

Mpox Vaccination Fact Sheet



What is Mpox?

Mpox (also known as Monkeypox) is caused by a virus named Monkeypox. Symptoms include fever, intense headache, muscle ache and swollen lymph node in the first few days of infection. Lesions in mouth and body appear about 1 to 3 days after onset of fever. The lesions progress from maculopapules to vesicles, pustules and followed by crusts within a period of 10 days to two weeks and the lesions typically progress simultaneously at all parts of the body. It is usually self-limiting with symptoms lasting from 14 to 21 days. The case fatality in previous Mpox outbreaks has been between 1-10%.

A person may catch the virus from infected animals (e.g. through bite, scratch and direct contact with their body fluids), infected humans (e.g. through respiratory droplets during prolonged face-to-face contact or direct contact with body fluids, such as during sexual contact) or contaminated materials.

What is Mpox Vaccine?

JYNNEOS* is a vaccine indicated for prevention of smallpox and Mpox disease in adults 18 years of age and older determined to be at high risk for smallpox or Mpox infection; post-exposure vaccination for individuals aged less than 18 with high risk exposure could be offered in emergency situation on case by case basis following a careful evaluation of risks and benefits. The vaccine is made using weakened live vaccinia virus and cannot cause smallpox or Mpox.

*JYNNEOS is indicated for emergency use on persons in target groups in accordance with the recommendations from the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases and the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (JSC) under the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health.

JSC does not recommend mass Mpox vaccination programme. They recommend the use of vaccine for post-exposure prophylaxis for contacts of confirmed cases as well as pre-exposure vaccination for individuals at high risk of exposure on a voluntary basis, including:

1. Individuals with high risk sexual practices, e.g. multiple sexual partners, sex workers, history of sexually transmitted infection within the past 12 months;
2. Healthcare workers responsible for caring of patients with confirmed Mpox;
3. Laboratory personnel working with zoonotic pox viruses;
4. Animal care personnel with high risk of exposure in case of Mpox occurrence in animals in Hong Kong.

How Mpox Vaccine is given?

Administer two doses# at least 28 days apart.

#One dose would be sufficient for persons with previous smallpox vaccination (persons born in Hong Kong before 1 January 1981 and persons born outside Hong Kong before May 1980).

0.1ml between the layers of the skin (intradermally)^ injection into volar surface of your forearm or at the deltoid muscle. If not suitable to receive intradermal injection, 0.5 ml subcutaneous injection to your upper arm.

^ Depending on vaccine supply locally, intradermal injection with 0.1ml of JYNNEOS would be considered for immunocompetent adults as an alternative dosing regime except for persons with history of keloid scar.

Possible side effects

Possible side effects include muscle pain, headache, fatigue, nausea, chills, and fever, along with pain, redness, swelling, firmness, and itching at the site of injection.

There is a remote chance that the vaccine could cause a severe allergic reaction. A severe allergic reaction would usually occur within a few minutes to 1 hour after getting a dose of the vaccine. For this reason, you should stay for observation for 15 minutes after vaccination. Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include difficulty breathing, swelling of your face and throat, a fast heartbeat, a bad rash all over your body, dizziness and weakness.

Persons who received JYNNEOS intradermally may experience minimal redness or firmness at the injection site lasting up to several months, some also reported small, firm lumps or discoloration of the skin.

Please refer to Package Insert of JYNNEOS for further information.

Can Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)-infected and immunocompromised persons receive Mpox Vaccine?

Yes. Local and systemic adverse reactions were reported at similar or lower frequencies in HIV-infected subjects as compared to those seen in non-HIV-infected individuals in overseas study. As those HIV-infected and immunocompromised are prone to complications after catching Mpox, they are strongly advised to receive Mpox vaccination.

Can pregnant or lactating women receive Mpox Vaccine?

Data are not available to assess the effects of JYNNEOS in the pregnant or lactating women. Available human data on JYNNEOS administered to pregnant women are insufficient to inform vaccine-associated risks in pregnancy. It is not known whether JYNNEOS is excreted in human milk. These animal studies revealed no evidence of harm to the fetus.

Can Mpox Vaccine be co-administered with other vaccines?

Vaccines for preventing Mpox should be given at least 4 weeks before or after an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

Reporting of adverse events after immunization

If your side effects are worrying you, please contact your doctor.

If you do seek medical attention, make sure you tell the healthcare professionals about your vaccination details and show them your vaccination record card if available. Healthcare professionals will then make proper assessment and, if necessary, report any adverse events following immunization that is deemed medically significant to the Department of Health for further action and assessment.

I have read and understood all information as provided in the factsheet, and I consent to the administration of JYNNEOS Vaccination to me / my child / my ward** under the Mpox vaccination programme; and the Department of Health and the relevant organizations' access to and use of (i) my personal data contained herein and (ii) my / my child / my ward** clinical data held by the Hospital Authority and the relevant healthcare professionals, for the purpose of continuously monitoring the safety and clinical events associated with JYNNEOS Vaccination by the Department of Health insofar as such access and use are necessary for the purpose.

(**Please delete inappropriate part)



Centre for Health Protection



Department of Health



For further information on Mpox, please visit the website at

<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/105683.html>

