UPDATED ATAGI CLINICAL GUIDANCE ON VACCINATION AGAINST MPX (MONKEYPOX)

Version 3.0 24 August 2022

Changes since previous version

- New advice on intradermal administration of JYNNEOS[®] (MVA-BN)
- New advice on smallpox vaccination after confirmed monkeypox infection
- Updated storage and handling advice for JYNNEOS[®]

Summary

- This guidance is on the use of smallpox vaccines for protection against monkeypox virus infection. This advice will continue to be updated as new information emerges during the current multicountry MPX (monkeypox) outbreak.
- Monkeypox is usually a self-limiting illness, and most people recover within a few weeks. However, severe illness can occur, particularly in immunocompromised people.
- Two vaccines are available in Australia for prevention of monkeypox: the 3rd generation JYNNEOS[®] (MVA-BN: modified vaccinia Ankara vaccine-Bavarian Nordic) and the 2nd generation ACAM2000[™]
- Limited supplies of the 3rd generation JYNNEOS[®] have been secured by the Commonwealth and some States and Territories. The initial distribution of JYNNEOS[®] in Australia is taking place through State- and Territory-based programs.
- JYNNEOS®:
 - JYNNEOS[®] is a highly-attenuated vaccine that is replication-deficient.
 - The primary course of JYNNEOS[®] is two doses, with a minimum dose interval of 28 days.
 - Standard administration of JYNNEOS[®] is by subcutaneous injection.
 - JYNNEOS[®] can be administered by intradermal injection as an <u>alternative</u> route for preexposure prophylaxis. Each intradermal dose is 0.1ml (20% of the standard subcutaneous dose). The intradermal route is <u>not</u> recommended for people with <u>severe</u> <u>immunocompromise</u>, and not preferred for the first dose of post-exposure prophylaxis.
 - JYNNEOS[®] is associated with fewer potential adverse events compared to ACAM2000[™] and is safe to use in people with immunocompromise or atopic dermatitis. JYNNEOS[®] may also be used in children or during pregnancy, after a risk-benefit assessment.
- ACAM2000™:

- ACAM2000[™] is a live-attenuated vaccine that is replication-competent.
- Specialised training and methods are required to administer ACAM2000[™] by percutaneous scarification using a bifurcated needle, as a single dose.
- Post-vaccination wound care is required for ACAM2000[™] to protect vulnerable contacts and prevent self-inoculation from the vaccination site.
- ACAM2000[™] cannot be used in severely immunocompromised people, people with active atopic dermatitis, in pregnancy or in infants under 12 months of age. It is associated with rare but serious adverse events.
- Overall, JYNNEOS[®] is the preferred vaccine for both pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and postexposure prophylaxis (PEP), due to its more favourable safety profile and comparative ease of administration. Supply considerations may affect availability of JYNNEOS[®]. For healthy nonpregnant adults, where JYNNEOS[®] is not suitable or not available, ACAM2000[™] has an established profile and may be considered for PrEP or PEP.
- The key risk groups recommended by Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) to receive vaccination are:
 - 1. Post exposure prophylaxis (PEP): Anyone categorised by public health authorities as a high risk monkeypox contact in the past 14 days.
 - 2. Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) at increased risk of monkeypox infection.

Proxy markers for increased risk of monkeypox infection may include:

- Those living with HIV.
- A recent history of multiple sexual partners, participating in group sex, or attending sex on premises venues.
- Other proxy markers, such as recent sexually transmitted infection or those being advised to take HIV PrEP due to number of sexual partners. Whilst many people prescribed HIV PrEP are monogamous with a HIV positive partner, this category can also capture those with multiple partners who are at high risk.
- Recommendation from other service providers, such as sexual health clinics.
- 3. Sex workers, particularly those whose clients are in high-risk categories listed above.
- 4. Anyone in the above high-risk categories who is planning travel to a country experiencing a significant outbreak, with vaccination recommended 4-6 weeks prior to departure.
- 5. Anyone at greater risk of a poor clinical outcome from monkeypox infection, such as individuals with immunocompromise.
- 6. Immunisation providers who are administering the ACAM2000[™] smallpox vaccine.
- The risk-benefit assessment discussion for individual vaccination is complex and depends on emerging epidemiology, exposure risk, contraindications and precautions, and alternative options to vaccination. Clinical resources are available to support this decision-making process.
- Healthcare workers who will be administering ACAM2000[™] can be offered either vaccine if they have not previously received a smallpox vaccine.
- In those individuals who have received a smallpox vaccine in the past, a booster dose is recommended if the previous dose of a smallpox vaccine was given more than <u>ten years</u> prior. JYNNEOS[®] (administered via either the subcutaneous or intradermal routes) and ACAM2000[™] are both suitable vaccines for a booster; options may be discussed as part of an individual risk-benefit assessment.

Background

The virus and transmission

Monkeypox virus is a DNA virus in the Orthopoxvirus genus, which also includes the variola virus (which causes smallpox) and vaccinia virus (which is used in smallpox vaccines). Monkeypox was first discovered in 1958 and since then multiple outbreaks have been reported, mostly in western and central African nations including the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria. In 2003, there was an outbreak in the United States of America (USA) caused by imported rodents from Africa, in which cases were reported in both humans and pet prairie dogs¹. There are two genomic clades: clade I (formerly known as the Congo Basin or Central African clade) and clade II (formerly known as the West African clade) which is usually less severe. Monkeypox generally causes less severe disease than smallpox.

Monkeypox virus can be transmitted from infected animals to people, or from person to person. The natural animal reservoir for monkeypox virus remains unknown. Monkeypox does not spread easily between people. Transmission between people occurs via:

- Close contact with lesions, body fluids,
- Respiratory droplets in prolonged face-to-face contact or
- Fomites (such as contaminated clothing or linen).

