



## JYNNEOS Vaccine for Mpox: Frequently Asked Questions

The JYNNEOS vaccine is recommended for people who are at high risk for mpox infection.  
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### **What is the JYNNEOS vaccine, and how does it work?**

The JYNNEOS vaccine is approved in the U.S. for the prevention of mpox and smallpox. The vaccine contains a vaccinia virus, which is a virus related to the mpox and smallpox viruses, that has been weakened, cannot copy itself in human cells, and cannot spread to other parts of the body or people.

The vaccine can help protect people against mpox when given before exposure to the virus. Experts believe the vaccine also can reduce the risk of infection if given within four days after exposure and reduce the risk of serious illness if given within 14 days after exposure. The sooner you get the vaccine after exposure the more likely it is to work.

### **Who is eligible to be vaccinated?**

Visit <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Epidemiology-and-Emerging-Infections/CT-Mpox> to learn more about eligibility and where you can get vaccinated.

### **Who should NOT get vaccinated?**

Vaccination is *not* recommended for most individuals who currently or previously were sick with mpox.

People who had a severe allergic reaction to a previous dose of the JYNNEOS vaccine or an ingredient in the vaccine (such as gentamicin, ciprofloxacin, or egg protein) should not get vaccinated.

Check with your healthcare provider for more information.

### **How many doses do I need? Will I need a booster shot?**

People should get two doses at least four weeks apart. Healthcare providers and researchers are currently working on studies to learn more about the JYNNEOS vaccine's effectiveness, including how long protection lasts. CDC will use the results of these studies to make any future vaccine recommendations, including whether booster shots may be needed.

### **How long does the vaccine take to work?**

It takes time for your body to build protection from the vaccine. You will start to build protection in the days and weeks after your first dose and are considered fully protected two weeks after your second dose.

### **How well does the vaccine work?**

Data from clinical trials and real-world data collected during the current outbreak show that the JYNNEOS vaccine is effective at reducing the risk of mpox disease with two doses providing the best protection. Vaccination is an important tool in stopping the spread of mpox. People who are vaccinated should continue to use other prevention measures such as avoiding sex and other close physical contact with people who have symptoms of mpox.

## **How is the vaccine given?**

The vaccine can be given between the top layers of your skin; this is called intradermal vaccination and can be placed in your forearm, upper back, or skin of your shoulder. If preferred, you can ask for the vaccine to be given to you “subcutaneously”. This means the vaccine will be injected in the fat layer underneath the skin on the back of your upper arm. If you are under 18 years old, the vaccine must be given subcutaneously. Getting the vaccine intradermally or subcutaneously appears to be equally effective against mpox.

## **What are common side effects of the vaccine?**

Side effects are common but usually mild. Most people have redness, swelling and pain where they got the shot. Tiredness, headache, and muscle pain can also occur after vaccination.

## **What should I do if I have a serious health problem after vaccination?**

Signs of a severe allergic reaction include hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, and weakness. If you think you are having a severe allergic reaction, call 911 or go to the nearest hospital. Call your health care provider if you have other side effects that concern you. If you do not have a provider, call 211 to be connected to care.

## **Can people with a weakened immune system or other medical conditions get vaccinated?**

Yes. JYNNEOS has been studied in people with HIV and atopic dermatitis, and no severe adverse events were identified.

## **Should people who previously received a smallpox vaccine get vaccinated?**

People who were vaccinated against smallpox prior to this outbreak should get the JYNNEOS vaccine if they are eligible, as protection from smallpox vaccine may lessen over time. People who previously received smallpox vaccine should still get two doses of vaccine.

## **Can I get mpox or smallpox from the JYNNEOS vaccine?**

No. The virus in the vaccine is weakened and cannot copy in human cells. The vaccine cannot cause mpox, smallpox or vaccinia in the person getting vaccinated or those around them.

For more information about mpox, visit <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Epidemiology-and-Emerging-Infections/CT-Mpox>.

This information is intended for educational purposes only and is not intended to replace consultation with a health care professional.

Adapted from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and NYC Health