

Thursday, 29 June 2023

Health Protection



Information on the smallpox vaccination

What is the smallpox (MVA) vaccination?

You are being offered a smallpox vaccination to help protect you against mpox.

The vaccine is manufactured in Europe by Bavarian Nordic¹. When you are given the vaccine, your immune system (the body's natural defence system) produces antibodies against the smallpox virus. These antibodies should also protect you against the mpox virus.

The vaccine contains a virus which has been modified so that it cannot grow in the human body. This Modified Vaccinia Ankara (MVA) vaccine was developed as a much safer form of the smallpox vaccine used widely in the UK and abroad into the 1970s. The MVA vaccine does not contain smallpox virus and cannot spread or cause smallpox.

[1] The vaccine is called Imvanex in the UK and Europe, Jynneos in the US and Imvamune in Canada. These all contain the same MVA vaccine and are made by the same company.

What is MVA used for?

As mpox is caused by a virus similar to smallpox, vaccines against smallpox are expected to prevent or reduce the severity of the mpox infection.

Imvanex vaccine has been authorised by the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to protect against smallpox.

Although the same MVA vaccine is licensed for use against mpox in the US, the vaccine is not yet licensed for use against mpox in the UK. Because of this and because you may be receiving vaccine which has been packed and labelled for use in the US, the vaccine you have is considered "unlicensed" or "off-licence" in the UK. This should not make any difference to you, as your health care professional is recommending the vaccine in line with national advice.

The Public Health Agency and the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) recommends the use of MVA vaccine as part of the response to cases of mpox.

This leaflet is for those people being offered the smallpox vaccine to protect against mpox. As mpox is caused by a virus similar to smallpox, vaccines against smallpox are expected to prevent or reduce the severity of the mpox infection.

Details

Format

4 pages, A4, PDF only

Target group

People receiving the smallpox vaccination to protect against mpox

Downloads

Attachment

Size

[Mpox Vaccination Leaflet](#) 1.83 MB

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