Transmission can be prevented using infection control measures.

Increasing numbers of cases of human monkeypox have been reported sporadically in non-enzootic countries over the last 2 years. On 11 May 2022, the World Health Organization alerted member states to a multi-country outbreak of monkeypox, originating from clade II of the virus². From the beginning of May to 7 August 2022, 27,814 laboratory-confirmed cases have been reported in 89 countries, including Australia, with most cases in Europe and North America³. Official case numbers are likely to be an underestimate, due to under-reporting.

Although anyone can contract monkeypox, global data in 2022 to date show higher levels of transmission within – but not exclusive to – the sexual networks of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM).

Clinical features

The incubation period is between 5–21 days⁴. Monkeypox illness may begin with a prodrome of swollen lymph nodes, fever, headache, muscle aches, joint pain and back pain, followed by a <u>rash</u> within 1–3 days after fever onset. In typical cases, the rash tends be more concentrated on face and extremities rather than the trunk. However, in the current outbreak the rash was also observed in the genital, perianal and rectal areas, and may present as a single skin lesion⁵. Proctitis, which may be painful, has also been described⁶. The illness may also present without prodromal symptoms, with the rash being the first sign of infection⁷. The evolution of skin lesions typically progresses through four stages: macular, papular, vesicular, and pustular, before scabbing over. A person with monkeypox may be infectious from the onset of any symptoms until all scabs have fallen off, leaving intact skin underneath. Resolution of skin lesions may take up to four weeks from prodrome onset.

Monkeypox is usually self-limiting and most people recover within a few weeks⁴. The risk of severe disease and complications such as secondary infection, sepsis, pneumonia and encephalitis is likely be increased in people with immunocompromise, young children and pregnant women, but can occur in anyone with

monkeypox. Symptoms such as severe oropharyngeal or anorectal pain may also lead to hospitalisation⁵. Treatment with antiviral medication and vaccinia immunoglobulin (VIG) is available for people at risk of severe disease; refer to the <u>National Treatment Guidelines</u>.

Vaccine information

Smallpox vaccines contain the vaccinia virus, a poxvirus related to both smallpox and monkeypox. Previous guidance in Australia and other countries on the use of smallpox vaccine has focused on protection against smallpox infection. Vaccines using the vaccinia virus for the prevention of smallpox are likely to be effective against monkeypox (refer to <u>Vaccine effectiveness below</u>).

There are two types of smallpox vaccine available in Australia for use against monkeypox:

- The third-generation vaccine: the replication-deficient modified vaccinia Ankara (MVA-BN) vaccine. The MVA-BN vaccine, known variously as JYNNEOS/Imvamune/Imvanex (Bavarian Nordic), is registered for use in USA, United Kingdom, Canada and other countries for prevention of smallpox and monkeypox. Limited supplies of JYNNEOS[®] are available from the Commonwealth and via States and Territory programs.
- The second-generation vaccine containing replication-competent live attenuated vaccinia virus: ACAM2000[™] (Emergent BioSolutions) is available from the National Medical Stockpile on a request basis for State and Territory programs.

Category	ACAM2000™	JYNNEOS [®]
Manufacturer	Emergent BioSolutions	Bavarian Nordic
Approved age for use*	≥18 years	≥18 years*
Presentation	Multidose vial containing about 100 doses after reconstitution. Diluent supplied in separate vial.	Single dose vial containing 0.5mL each
Volume/strength	1.0-5.0 x 10 ⁸ plaque-forming units (PFU)/mL or 2.5-12.5 x 10 ⁵ PFU/dose	At least 0.5×10^8 infectious U/ 0.5 mL single dose
Primary schedule	1 dose	Subcutaneous route: 2 doses of 0.5mL each Intradermal route: 2 doses of 0.1mL each Doses should be at least 28 days apart. The second dose does not need to be repeated if administered more than 28 days after the first dose.
Administration route	Percutaneous (scarification)	Subcutaneous (SC) injection (standard route) Intradermal (ID) injection (alternative route)

Table 1: Summary of vaccine characteristics

		If a vaccine course is commenced using the subcutaneous route for the first dose, it can be completed by intradermal injection for the second dose, and vice versa.
Ingredients	2.5-12.5 x 10 ⁵ plaque forming units of live vaccinia virus per dose	0.5 x 10 ⁸ to 3.95 x 10 ⁸ infectious units of live modified vaccinia Ankara- Bavarian Nordic virus
Excipients	 6-8 mM HEPES buffer (pH 6.5-7.5) 2% albumin USP 0.5 - 0.7% sodium chloride USP 	10 mM Tris (tromethamine)140 mM sodium chloride
	 5% mannitol USP Diluent: 	May contain residual amounts of chicken host-cell DNA (≤20 mcg),
	 50% (v/v) Glycerol USP 0.25% (v/v) Phenol USP 	chicken protein (\leq 500 mcg), benzonase (\leq 0.0025 mcg), gentamicin (\leq 0.163
	• Water	mcg) and ciprofloxacin (≤ 0.005 mcg).

*JYNNEOS[®] is available for use in Australia under s18A (emergency use provision) of the *Therapeutic* Goods Act 1989. It is approved for use by the US FDA, UK MHRA and other regulatory bodies for use from ≥18 years.

Vaccine recommendations

Vaccination with either JYNNEOS[®] or ACAM2000[™] may be used for both pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) against monkeypox. A shared clinical decision-making approach is appropriate, based on a joint assessment of individual risks, benefits and vaccine availability.

JYNNEOS[®] is the preferred vaccine for both PrEP and PEP, due to its more favourable safety profile and comparative ease of administration. For healthy non-pregnant adults, where JYNNEOS[®] is not suitable or not available, ACAM2000[™] may be considered for PrEP or PEP.

