
SUBJECT: Updates about Pre-Exposure Vaccination for Monkeypox
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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 vaccination clinics for individuals at greatest risk of exposure to monkeypox.

Clinics continue to be held at ARCH (77 Westmount Rd., Guelph) on Tuesdays, until further notice. Eligible clients can book an appointment by contacting WDGPH at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 7006. Please visit our website, found [here](#), for the most up-to-date information on pre-exposure vaccination clinics in the WDGPH area.

On August 5, the Ministry of Health [updated its eligibility criteria](#) for pre-exposure immunization. The following groups are now eligible:

- a) Two-spirited, non-binary, trans- 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:
 - Have received a diagnosis of bacterial STI (i.e., chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis) in the past 2 months;
 - Have had 2 or more sexual partners or may be planning to;
 - Have attended venues for sexual contact (i.e., bath houses, sex clubs) or may be planning to, or who work/volunteer in these settings; or
 - Have had anonymous sex (e.g., using hookup apps) or may be planning to; and/or
 - Are a sexual contact of an individual who engages in sex work.
- b) Any individual who engages in sex work or may be planning to.
- c) Individuals who are immunocompromised and/or pregnant (who may be at higher risk for severe illness from a monkeypox infection) if they are at risk for contracting monkeypox.

Due to vaccine supply constraints, most individuals eligible for pre-exposure vaccination will receive a single dose of the vaccine. However, moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals are eligible to receive two doses, at least 28 days apart. Please refer any patient of yours who meets this criterion using the [attached referral form](#).

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.

For more information, please contact:

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