

Mpox(Monkeypox)/Smallpox Vaccine After Care Sheet

IMVAMUNE vaccine for adults 18 years of age and older

What should I do after receiving the vaccine?

- **Wait for at least 15 minutes** after receiving your vaccine. Longer waiting times of 30 minutes may be recommended if there is concern about a possible vaccine allergy. Though uncommon, fainting or allergic reactions can occur after vaccination. Symptoms of an allergic reaction include hives (bumps on the skin that are often very itchy), swelling of your face, tongue or throat, or difficulty breathing. The clinic staff are prepared to manage these events should they occur.
- **Immediately inform a health care provider** at the clinic if you feel unwell while waiting. Do not leave the clinic if you are feeling unwell.
- Be sure to adhere to public health measures as advised.
- **Do not operate a vehicle** or other form of transportation for at least 15 to 30 minutes after being vaccinated (as advised by the health care provider) or if you are feeling unwell.

When should I return for my next dose of vaccine?

- If IMVAMUNE is used as post-exposure (PEP), and/or you received an anti-orthopoxvirus vaccine in the past; depending on predictable ongoing high risk of exposure, a second dose may be recommended 28 days after the first dose.
- National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that IMVAMUNE not be given within 4 weeks of an mRNA vaccine for COVID-19. However, in a high-risk exposure scenario, IMVAMUNE PEP should not be delayed due to receipt of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Bring your immunization record with you** for your next dose and tell the person providing the vaccine about any side effects you experienced after previous doses.



What should I expect in the few days after vaccine doses?

- Side effects can develop in the few days after receiving the vaccine. Although most of these side effects are not serious to your health, they may make you feel unwell for a few days; they will go away on their own.
 - » The most common side effects are pain, swelling, redness or itching where the needle was given. A cool, damp cloth or wrapped ice pack where the vaccine was given may help.
 - » Other symptoms may include fatigue, headache, muscle aches/pain, chills and nausea.
 - » In individuals with atopic dermatitis, it is anticipated that some local and systemic reactions may occur at a higher frequency and some may also experience a flare up or a worsening of their condition.
 - » In individuals who previously received an anti-orthopoxvirus vaccine (Smallpox vaccine; live (freeze-dried), Smallpox vaccine; live (frozen liquid) and/or IMVAMUNE), some local and systemic reactions may occur at a slightly higher frequency.
 - » If needed, pain medication (such as acetaminophen) may help with pain. Check with your health care provider or local public health services in your community if you need advice about medication.
- Serious side effects after receiving the vaccine are rare. However, **should you develop any serious symptoms or symptoms that could be an allergic reaction, call 9-1-1 right away.** Symptoms of an allergic reaction include:
 - » Hives (bumps on the skin that are often very itchy)
 - » Swelling of the face, tongue or throat
 - » Difficulty breathing
- **Seek medical care immediately if you develop symptoms that could indicate heart inflammation (myocarditis/pericarditis)** such as:
 - » Chest pain or discomfort
 - » Shortness of breath
 - » Fast or irregular heartbeat
- If you have any concerns about the symptoms you develop after receiving the vaccine, contact your health care provider or local public health services in your community for advice. Any serious side effects after vaccination should be reported to your local public health department.
- If you were advised to receive an additional dose of IMVAMUNE vaccine, tell the person providing the next dose about any side effects you experienced.

Things to remember

- If you are to receive other vaccines, inform your health care provider or local public health services in your community.
- If possible, **wait at least two weeks after vaccination or completing your vaccination series before starting drugs that suppress your immune system**, as recommended by your healthcare provider or local public health services in your community.
- **Keep this sheet or other immunization record** in a safe place.



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Adapted from Mpox: Vaccination clinic resources, by Public Health Agency of Canada, 2022, <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/monkeypox/health-professionals/vaccination-clinic-resources.html>