Intradermal administration of JYNNEOS[®] is an alternative route of administration to subcutaneous injection that is also a dose-sparing strategy. Intradermal administration is currently recommended for PrEP only, in individuals who do not have <u>severe immunocompromise</u>, defined according to ATAGI guidance for other vaccines. Data from small studies suggest that immunogenicity of two primary doses of the MVA-BN vaccine, when administered intradermally (at 20% of standard dose; or 0.1mL) is similar to that when administered subcutaneously (at standard dose of 0.5mL), but with increased rate of local adverse events. However, intradermal injection is a specialised technique and there is a risk of inadvertent subcutaneous injection, leading to suboptimal immune responses. Thus, programs considering intradermal vaccination should ensure vaccinators are adequately supervised and trained prior to utilising this method.

The routes of administration for JYNNEOS[®] are considered to be interchangeable for the purpose of completing a two-dose course. If the first dose of JYNNEOS[®] is administered subcutaneously, the second dose can be administered via the intradermal route, and vice versa.

ACAM2000[™] is associated with rare but serious adverse events and cannot be used in severely immunocompromised people, in pregnancy, people with active eczema or in infants below 12 months of age. JYNNEOS[®] is associated with fewer potential adverse events and is safe to use in people with immunocompromise. JYNNEOS[®] should be used in preference to ACAM2000[™] for people with a history of eczema, in pregnancy and breastfeeding, and in children on an off-label basis, based on a risk-benefit assessment.

Individuals who are diagnosed with laboratory-confirmed monkeypox are not recommended to receive vaccination against monkeypox in the short to medium term after recovery, as their immunity will be boosted by natural infection.

Vaccination as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)

JYNNEOS[®] is preferred over ACAM2000TM for use for PrEP. Prioritisation for PrEP should take into account supply considerations, with at-risk population groups receiving priority over other groups, such as healthcare workers and laboratory workers, if supply is constrained. Individuals with <u>severe</u> <u>immunocompromise</u> should be prioritised to receive the second dose of JYNNEOS[®] as close to 28 days after the first dose as possible. Fractional dosing of JYNNEOS[®] at 20% of the standard dose via the intradermal route can be considered as a strategy to extend vaccine supply.

ATAGI recommends JYNNEOS[®] vaccination for:

• Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) (age ≥16) at increased risk of monkeypox infection.

Proxy markers for increased risk of monkeypox infection may include:

- Those living with HIV.
- A recent history of multiple sexual partners, participating in group sex, or attending sex on premises venues.
- Other proxy markers, such as recent sexually transmitted infection or those being advised to take HIV PrEP due to number of sexual partners. Whilst many people prescribed HIV PrEP are monogamous with a HIV positive partner, this category can also capture those with multiple partners who are at high risk.
- Recommendation from other service providers, such as sexual health clinics.
- Sex workers, particularly those whose clients belong to high-risk categories above.
- Anyone in the above risk categories who is planning travel to a country experiencing a significant outbreak, with vaccination recommended 4-6 weeks prior to departure.
- Anyone at greater risk of a poor clinical outcome from monkeypox infection, such as individuals with immunocompromise.
- Immunisation providers who are administering the ACAM2000[™] smallpox vaccine.

Wider vaccination of low-risk GBMSM or the general population is not recommended at this time, due to the current epidemiology, low risk of infection and limited vaccine supply.

For individuals who have received a smallpox vaccine in the past (prior to the 2022 outbreak) and are currently recommended to receive vaccination, a booster dose is recommended if the previous dose of a smallpox vaccine was given more than ten years prior. The booster dose can be administered via either subcutaneous or intradermal routes.

Vaccination is recommended for healthcare workers who will be administering ACAM2000[™] vaccination to others and who have not received a smallpox vaccine in the past. Those who have previously received a smallpox vaccine are likely to have some residual protection (see <u>Vaccine effectiveness</u>) but may consider receiving a dose of JYNNEOS[®] as a booster dose. Healthcare workers who will only be administering the JYNNEOS[®] vaccine and otherwise have no anticipated occupational exposure to monkeypox or other replication-competent Orthopoxviruses are not routinely recommended a smallpox vaccine.

Vaccination may also be considered for PrEP for healthcare workers at higher risk of exposure to patients with monkeypox, including primary care, sexual health clinics, hospital staff and others, based on local risk assessments. The risk of transmission should be also minimised by using <u>infection control measures</u>.

Laboratory workers working with smallpox or monkeypox virus, identified through local laboratory risk assessments, may also be considered for PrEP. Refer to the <u>PHLN Laboratory case definition</u> document. Individuals working in these environments should review their own history of smallpox vaccination, as booster doses may be appropriate for those with new or ongoing risk of exposure to monkeypox⁸.

Previously vaccinated healthcare workers and laboratory workers with ongoing risk of occupational exposure may be considered for a booster. Supply of smallpox vaccines may impact on the availability of specific type of vaccine for those at occupational risk, with either of the current vaccines appropriate for this indication following an individual risk-benefit discussion. A booster dose should be administered if the previous dose of a smallpox vaccine was given more than ten years prior. Subsequent boosters for those at continuing occupational risk should be given at ten-yearly intervals.

Vaccination for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)

PEP should be considered as soon as possible after first exposure to a confirmed monkeypox case. Vaccination within 4 days of first exposure to an infectious case will provide the highest likelihood of prevention of disease. Vaccination between 4 to 14 days is anticipated to attenuate disease.

