

What to expect after receiving your Monkeypox vaccine

FACTSHEET November 2022



JYNNEOS[®] is a vaccine used to prevent infection with smallpox and monkeypox viruses in people aged 18 years and older at high risk for monkeypox infection. If given before exposure or within 4 days of exposure, JYNNEOS[®] may reduce the chance of infection. If given between 5 and 14 days after exposure, it may lower the severity of symptoms.

SIDE EFFECTS AFTER VACCINATION

You may have some side effects after receiving the vaccine. Most side effects are mild, short-lived and occur within a few days of receiving the vaccine. People with eczema may be more likely to have side effects after vaccination.

Most common side effects

- Pain or redness at the injection site
- Swelling, firmness or itching near the injection site
- Muscle aches
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Chills
- Fever

You should **seek medical attention** after vaccination if you:

- Think you are having an allergic reaction. Call 000 if you experience severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, or collapsing.
- Have chest pain, pressure or discomfort, irregular heartbeat, skipped beats or 'fluttering', fainting, or shortness of breath
- Are worried about a potential side effect or have new or unexpected symptoms.

Is the vaccine safe?

Yes – while you may experience some mild side effects, there are no notable serious adverse events based on available data from clinical studies in over 7,800 people. The JYNNEOS[®] vaccine is made using weakened live vaccinia virus and cannot cause smallpox or monkeypox. While JYNNEOS[®] is not registered for use in Australia and has not been formally assessed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), all available information on its safety and effectiveness has been evaluated by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) to make it available via a special emergency pathway. JYNNEOS[®] is licensed in the United States of America for adults aged 18 years and older and the equivalent product with the same formulation and strength is registered for use in adults in Europe (as IMVANEX[®]) and Canada (as IMVAMUNE[®]).

Can everyone who's eligible get the vaccine?

No - you **must not** receive JYNNEOS[®] if you have had a severe or immediate reaction to a previous dose of JYNNEOS[®], or any ingredient of the JYNNEOS[®] vaccine (such as gentamicin, ciprofloxacin, egg or chicken protein, benzonase). You should also talk to your vaccine provider if you:

- have had a known or possible exposure to monkeypox in the last 14 days
- have previously had monkeypox
- have eczema
- are living with HIV or have a weakened immune system
- have been recently (within last 28 days) vaccinated against monkeypox, COVID-19, or any other disease, or have ever been vaccinated against smallpox
- have ever had a severe or immediate reaction to any vaccine or medicine.

How many doses do I need?

A complete vaccination course with JYNNEOS[®] requires two doses given by an injection under the skin. The second dose of MPX vaccine is now available for eligible people and can be given 28 days from the first. While a single dose does provide some protection, note that you will not be fully vaccinated and getting the most benefit from this vaccine until 2 weeks after your second shot of JYNNEOS[®].

How can I protect myself while waiting for my second dose?

Once you've had your first dose, you should continue to protect yourself from infection:

- Limit the number of sexual partners you have or create a sex bubble (a select group of people where you agree to only having sex with each other).
- When having sex, limit skin to skin contact and contact with bodily fluids – avoid kissing or cuddling; use lube; wash your hands, face and body parts after sex; use a condom for receptive anal sex.
- Visit <https://thorneharbour.org/sexual-health/monkeypox/> for more tips on behaviours and practices that may limit the risk of monkeypox.

Read more at: betterhealth.vic.gov.au/monkeypox-mpx