to reach all clients who have received their first dose of Imvamune to advise that they are now able to book a second dose along with instructions on how to book their appointment.

For more information, please contact:

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