For guidance on who should consider receiving a smallpox vaccine (JYNNEOS[®] or ACAM2000[™]) for PEP, seek the advice of the local Public Health Unit and refer to the <u>CDNA Monkeypox Virus Infection Series of</u> <u>National Guidelines</u>. Individuals considered for vaccination for PEP may include high-risk contacts who may be healthcare workers, household contacts, sexual contacts, or contacts in other settings where a risk for transmission has been identified. Individuals who have received a replication-competent smallpox vaccine (not MVA-BN) previously (prior to the 2022 outbreak), and who have been identified to be eligible for PEP, should receive PEP vaccination as soon as possible, regardless of the timing of the previous smallpox vaccine dose.

JYNNEOS[®] is the preferred vaccine for PEP. Where a decision is made to provide PEP, and JYNNEOS[®] is to be used, a single dose of JYNNEOS[®] should be given via the subcutaneous route. If monkeypox infection has not occurred and there is an ongoing exposure risk, the second dose of JYNNEOS[®] should be given from at least 28 days after the first, as completion of a primary course for long-term protection. The second dose may be given as either 0.5mL via the subcutaneous route or 0.1mL via the intradermal route.

A single dose is recommended if ACAM2000[™] is used for PEP, noting this vaccine is contraindicated if the individual is immunosuppressed.

Risk-benefit considerations for vaccination

A recommendation for vaccination should be based on shared decision-making between the patient and clinician. When considering vaccinating for either PrEP or PEP, the following factors should be considered:

- Severity of monkeypox: Monkeypox in humans is generally self-limiting and is less severe than smallpox, although lesions may be painful and require supportive treatment, including hospital admission. Overall case fatality rates ranged from around 3-10% in a recent review of outbreaks in the West and Central African settings⁹. In the first 17,000 cases reported in European Union/European Economic Area countries, there have been two deaths and three ICU admissions¹⁰.
- Individual risk factors for severe monkeypox, noting that some conditions may also be absolute or relative contraindications to vaccination with ACAM2000[™], e.g. immunocompromise, pregnancy.
- Availability of other options with possible effectiveness as PEP, such as vaccinia immune globulin or pre-emptive antiviral therapy; refer to <u>National Treatment Guidelines</u>.
- Availability of treatment for monkeypox such as antiviral therapy or vaccinia immune globulin; refer to <u>National Treatment Guidelines</u>.
- Individual risk factors for adverse events from vaccination, especially with ACAM2000[™] e.g., immunocompromise, eczema, cardiac disease, pregnancy, young age, but also with intradermal administration of JYNNEOS[®] e.g., <u>severe immunocompromise</u>, history of keloid scarring (refer to <u>Contraindications and Precautions</u>).
- Frequency and severity of adverse events after vaccination with either of the vaccines, noting evidence suggesting a lower rate of adverse events following JYNNEOS[®] compared to ACAM2000[™], and availability of treatment for adverse events related to the vaccine.
- Prior vaccination with a smallpox vaccine and the potential benefit of revaccination or a booster dose (refer to <u>vaccine effectiveness</u> section).
- Relatively more direct evidence demonstrating effectiveness in disease prevention from replication-competent vaccine (such as ACAM2000[™]) compared with JYNNEOS[®].
- Timing when maximum protection is conferred after a primary dose/series (about 4 weeks after a single dose of ACAM2000[™], compared with about 2 weeks after the second dose of JYNNEOS[®])
- Timing of first and last exposure to the monkeypox virus, if considering PEP.

Key vaccine characteristics relevant to decision-making are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: Key characteristics of ACAM2000[™] and JYNNEOS[®] relevant to shared decision making

Characteristic	ACAM2000™	JYNNEOS®
Safety in people with	Contraindicated – contains live	Considered safe to use
immunocompromise	replication-competent virus	
Safety in pregnancy	Contraindicated – contains live	Considered safe to use
	replication-competent virus	
Safety in children	Not formally studied in children aged	Not formally studied in children
	<18 years, however, there was	<18 year (and not registered for
	widespread use of first generation live	use in children in regions where
	attenuated vaccinia vaccines in the	JYNNEOS [®] is registered), however,
	past in this age group. Contraindicated	there are trial data on safety in
	for age <1 year.	children on MVA used as the vector

		for a small number of childhood vaccines; can be considered in this age group using risk-benefit assessment, especially for individuals in high-risk groups ≥16 years of age.
Safety in people with eczema / atopic dermatitis	Absolute contraindication in people with active atopic dermatitis. Relative contraindication in people with a past history of atopic dermatitis but without current disease activity – Risk of serious adverse events	Safe to use
Safety in people with history of keloid scarring	Precaution – case reports of people developing keloid scarring at inoculation sites with percutaneously administered smallpox vaccines	Intradermal route: precaution in this group, due to increased risk of scarring at vaccination site Subcutaneous route: safe to use
Safety in people with vulnerable close contacts	Precaution – risk of serious adverse events	Safe to use
Risk of myocarditis or pericarditis	Yes – refer to Adverse Events	Insufficient data to assess risk Not reported in clinical studies*
Risk of other serious adverse events	Yes – refer to Adverse Events	No other notable serious adverse events based on available data
Co-administration	In people at risk of myo/pericarditis, for PrEP purposes only, consider separating ACAM2000 [™] and mRNA COVID-19 vaccine by several weeks	Considered safe to co-administer*

*One case of possible pericarditis, with suggestive evidence of an alternative viral infection as the potential cause, was identified among >7800 recipients of MVA-BN vaccines (including JYNNEOS[®]) across multiple clinical studies¹¹

During the shared clinical decision making and consent process, patients should also be informed of the following:

For either ACAM2000[™] or JYNNEOS[®] vaccination

• Potential serious and mild adverse events (refer to <u>Adverse Events</u> below)

For ACAM2000[™] only:

- Expected vaccine reaction, including permanent scar
- Aftercare instructions, including wound care
- Precautions to minimise risk of autoinoculation or transmission of vaccine virus to others
- For women of childbearing potential: the need to avoid pregnancy for 28 days following vaccination. If ACAM2000[™] is inadvertently given to a pregnant woman, seek expert advice via your state or territory health department.

