

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Deepika Lobo, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: June 8, 2023

RE: Imvamune® vaccine and mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) update

QUICK FACTS

- Imvamune® vaccine continues to be available for both pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for mpox.
- Most individuals who tested positive for mpox in Ontario never received Imvamune® vaccine. Those that received at least one dose were less likely to report symptoms or exhibit severe symptoms requiring hospitalization.
- There is on-going risk of mpox importation from individuals travelling from countries with low but ongoing transmission (e.g., United States, Mexico, Brazil, Korea, China, and Japan).
- Current data suggests gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men continue to make up the majority of cases. However, anyone with close, personal contact with someone who has mpox can get the infection.
- With the upcoming PRIDE and other festivals and celebrations starting in Ontario, please consider mpox in the differential diagnosis.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Public Health Ontario accredited online Rounds on [Mpox: Outbreak, Response and Vaccine Effectiveness](#) is on Monday, June 19, 2023 from 12-1 p.m. Register online [here](#).
- Mpox has a broad range of clinical presentations with common symptoms that include fever, new rash/lesions in the mouth, genital, and/or peri-anal region, rectal pain, lymphadenopathy
- Laboratory testing is helpful for reporting and case/contact management purposes. Testing for mpox is recommended when part of the differential diagnosis.
 - [Specimens](#) should be taken of skin lesions in patients with a rash; rectal swabs for those with rectal pain/lesions.
 - Nasopharyngeal swabs can be used when a patient does not have a rash but other compatible signs and symptoms.
- The anti-viral tecovirimat (TPOxx®) is available for mpox patients at risk (e.g., severely immunocompromised) or experiencing severe disease.
 - Antivirals can be ordered by clinicians by contacting the Ministry of Health Emergency Operations Centre (MEOC) at EOCoperations.MOH@ontario.ca or by calling the Healthcare Provider Hotline at 1-866-212-2272.

- **Imvamune® for pre-exposure prophylaxis**

- [Halton Region Public Health Sexual Health Clinics](#) continue to offer Imvamune® vaccine PrEP for those who meet the eligibility criteria according to [Ontario Ministry of Health's guidelines](#).
- For an individual to have optimal protection, they should have two doses of Imvamune® vaccine at least 28 days apart.
- Individuals with a history of smallpox vaccine should receive one dose of Imvamune®.
- Individuals who have had a laboratory-confirmed mpox infection are not eligible for Imvamune® vaccination at this time.

- **Imvamune® for post-exposure prophylaxis**

- The provision of Imvamune® for PEP requires an assessment of the risk of exposure by Public Health. Anyone who identifies as a contact of a confirmed or probable case of mpox should contact Public Health (by calling 311) for further assessment of exposure and post-exposure vaccination recommendation.
- The first dose should be offered ideally within 4 days (up to 14 days) from the date of the last exposure. If the risk of exposure is expected to continue beyond 28 days following the first dose, a second dose should be offered.
- Public Health will facilitate the administration of post-exposure vaccination through the individual's primary care provider.

KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS

- To lower the risk of getting and spreading the mpox virus, use condoms and practice safe sex including having fewer sexual partners, particularly those who are anonymous, regardless of whether they have symptoms.
- [Halton Region Public Health Sexual Health Clinics](#) are offering Imvamune® vaccine for **PrEP** by appointment only to individuals who meet [Ontario's current eligibility criteria](#).
- Eligible individuals can call 311 to book an appointment for their first or second dose; no OHIP card or ID is required.
- Walk-in appointments cannot be accommodated at this time due to limited vaccine supply and stringent storage and handling requirements.
- The most common side effects of Imvamune® vaccine include reactions at the injection site like pain, erythema, induration and swelling. The most common systemic reactions observed after vaccination are fatigue, headache, myalgia, and nausea.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Mpox \(formerly known as monkeypox\) Information for Residents, Halton Region Public Health](#)
- [Mpox \(formerly known as monkeypox\) Information for Physicians, Halton Region Public Health](#)
- [Current information about mpox, Public Health Ontario](#)
- [Current information about mpox, Ministry of Health](#)

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA.