

<p>IN THIS ISSUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reminder: Sign-up for Vaccine Ordering Webinar ▪ Update: August to December 2024 Paid Vaccine Delivery and STI Medication Delivery Schedule ▪ Increased mpox infections in Ontario 	<p>FROM:</p> <p>Rebecca Shalansky, MD MPH CCFP FRCPC Associate Medical Officer of Health</p>
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<p>Key Messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sign-up for the vaccine ordering webinar. ▪ All non-influenza order requests will be on hold from October 11 to 18 inclusively to expedite influenza orders. ▪ Provincial rise in mpox since January 2024. ▪ Promote Imvamune® pre and post exposure vaccination in eligible patients. ▪ Maintain a high index of suspicion and low threshold to test for mpox in men who have sex with men with compatible symptoms.

Reminder: Sign-up for Vaccine Ordering Webinar

We're improving the way you order routine and influenza vaccines! The new digital vaccine order forms will be launching in late summer 2024.

Peel Region is hosting a webinar for health care providers who order vaccines from Peel Public Health. We invite those who order vaccines for their clinics to attend the webinar. Please share with your staff.

To register: [Webinar: new process for ordering vaccines - Peel Region](#).

Update: August to December 2024 Paid Vaccine Delivery and STI Medication Delivery Schedule

The August to December 2024 Paid Vaccine Delivery and STI Medication Delivery Schedule has been updated.

Please note that **all non-influenza order requests will be on hold from October 11 to 18 inclusively** to expedite influenza orders.

Mississauga	
August	Thursday, August 1 Tuesday, August 13
September	Thursday, September 5 Tuesday, September 17
October	Thursday, October 3 Blackout Period: October 11 to 18
November	Thursday, November 7 Tuesday, November 19
December	Thursday, December 5 Tuesday, December 17
Brampton	
August	Thursday, August 8 Tuesday, August 20
September	Thursday, September 12 Tuesday, September 24
October	Thursday, October 10 Blackout Period: October 11 to 18
November	Thursday, November 14 Tuesday, November 26
December	Thursday, December 12 Thursday, December 19

Increased mpox infections in Ontario

Since mid-January 2024, Ontario has seen an [increased incidence of mpox](#). Between January 1 and July 17, 2024, 78 laboratory-confirmed cases have been reported. In comparison, only 33 confirmed cases were reported between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Of the 78 confirmed cases, 60 (77%) were reported by Toronto Public Health. Since January 1, 2024, two confirmed mpox cases have been reported in Peel.

Most of the 2024 Ontario mpox cases have been unvaccinated, and travel has not been a significant

factor, which suggests ongoing and increasing community transmission.

The surge in cases in the recent weeks may coincide with attendance at Toronto Pride and/or Pride events occurring in other jurisdictions since June 1, 2024.

More information about mpox can be found at the [Ministry of Health Mpox Resources for Health Care Professionals](#) website.

Imvamune® pre and post exposure vaccination

Imvamune® is offered as a two-dose vaccine series, with at least 28 days between first and second doses for individuals eligible for pre-exposure or post-exposure vaccination. **Booster doses are not recommended at this time.**

In general, pre-exposure vaccination should be offered to high-risk gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men and their partners, as well as their immunocompromised household members.

Post-exposure vaccination should be offered to individuals who have had high risk exposure(s) to a probable or confirmed case of mpox, or within a setting where transmission is happening, if they have not received both doses of pre-exposure vaccination.

More information on Imvamune® eligibility can be found in the updated [Ministry of Health Mpox Vaccine \(Imvamune®\) Guidance for Health Care Providers](#).

- Peel Public Health (PPH) recommends health care providers encourage eligible patients to receive Imvamune® vaccination at PPH Healthy Sexuality Clinics. Please instruct eligible patients to call (905) 799-7700 to book an appointment.

Mpox testing

Although anyone can become exposed to and/or infected with mpox, maintain a high index of suspicion and low threshold to test for mpox in people with compatible signs and symptoms who self-identify as gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men.

Testing for mpox can be completed in the primary care setting. Asymptomatic testing is not recommended. Testing from skin lesions is recommended as they have high viral load. There is no need to submit specimens from other sites if submitting skin specimens.

Complete the following steps to submit specimen:

- Submit a maximum of three specimens per patient.
- Package specimens with an extra bag.
- The outer package should be labeled “**TU 0886**”, “**Temporary Certificate – TU 0886**” or “**Certificat Temporaire – TU 0886**”.

Refer to Public Health Ontario’s [Monkeypox Virus Test Information Sheet](#) and [Testing and Management of Monkeypox - Information for Primary Care Providers.pdf \(ontariohealth.ca\)](#) for additional information. **Please advise the patient to isolate at home while awaiting test results.**

Mpox reporting

Mpox is a reportable disease under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. Report suspect and confirmed cases of mpox immediately to Peel Public Health at 905 799-7700.

Please test or arrange testing for your patients **prior** to reporting suspected cases to Peel Public Health. Do not wait for laboratory confirmation to report.