Vaccine Contraindications and Precautions

CONTRAINDICATIONS

JYNNEOS®

Contraindications include anaphylaxis to a previous dose or to a component of the vaccine.

JYNNEOS[®] contains benzonase, gentamicin and ciprofloxacin.

See <u>JYNNEOS[®] consent template</u>.

ACAM2000™

Absolute contraindications to ACAM2000[™] include:

- Anaphylaxis to previous dose or to a component of the vaccine (including neomycin or polymyxin B sulfate)
- Severe immunocompromise, particularly defects in cellular immunity. For detailed guidance on which conditions and medications cause severe immunocompromise, refer to prior <u>ATAGI</u> <u>guidance</u>.
- Pregnancy (women of child-bearing age should avoid pregnancy for 28 days after vaccination)
- Age under 12 months
- Presence of active dermatitis (including eczema) or other active exfoliative skin conditions

People in the following groups should be viewed as having relative contraindications, depending on their detailed clinical history and the risks for vaccine-related adverse events (as well as from the risk for monkeypox):

- Mild or moderate immunocompromise, including secondary to treatment or disease
- Eye disease treated with topical steroids
- Age 12 months to <18 years
- Past history of atopic dermatitis or other exfoliative skin conditions, without current disease activity. People with inactive atopic dermatitis may be administered ACAM2000[™], followed by careful monitoring and active follow up. Refer to the <u>National Treatment Guidelines</u> for treatment of serious vaccine-related complications.

PRECAUTIONS

JYNNEOS®

Specific points to note:

• People who are pregnant or breastfeeding. JYNNEOS[®] has not been formally evaluated in pregnant or lactating women, but there are no theoretical safety concerns relating to its use in these groups.

- Children under 18 years of age. JYNNEOS[®] has not been approved for use in individuals under 18 years of age in regions/countries where it is registered. There are limited safety data for this age group. However, paediatric studies of other vaccines using MVA as a vector have not demonstrated significant safety concerns¹²⁻¹⁴. In the current outbreak, people in high-risk GBMSM groups ≥16 years of age are recommended to receive vaccination as potential benefits outweigh potential risks.
- Individuals with atopic dermatitis reported a higher frequency of local and general symptoms after vaccination compared with those without this condition.
- JYNNEOS[®] may contain trace residues of chicken egg protein and for individuals with confirmed anaphylaxis to egg; there is a theoretical risk of allergic reaction.
- Individuals with a history of keloid scarring are not recommended to receive JYNNEOS[®] via the intradermal route. The subcutaneous route is preferred.
- Lower immune response has been observed in HIV infected individuals compared to healthy individuals, but clinical relevance is unknown. There are no data on the immune response to JYNNEOS[®] in other immunosuppressed individuals¹⁵. For this reason, people with <u>severe</u> immunocompromise are not recommended to receive JYNNEOS[®] via the intradermal route.

ACAM2000™

The risk for adverse events may be higher for the following individuals (refer to <u>Adverse Events</u>) or their household contacts, and this needs to be considered in the risk-benefit assessment.

- People who are breastfeeding, where the risk is to the infant via documented vaccinia virus shedding through breastmilk
- People with cardiac disease/cardiac risk factors. Major cardiac risk factors include hypertension, diabetes mellitus, hypercholesterolemia, heart disease at age ≤50 years in a first-degree relative, and smoking. The presence of three or more of these factors is considered a relative contraindication to primary vaccination with ACAM2000[™].
- People with vulnerable household contacts (e.g., immunocompromised, people with eczema active exfoliative skin conditions, pregnant individuals), noting the risk of onward transmission to others can be minimised (refer to <u>Aftercare</u>).

Vaccine administration and aftercare

JYNNEOS®

The standard route of administration for JYNNEOS[®] is by subcutaneous (SC) injection, with two doses (0.5 mL each) at least 28 days apart. Each dose (0.5 mL) is supplied in a single-dose vial.

An alternative route of administration for JYNNEOS[®] (for PrEP only, see <u>Vaccine Recommendations</u>) is by intradermal (ID) injection, with two doses of 0.1mL each (20% of the standard subcutaneous dose) 28 days apart. Each dose needs to be drawn from the standard subcutaneous-dose vial at the time of administration. Immunisation providers should be trained to administer JYNNEOS[®] by intradermal injection, preferably into the volar aspect (inner side) of the forearm, with the deltoid also an acceptable intradermal site.

If an intradermal dose is administered incorrectly (e.g. inadvertently given subcutaneously), administer a repeat dose as soon as possible, namely a 0.5mL dose subcutaneously (withdrawn from a new vaccine vial).

No specialised aftercare is required. Refer to <u>Product Information</u>. The second dose does not need to be repeated if given later than 28 days after the first dose.

ACAM2000™

Detailed information on ACAM2000[™] administration and aftercare is available in the <u>Product Information</u> and the <u>Consumer Medicines Information sheet</u>, accessible at the TGA website.

ACAM2000[™] is supplied in multi-dose vials, each containing approximately 100 doses after reconstitution. Specialised trained vaccinators administer ACAM2000[™] with a bifurcated needle using a technique called scarification. The virus replicates at the injection site, causing a localised infection ("pock") around 10 days after inoculation. The vaccine has "taken", or been successful, if a red itchy spot is present 4 days following vaccination. A blister then develops and forms a scab that falls off in the third week, leaving a small scar. When choosing the vaccination site, consider the practicality of keeping the area covered.

