

Information Sheet

IMVAMUNE (smallpox/monkeypox) vaccine for adults 18 years of age and older

Please read this information sheet carefully and ensure all your questions have been answered by a health care provider before receiving the vaccine.

What is monkeypox?

- Monkeypox is a viral disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans, from person-to-person or through direct contact with contaminated objects, though the exact way the virus spreads is not completely known at this time. Transmission can also occur from mother to fetus (which can lead to congenital monkeypox) or during close contact during and after birth. Sexual transmission has not been previously identified as a mode of transmission, though sexual partners also have close direct contact. For more information on each mode of transmission, please consult this link: [Monkeypox: Risks - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/diseases/monkeypox/risks.html).
- Signs and symptoms of monkeypox can typically include lesions or sores on your skin, including in your mouth, genitals, or peri-anal area, fever and swollen lymph nodes.
- The number of lesions varies and you can be contagious from onset of first symptoms until scabs have fallen off on their own and the skin is healed.
- There are no standard treatments for monkeypox. However, antivirals developed for use against smallpox and post-exposure vaccination with the smallpox vaccine may help and prior vaccination against smallpox may provide cross-protection.

How does the IMVAMUNE vaccine protect against monkeypox?

- IMVAMUNE was originally developed to be used for the prevention of smallpox. When a person is given the vaccine, the immune

system (the body's natural defense system) will produce its own protection in the form of antibodies against the smallpox virus. IMVAMUNE does not contain smallpox virus and cannot spread or cause smallpox.

- Vaccination against smallpox was demonstrated through several observational studies to be about 85% effective in preventing monkeypox. Prior smallpox vaccination may result in milder illness.

Who can and cannot receive the smallpox/monkeypox vaccine at this time?

- The IMVAMUNE vaccine may be offered to adults 18 years of age and older who do not have contraindications.
- Although IMVAMUNE is not authorized for children and has not been studied in this population, they may be at higher risk of severe outcomes from monkeypox infection and may benefit from vaccination. There is a lack of evidence of safety and efficacy of IMVAMUNE pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) or post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) in this group, though indirect evidence of clinical testing of other vaccine types indicates that IMVAMUNE components are well tolerated in recipients under 18 years of age.
- IMVAMUNE has been administered to individuals aged 56 to 80 years of age with no difference in safety compared to younger adults.

