



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Communicable Diseases and Immunization Service
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Date: September 27, 2022

Administrative Circular: 2022:39

ATTN: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

**Re: Update to Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2: Immunization,
Part 4 – Biological Products**

Part 4 – Biological Products

Monkeypox Vaccine

Smallpox and Monkeypox Vaccine (Live attenuated, non-replicating): IMVAMUNE®

The following updates have been made per NACI's [Updated interim guidance on Imvamune® in the context of ongoing monkeypox outbreaks](#) for the off-label intradermal (ID) administration of a fractional dose of Imvamune® vaccine as a second dose following a first dose given subcutaneously (SC). This recommendation is in the context of limited Imvamune® supply and intended as a dose-sparing strategy to maximize vaccine coverage for those at highest risk of exposure to the monkeypox virus.

• Doses and Schedule:

- The standard SC dose regimen and the alternate SC and ID dose regimen have been added.
- Immunocompetent individuals 18 years of age and older can be immunized using either the ID or SC administration route for the second dose.
- Immunocompromised individuals, individuals less than 18 years of age, and individuals of any age with a history of developing keloid scars, should be immunized using the standard SC dose regimen only.
- Footnote B has been updated to indicate that individuals who have previously been vaccinated against smallpox should receive 1 dose for either pre or post-exposure prophylaxis, with the exception of those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised for whom 2 doses are recommended regardless of previous smallpox vaccination.
- Footnote C has been added to indicate that if a first dose of IMVAMUNE® was inadvertently given using the ID route, the dose should be considered valid.

• Administration:

- ID administration content has been added, including a link to [Appendix B – Administration of Biological Products, 14.8 Intradermal Injections](#) for further information.

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- Storage and stability content has been added for when the vial is used for multiple doses.
- **Precautions:**
 - Content added regarding the use of the standard SC dose regimen only for immunocompromised individuals, individuals less than 18 years of age, and individuals of any age with a history of developing keloid scars.
- **Adverse Events:**
 - Content added regarding the increased frequency and duration of moderate/severe measured erythema and/or induration with ID injection compared to SC, per the referenced study. The frequency of systemic adverse events did not differ among the two groups.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated August 26, 2022
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated September 27, 2022

The [Monkeypox Vaccine Client Information Sheet](#) has been revised to indicate that the vaccine is given as 2 doses, at least 4 weeks apart. In addition, content has been added to indicate that local reactions are more common and last longer when the vaccine is given intradermally compared to subcutaneously.

A new resource, [Intradermal Administration of Imvamune®](#), has been developed as a summary document of available resources to support healthcare providers with ID administration. This resource can be found on the [BCCDC Monkeypox Webpage](#) under Immunization.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Stephanie Meier, Senior Practice Leader, BCCDC (telephone: 604-707-2577 / email: stephanie.meier@bccdc.ca).

Sincerely,



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