Aftercare following ACAM2000[™] administration

Prior to vaccination, vaccine recipients should be informed about expected reactions and aftercare. They should also be informed about the potential for serious adverse events and how to seek care if concerning symptoms develop (refer to <u>Adverse Events</u>).

- The expected reaction to vaccination is a papule (small bump) at the vaccination site on day 2 to 5 post vaccination, which progresses to a vesicle (blister), then pustule (blister with pus), and then a scab.
- The scab typically separates within 14-21 days, leaving a pitted scar.
- The vaccination site wound is infectious until scabbing occurs and must be covered with a gauze bandage secured with adhesive tape, to prevent a risk of auto-(self) inoculation onto skin in other sites or transmission of the vaccinia virus to others. An occlusive dressing can be used to minimise risk of transmission to vulnerable close contacts.
- Wound dressings should be changed every 1 to 3 days disposed of in sealed plastic bags and can then be disposed of in general rubbish.
- Avoid contact with individuals at high risk of serious adverse effects of vaccinia virus, for instance, those with eczema or other exfoliative skin lesions, immunodeficiency states including HIV infection, pregnant persons or infants less than 12 months of age.
- Vaccinated healthcare workers should avoid contact with immunocompromised patients and high-risk areas (e.g., haematological oncology and transplant wards) until the scab has separated. When caring for patients, ensure the vaccination site is well covered with an occlusive wound dressing and follow good hand washing technique.
- Blood and organ donation should be avoided for at least 30 days following vaccination.
- Pregnancy should be avoided for at least 28 days following vaccination.
- Refer to <u>Product Information</u> and the <u>Consumer Medicines Information sheet</u> for further information.

Co-administration of ACAM2000[™] or JYNNEOS[®] with COVID-19 or other vaccines

There is a rare risk of associated myocarditis and/or pericarditis following either ACAM2000[™] or mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, respectively, especially in people under 40 years of age and in males. Based on the theoretical risk of myocarditis and pericarditis, when used as PrEP, spacing ACAM2000[™] and an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine apart by several weeks may be considered. This may theoretically reduce the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis, but there is no evidence to confirm this.

It is not known if JYNNEOS[®] is associated with a risk of myocarditis. For PrEP purposes only, spacing JYNNEOS[®] and an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine apart by several weeks may be considered for people with increased risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis following an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, such as young adult males. However, the decision to delay administration should be balanced against the need for earlier protection and the potential to miss an opportunity to vaccinate.

Adverse events

JYNNEOS®

JYNNEOS[®] vaccine is associated with fewer adverse events than ACAM2000TM. A phase 3 trial showed fewer minor and serious adverse events in participants who received JYNNEOS[®] (via the subcutaneous route) than in those who received ACAM2000TM (17 out of 220 versus 64 out of 213 participants with adverse events of grade 3 or higher, P<0.001)¹⁶.

Safety data for JYNNEOS[®] are available from a pooled analysis of 22 clinical studies which included over 7800 participants who received an MVA-BN vaccine¹⁷. Adverse events in persons previously vaccinated with a smallpox vaccine compared with those never vaccinated occurred at similar frequencies after MVA-BN was given (Table 3)¹⁷.

	Frequency in vaccine-naïve individuals	Frequency in previously vaccinated individuals
Common local adverse events		
Injection site pain	85%	80%
Injection site redness	61%	81%
Injection site swelling	51%	67%
Induration	45%	70%
Injection site itch	43%	32%
Common systemic adverse events		
Muscle aches	43%	22%
Headache	35%	28%
Fatigue	30%	34%
Nausea	17%	10%
Chills	10%	0.7%
Fever	2%	0.5%

Table 3 - Adverse events following vaccination with	I MVA-BN (JYNNEOS [®]) via subcutaneous
route (0.5mL) ¹⁷	

The safety of the intradermal route of administration of the MVA-BN vaccine was assessed in a phase II study compared with subcutaneous administration¹⁸. There were no significant differences in the frequency of systemic adverse events between the intradermal and subcutaneous groups. However, local

reactogenicity, assessed through measurements of erythema and induration, was higher in the intradermal group compared to those in the subcutaneous group for both doses of the vaccine. Three participants in the intradermal group also reported severe itch at the injection site. Intradermal dosing is now also used in the US and EU countries as a dose-sparing strategy for MVA-BN^{19,20}.

ACAM2000™

Adverse events after ACAM2000[™] in clinical studies were common but were generally mild to moderate. (Refer to the <u>Product Information</u> for further information.)

Common local adverse events included:

- A permanent pitted scar at the injection site is universal following successful inoculation
- Injection site itch (92%)
- Injection site redness (74%)
- Injection site pain (67%)
- Lymph node pain (57%) Injection site swelling (48%)

Common systemic adverse events included:

- Headache (50%)
- Fatigue (48%)
- Muscle aches (46%)
- Malaise (37%)
- Feeling hot (32%)
- Nausea (19%)
- Diarrhoea (16%)

Serious adverse events

ACAM2000TM is associated with a risk of myocarditis and pericarditis. The risk is highest in young adults and in males, with overall incidence of around 1 in 5000 to 1 in 12,800 doses based on post-licensure passive surveillance in military personnel^{21,22}. Of the 180 cases reported in one cohort study, 21% were subclinical myopericarditis, 22% were myocarditis, 27% were pericarditis and 29% were clinical myopericarditis²¹. In a case series of 18 cases, the mean time to onset was 10 days²².

