



## **JYNNEOS Vaccine for Monkeypox: Frequently Asked Questions**

The JYNNEOS vaccine is recommended for people ages 18 and older at high risk for monkeypox infection. At this time, people who had monkeypox during this outbreak are not recommended to get vaccinated.

### **What is the JYNNEOS vaccine, and how does it work?**

The JYNNEOS vaccine has been approved in the U.S. for the prevention of monkeypox and smallpox. The vaccine contains vaccinia virus, which is a virus related to the monkeypox and smallpox viruses, that has been weakened, cannot copy itself in human cells, and cannot spread to other parts of the body or people. Experts believe the vaccine can help protect people against monkeypox when given before exposure to the virus, 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.

### **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.

### **How many doses do I need?**

The JYNNEOS vaccine is a two-dose vaccine. People should get the second dose at least four weeks after the first dose. A person will start to build protection in the days and weeks after their first dose but will not have full immunity from the vaccine until two weeks after the second dose. It is OK to wait longer than four weeks for the second dose. NYC is delaying second doses so that more people can get first doses and have some protection. People who receive the first dose of the vaccine will be contacted by the Health Department when second doses are available.

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

Clinical trial data shows the vaccine should be effective in preventing monkeypox. We do not have real-world data on vaccine effectiveness and do not know how well the vaccine will prevent monkeypox in the current outbreak. For this reason, it is important to continue other prevention measures such as avoiding sex and other close physical contact with people who have symptoms of monkeypox.

### **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 hospital. Call your health care provider if you have other side effects that concern you. If you do not have a provider, call **311** to be connected to care.

Your provider is required to report serious adverse reactions to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), but you can also report to VAERS at [vaers.hhs.gov](https://vaers.hhs.gov) or by calling 800-822-7967. VAERS staff members do not give medical advice.

**Can people with HIV, a weakened immune system or skin conditions get vaccinated?**

Yes. JYNNEOS has been studied in people with HIV and atopic dermatitis (eczema), and no severe adverse reactions were identified. People with these conditions or a weakened immune system may have more severe disease if infected with monkeypox, making vaccination especially important. However, people with a weakened immune system may be less likely to build an effective immune response following vaccination, so it is important to continue other prevention measures even after vaccination.

**Can people with a heart condition get vaccinated?**

Clinical trials did not show an increased risk of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart) following vaccination. However, because there is an increased risk from other vaccines, it is possible there is an increased risk from JYNNEOS in people who have three or more major risk factors for heart conditions, such as hypertension (high blood pressure), diabetes, high cholesterol and smoking.

**Can people who are pregnant or breastfeeding get vaccinated?**

Yes. People who are pregnant or breastfeeding and had a recent exposure to monkeypox should get vaccinated. There is limited information on the use of JYNNEOS in people who are pregnant or breastfeeding. Studies on animals have shown no evidence of harm to a developing fetus. Because the virus in the vaccine cannot copy itself in human cells, there is likely no risk to breastfed infants.

**Who cannot get vaccinated?**

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

**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 exposed to monkeypox, as protection from the smallpox vaccine may lessen over time.

**Can I get monkeypox or smallpox from the JYNNEOS vaccine?**

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

**Can I get the vaccine at the same time as other vaccines?**

The JYNNEOS vaccine may be given before, after or at the same time as other vaccines. The exceptions are the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines. People at increased risk of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart), particularly young adult males, might consider waiting four weeks after their JYNNEOS vaccine to get a dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. However, if vaccination is recommended due to a known exposure to monkeypox, you should get the JYNNEOS vaccine even if you recently got the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

For more information, including about vaccine eligibility and where to get vaccinated, visit [nyc.gov/monkeypox](https://www.nyc.gov/monkeypox). Text MONKEYPOX to 692-692 for the most up-to-date information.