

<p>IN THIS ISSUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Health Organization declares mpox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern</li> <li>Vaccine storage requirements for Prevnar 20</li> </ul>	<p>FROM:</p> <p>Rebecca Shalansky, MD MPH CCFP FRCPC Associate Medical Officer of Health</p>
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<p><b>Key Messages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On August 14, 2024, the World Health Organization declared mpox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.</li> <li>The mpox vaccine (Imvamune®) is available at Peel Public Health’s Healthy Sexuality Clinics for pre-exposure and post-exposure vaccination (by appointment).</li> <li>Ensure Imvamune® is offered as per eligibility criteria.</li> <li>Prevnar 20 vaccine has new storage requirements.</li> </ul>
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monitor for mpox Clade I and Ib. There has been no detection to date.

In Ontario, the vast majority of mpox clade II cases have occurred in the greater Toronto area amongst adult men who have sex with men. Close to 85% of mpox cases in Ontario have been unvaccinated or have only received one dose of Imvamune®.

Peel has had four cases of mpox clade II since the start of 2024.

**World Health Organization declares mpox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern**

On August 14, 2024, the [World Health Organization](#) declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) due to the emergence and spread of mpox clade I (also described as clade Ia) and a novel and more severe mpox strain (clade Ib) in several Central African countries.

Mpox clade Ib emerged in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2023. Greater than 95% of global mpox clade Ib cases have been reported in the DRC. Since July 2024, cases have been detected in neighbouring countries including Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi.

Mpox clade I is associated with a higher case fatality rate (up to 10%) relative to clade II. The severity of the newer sub-lineage, clade Ib, is currently unknown.

**There have been no reports of mpox clade I or clade Ib in Canada.** All reported mpox cases in Canada have been caused by mpox clade II. The National Microbiology Lab is using wastewater surveillance to

**Imvamune® is available at Peel Public Health’s Clinics for pre-exposure and post-exposure vaccination. Please instruct eligible patients to call (905) 799-7700 to book an appointment.** Peel Public Health encourages healthcare providers to continue to promote Imvamune® to eligible patients (see below).

Public Health Ontario (PHO) is currently reviewing its [Infection Prevention and Control \(IPAC\) recommendations for mpox in health care settings.](#)

**Imvamune® eligibility**

Imvamune® is authorized in Canada for protection against mpox for individuals 18 years of age and older. Imvamune® vaccine is:

- Two-dose series, given 28 days apart, and can be given concurrently (i.e., same day) or at any time before or after other live or non-live vaccines.
- Booster doses are not recommended at this time.

**Vaccination for the general public is not currently recommended.**

## Pre-exposure vaccination for high-risk individuals

The following people are considered at high risk for mpox exposure and are eligible for pre-exposure vaccination:

- Two-Spirit, non-binary, transgender, cisgender, intersex, or gender-queer individuals who self-identify as belonging to the gay, bisexual, pansexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) community **AND** who meet one or more of the following:
  - have more than one partner,
  - are in a relationship where at least one of the partners has other sexual partners,
  - have had a confirmed sexually transmitted infection within the last year,
  - have attended venues for sexual contact (for example, bath houses, sex clubs), or
  - have had anonymous sex recently (for example, using hookup apps).
- Sexual partners of individuals who meet the criteria above.
- Sex workers (regardless of gender, sex assigned at birth, or sexual orientation) or who are a sexual contact of an individual who engages in sex work.
- Staff or volunteers in sex-on-premises venues where workers may have contact with surfaces or objects that may be contaminated with mpox.
- Individuals who engage in sex tourism (regardless of gender, sex assigned at birth, or sexual orientation).
- Individuals who anticipate experiencing any of the above scenarios.

Household contacts of those identified for pre-exposure vaccination eligibility above who are moderately to severely immunocompromised or who are pregnant may be at higher risk for severe illness from mpox infection and may be considered for pre-exposure vaccination.

## Post-exposure vaccination

The use of Imvamune® for post exposure vaccination is recommended for 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.**

For additional information about the vaccine please refer to: [Mpox Vaccine \(Imvamune®\) Guidance for Health Care Providers](#)

## Resources

[Mpox \(monkeypox\) resources for health care professionals | ontario.ca](#)

## Vaccine storage requirements for Prevnar 20

Prevnar 20 (Pneu-C-20) is now used in the [high-risk programs and routine adult program for ages 65+ years](#).

During storage, a white deposit and clear supernatant may be observed in the pre-filled syringe containing the suspension.

To ensure safe administration of vaccine:

- syringes should be stored horizontally (laying flat on shelf) to minimize the re-dispersion time.
- do not use the vaccine if it cannot be re-suspended.
- do not use if large particulate matter or discoloration is found.

For more information, refer to the [product monograph](#).