Other serious adverse events have been historically associated with replication-competent smallpox vaccines, including the first-generation vaccine Dryvax, and are listed below. Accurate rate estimates of these adverse events for ACAM2000[™] are not available given its limited use, but they are a potential risk. Recommendations for treatment of serious adverse events with VIG and/or antiviral agents are outlined in the <u>National Treatment Guidelines</u>.

- Accidental autoinoculation is the unintentional transfer of vaccinia virus from the vaccination site to elsewhere on the body, which can produce a vaccinial rash at distant sites.
- Autoinoculation of the eye may result in vaccinial keratitis. There are no current disease-specific treatment options available for the management of vaccinial keratitis²³.
- Eczema vaccinatum involves widespread pustular/erosive lesions from the vaccinia virus, occurring particularly in areas affected by eczema/atopic dermatitis.
- Generalised vaccinia results from viraemia and presents with a generalised vaccinia virus rash and can be accompanied by fever, myalgia and headache; but is self-limiting in immunocompetent hosts. Generalised vaccinia is thought to be rare but has been reported after ACAM2000^{™24}.
- Progressive vaccinia presents with delayed/absent local wound healing and widespread lesions emanating from the inoculation site that can become necrotic. The incidence of this during the smallpox vaccination era was 1 per million doses²⁵. The risk is highest in people with severe immunocompromise, particularly those with defective cell-mediated immunity.

- Fetal vaccinia resulting from vaccination during pregnancy, which can result in stillbirth or perinatal death.
- Serious neurological adverse events including encephalitis, post-vaccinial encephalopathy (PVE) and encephalomyelitis (PVEM).

As there are limited safety data from large population-based programs for ACAM2000[™] and JYNNEOS[®], it is important to ensure there is ongoing phase IV (post marketing) vaccine safety monitoring for both vaccines, utilising Australian adverse event surveillance systems. ATAGI recommends that these reports be collated at a jurisdictional and national level, utilising international frameworks for smallpox vaccine reporting²⁶.

Individuals who develop any adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) with a smallpox vaccine should be encouraged to report data on the event(s) to their healthcare provider, who in turn report to the State/Territory and the <u>TGA</u>. Active surveillance for AEFI with smallpox vaccines is also encouraged, using established systems such as AusVaxSafety.

Vaccine effectiveness

There is evidence that demonstrates the effectiveness of replication-competent smallpox vaccines (such as Dryvax or ACAM2000[™]) against smallpox or monkeypox, when used for pre-exposure or post-exposure prophylaxis. There are no direct data on the effectiveness of JYNNEOS[®] against smallpox or monkeypox. Vaccine effectiveness is inferred from indirect evidence, particularly immunogenicity data.

Effectiveness of ACAM2000[™] and JYNNEOS[®] for pre-exposure prophylaxis against monkeypox

Active monkeypox surveillance data from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2005–2007 demonstrated that among individuals born before 1980 (when the official national mass smallpox vaccination program ended), people vaccinated against smallpox had a 5.2-fold lower risk of monkeypox than those unvaccinated (0.78 vs. 4.05 per 10,000), giving a smallpox pre-exposure vaccine effectiveness against monkeypox of 80.7% (95% CI: 68.2–88.4%)²⁷.

Vaccine efficacy against smallpox by first generation smallpox vaccines such as Dryvax has not been assessed in randomised controlled studies. After administration of a standard dose of smallpox (vaccinia virus) vaccine, >95% of primary vaccinees exhibit neutralising or hemagglutination inhibition antibody against smallpox at a titre of ≥1:10^{28,29}. Additionally, clinical effectiveness of first-generation smallpox vaccines, leading to global eradication of smallpox, has been shown. Immunogenicity data for the second-generation vaccine, ACAM2000[™], assessed immune responses following inoculation against smallpox virus rather than monkeypox virus, and in randomised controlled trials ACAM2000[™] demonstrated similar cellular immune responses against smallpox virus as Dryvax. On the basis of all immunogenicity results, ACAM2000[™] is considered to be non-inferior to Dryvax against smallpox²⁹ and can be inferred to be similarly effective against other poxviruses including monkeypox.

Vaccine effectiveness for the third generation MVA-BN vaccine (including JYNNEOS[®]) against smallpox was inferred by comparing the immunogenicity of MVA-BN to that of ACAM2000[™] using plaque reduction neutralization testing (PRNT) against vaccinia virus. In a phase 3 trial of 440 participants randomised to two doses of MVA-BN followed by ACAM2000[™] versus one dose of ACAM2000[™], the immune responses

in the MVA-BN group, after two doses of MVA-BN and prior to the challenge with ACAM2000[™], were similar to those who had received one dose of ACAM2000[™] only^{15,16}.

Additionally, evidence for the use of smallpox vaccines against monkeypox was informed by challenge studies in macaques. In one study, three groups of macaques were vaccinated using 1 dose of ACAM2000[™], 1 dose of MVA-BN or 2 doses of MVA-BN. After challenge with a lethal dose of monkeypox virus at 28 days following the last vaccine dose, vaccine efficacy against death compared to an unvaccinated control group was 100% for the ACAM2000[™] and 2-dose MVA-BN groups, and 67% for the 1-dose MVA-BN group³⁰.

Evidence supporting intradermal administration comes particularly from a 2015 phase II randomised study with 524 participants¹⁸. The control group received the standard (0.5mL) dose of MVA-BN vaccine administered by the subcutaneous route and the intervention group received 20% (0.1 of the standard dose of the MVA-BN vaccine administered intradermally, with 2 doses 28 days apart. Peak neutralising antibody titres against the vaccinia virus after 2 doses of MVA-BN via the intradermal route were shown to be non-inferior to titres after 2 doses of MVA-BN via subcutaneous administration.

