

What you need to know

Intradermal mpox vaccination

Your clinic has advised that you are suitable to receive an intradermal smallpox vaccination (MVA) to help protect you from mpox. This is a slightly different way of using the MVA vaccine that has already been given to more than 30,000 people in the UK. It uses a much lower dose and means that we can vaccinate more people. It is expected to be just as effective as the normal method.



Intradermal vaccination has been endorsed by the UK's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and is also now being used in the US.

What is intradermal vaccination?

Most vaccines are given by injection below the skin (subcutaneous) or into the muscle of the upper arm (intramuscular) – almost all health care workers can do this. Some vaccines can also be injected into the upper layer of the skin itself – this is known as intradermal vaccination.

This requires specially trained staff and is done with a much smaller volume (about one-fifth), and using a smaller needle and syringe.

The injection may take a few seconds longer and should produce a "bleb" (a small blister) that disappears within a minute. This method is commonly used for skin testing and vaccination against TB.

What if I don't want the intradermal vaccine?

If you do not want the vaccine in the new way, you will probably need to wait until new supplies become available.

As it is not known how long this might take, anyone at high risk is recommended to have the vaccine this way now.



The intradermal needle technique and the bleb or small blister on the skin

This leaflet is about intradermal use of the vaccine, you can read more about the MVA vaccine here: www.publhealth.hscni.net/publications/protecting-you-mpox

What you need to know: intradermal mpox vaccination

This leaflet describes a slightly different way of using the MVA vaccine to protect against mpox. It uses a much lower dose and means that we can vaccinate more people.

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Details

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People receiving the smallpox vaccination to protect against mpox

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