
SUBJECT: Pre-Exposure (PrEP) Vaccination for Monkeypox
Date: July 7, 2022
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To: Primary Care Providers
From: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) will be working with HIV/AIDS Resources & Community Health (ARCH) to host a limited number of pre-exposure vaccination clinics for individuals at greatest risk of exposure to monkeypox.

Based on Ontario Ministry of Health guidelines, clinics are intended for people who are transgender or cisgender individuals who self-identify as a man and belonging to the community of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) community AND at least one of the following:

- Have received a diagnosis of bacterial STI (i.e., chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis) in the past 2 months;
- Have had 2 or more sexual partners within the past 21 days or may be planning to;
- Have attended venues for sexual contact within the past 21 days (i.e., bath houses, sex clubs) or may be planning to, or who work/volunteer in these settings;
- Have had anonymous sex in the past 21 days (e.g., using hookup apps) or may be planning to;
- Engage in sex work or may be planning to, and their sexual contacts.

Clinics will be held at ARCH (77 Westmount Rd., Guelph) on July 12, 19, 26, and August 2.

Eligible clients can book an appointment by contacting WDGPH at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 7006. Please consider patients in your practice that may benefit from immunization. If the clinic location is a barrier to access, please advise the nurse when calling in. WDGPH will make every effort to reduce barriers to accessing the vaccine.

Eligible individuals will be offered Imvamune (Modified Vaccinia Ankara-Bavarian Nordic) which is a live, non-replicating smallpox vaccine. Compared to earlier smallpox vaccines, Imvamune has fewer contraindications, no risk for autoinoculation, and is associated with fewer serious adverse events. In 2020, Health Canada expanded approval of Imvamune to include indications for monkeypox and other viruses in the Orthopoxvirus genus.

At present, eligible individuals may receive a single dose of Imvamune given limited vaccine supply. This eligibility may change over time. A complete pre-exposure series of Imvamune consists of two doses, given at least 28 days apart.

WDGPH continues to immunize any individuals eligible for post-exposure (PEP) immunization due to their close contact with a confirmed or probable case as part of our routine contact tracing work.

For more information, please contact:

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