A systematic review on duration of immunity published in 2019 suggests that some protection against smallpox virus may persist for greater than 20 years after smallpox vaccination³¹. It is unclear how these data can be extrapolated to infer the duration of protection against monkeypox.

In the 2022 monkeypox outbreak, early data from Spain include a case series with 181 confirmed monkeypox cases diagnosed May-June 2022, where 32 (18%) of cases self-reported prior smallpox vaccination³².

Clinical studies have shown evidence of protection against the vaccinia virus at 2 years following a primary course of the MVA-BN vaccine¹⁵. A single booster dose of MVA-BN at 2 years led to a slight improvement in immune response another 2 years later, among people who had also received a primary course of the MVA-BN vaccine. The duration of protection after 1 primary dose of MVA-BN is currently not known beyond 4 weeks.

Vaccine effectiveness for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)

Vaccination with a smallpox vaccine following exposure to monkeypox may prevent or attenuate the infection, based on extrapolation from low-quality historical data of protection against smallpox, animal models, and more recent use in isolated outbreaks of monkeypox in non-endemic countries.

A 2019 review of human smallpox outbreak data from year 1882 to 1973 calculated an overall effectiveness of PEP against smallpox with any smallpox vaccine of 45% (IQR 25.5% to 64.5%), noting wide variation in timing of vaccination after exposure³³. A study obtaining consensus opinions from experts using the Delphi technique estimated the effectiveness of post-exposure smallpox vaccination in preventing disease at 1–3 days after exposure to be 80%³⁴.

There are insufficient data to specifically estimate effectiveness against monkeypox, though a range of first, second and third-generation smallpox vaccines have been used as PEP for monkeypox in outbreaks of monkeypox in non-endemic countries since 2003³⁵⁻³⁸. Breakthrough monkeypox cases have occurred after PEP vaccination of high-risk contacts with Dryvax and with MVA-BN.

The effectiveness of post-exposure use of ACAM2000[™] and JYNNEOS[®] against monkeypox was compared directly in one animal study only, using prairie dogs. At day 7 following vaccination, animals vaccinated with one dose of ACAM2000[™] one day after exposure to the monkeypox virus had higher antibody titres than those receiving one dose of JYNNEOS[®] one day after exposure, suggesting a more rapid immune response after ACAM2000[™]. While the difference in antibody titres was not statistically different at day 14 following vaccination, no correlate of protection in this species is known³⁹.

This comparable immunogenicity after a single dose of MVA-BN (including JYNNEOS[®]) with that of ACAM2000[™] (for which there is indirect evidence for effectiveness when used for PEP), indirectly suggests some effectiveness can be expected after a single dose of MVA-BN given as PEP. Various animal studies with the monkeypox (and mousepox) viruses, using mostly the MVA-BN vaccine, corroborate the finding that vaccine effectiveness as PEP begins to decline over time (e.g. when given at 3 days post-exposure, effectiveness is lower than when given at 1 day post-exposure).

Vaccine storage and handling

JYNNEOS®

(Refer to the **Product Information** for further information.)

Packaging

JYNNEOS[®] is supplied in packages of 20 single-dose vials.

Storage

Contact the relevant State/Territory authority for detailed information about storage as it can vary across jurisdictions due to the conditions under which vaccines are transported and stored. Refer to Appendix A for State/Territory contact details.

If the vaccine is distributed thawed, it should be stored at refrigerator temperature and not re-frozen.

Once the vial is punctured and a dose is withdrawn, if it is not used in its entirety, it should be stored at +2°C to +8°C and discarded within 8 hours of the first puncture. Each dose of JYNNEOS[®] should be withdrawn from the vial at the time of administration (for both subcutaneous and intradermal routes).

Disposal

Equipment used for JYNNEOS[®] vaccination, including used vials, should be disposed of as medical waste.

ACAM2000™

(Refer to the **Product Information** for further information.)

Packaging

The live vaccinia virus component of the ACAM2000TM vaccine is supplied in multiple-dose 3 mL clear glass vials containing lyophilised powder (freeze-dried vaccine). Diluent for ACAM2000TM is supplied in 3 mL clear glass vials containing 0.6 mL of diluent. Bifurcated needles are supplied in boxes (5 x 5 x 1 in) containing 100 needles. 1 mL tuberculin syringes with 25-gauge x 5/8" needles are supplied for vaccine reconstitution.

Storage

ACAM2000TM should be stored in a freezer with an average temperature of -15°C to -25°C. After reconstitution, ACAM2000TM vaccine may be administered during 8 hours at +20°C to +25°C. Reconstituted ACAM2000TM vaccine may be stored in a refrigerator at +2°C to +8°C for no longer than 30 days, after which it should be discarded. Diluent for ACAM2000TM should be stored at +15°C to +30°C. ACAM2000TM contains live vaccinia virus that is transmissible, and should be handled as an infectious agent once vials are open.

Disposal

The ACAM2000[™] vaccine vial, its stopper, the diluent syringe, the vented needle used for reconstitution, the bifurcated needle used for administration, and any gauze or cotton that came in contact with the vaccine should be discarded in leak-proof, puncture-proof biohazard containers. These containers should then be disposed of appropriately.

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Appendix A

Jurisdiction	Website	
ACT	Monkeypox (MPXV) Health (act.gov.au)	
NSW	Monkeypox - Fact sheets (nsw.gov.au)	
NT	Refer to Commonwealth website: Monkeypox (MPX) resources	
QLD	Monkeypox (health.qld.gov.au)	
SA	Monkeypox - including symptoms treatment and prevention	
TAS	Monkeypox fact sheet Tasmanian Department of Health	
VIC	Monkeypox health.vic.gov.au	
WA	Monkeypox virus infection - WA Health	

Appendix Table 1 – Links to monkeypox information and contact details for each jurisdiction