

# Monkeypox vaccines to be piloted in smaller but equally effective doses

Three NHS sites are set to begin a pilot offering eligible patients smaller but equally effective doses of the vaccine used for the UK's monkeypox outbreak, stretching existing supplies to protect more people.

The safe and clinically-approved approach, known as 'fractional dosing', has been commonly used in other worldwide outbreaks when vaccine supplies are constrained. It will be introduced in one sexual health clinic in Manchester from today (Monday), and a further 2 in London shortly.

Fractional dosing could maximise the number of doses that can be administered without compromising protection, with [clinical study results](#) showing it provides a near-identical immune response in patients.

Under the approach, eligible people aged 18 and over will be offered a 0.1ml dose of the smallpox Jynneos vaccine, instead of the 0.5ml dose that is typically administered. This will potentially enable up to a 5-fold increase in the number of people that can be offered vaccination.

Fractional dosing has recently been authorised in the US by the Federal Drug Administration for its own monkeypox response. The European Medicines Agency Emergency Task Force has [also approved the approach](#).

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has reviewed the evidence in detail alongside the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and is now working with NHS England to test the feasibility of the approach at pilot clinics in Chelsea and Westminster NHS Foundation Trust, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, and Locala Health and Wellbeing in Greater Manchester.

In a [letter to Directors of Public Health](#), UKHSA chief executive Professor Dame Jenny Harries has confirmed the details of the pilot, with data gathered by the clinics used to inform planning for possible wider use when more doses of the vaccine arrive in the UK.

Dr Mary Ramsay, Head of Immunisation at UKHSA, said:

Global supplies of the smallpox vaccine used to combat monkeypox are limited but we acted early to ensure the UK obtained the maximum number of doses available.

Adopting this tried and tested technique will help to maximise the reach of our remaining stock, including the 100,000 doses due to arrive in the country next month, potentially enabling us to offer protection for many more thousands of people.

We will continue to remain agile in our response to the monkeypox

outbreak and will adapt our approach as new science and advice becomes available.

Professor Sir Andrew Pollard, Chair of the JCVI, said:

The use of fractional dosing will allow more people to be vaccinated sooner by optimising use of the constrained vaccine supply, and this approach is expected to reduce the spread of monkeypox.

Dosing in this way has been successfully used in outbreaks of other viral diseases around the world and existing data we have reviewed indicates this should not compromise protection.

Dr Claire Dewsnap, President of the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH), said:

BASHH absolutely supports the UKHSA led fractional dosing pilots, assessing feasibility in UK sexual health clinics. If acceptable, this would offer us the opportunity to roll out vaccine to those eligible much faster and would address the issues of short supply of vaccine across the world.

Dr Will Nutland, Honorary Assistant Professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a co-founder of PrEPster, said:

Fractional dosing provides the potential for many more people to receive vaccination to protect against monkeypox. Given the current global shortage of vaccine supply, this decision is pragmatic and welcome.

Communities we are engaging with are keen to receive vaccination as soon as possible, and the pilots provide the opportunity to understand the acceptability and feasibility of providing vaccination this way.

Evidence shows that fractional dosing, when correctly administered, is as effective as the vaccination method currently in use. We must now collectively move to ensure that those who are given the opportunity to receive vaccination are fully informed and are confident to come forward when invited.

In addition to piloting the fractional dosing approach, UKHSA has determined that, due to the limited vaccine supply at this time, the post-exposure offer of vaccination should be reserved for those close contacts who are at highest risk of severe illness. The JCVI supports this approach.

This change does not affect the eligibility for the wider vaccination programme (pre-exposure offer) but means that post-exposure vaccines will be prioritised for people with immunosuppression, children under the age of 5 years and pregnant women.

These individuals will continue to be offered a 0.5ml dose of the vaccine as we await further clinical data on fractional dosing for these groups.

UKHSA published its [latest technical briefing](#) on the outbreak on Friday.

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## [Update: NWS' marine geophysical survey successfully completed](#)

News story

Investigations off the coast of Copeland to provide data about the potential of deep geology to host a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).



NWS' first marine geophysical survey off the coast of Copeland, Cumbria, was successfully completed on 18 August. This non-intrusive survey has gathered data to provide a better understanding of the deep geology and supports the search to find a suitable site for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

The survey was undertaken by specialists Shearwater GeoServices, took place over a period of around three weeks utilising the SW Bly, a 92-metre vessel carrying specialist acoustic equipment operating 5km-20km from the coastline.

Nuclear Waste Services is the developer of a GDF and is committed to environmental protection at all times. For the survey, this included securing all the necessary permissions. As best practice and also to comply with the permissions, a team of specialist observers were onboard the SW Bly and kept 24/7 observations from the bridge of the vessel for any mammals and birds. Throughout the survey, there were no safety or environmental incidents, and all mammal sightings were reported back to the Marine Management

Organisation.

Detailed analysis of the data collected from the surveys will be undertaken over the next 18 months and the conclusions will be shared with communities to support discussions about the potential of an area to host a GDF.

For more information, see our [story announcing the start of the survey](#).

The search for a suitable site for a GDF is based on consent from a willing community. [Learn more about geological disposal](#).

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## [Exciting opportunity to manage inshore fisheries and conservation at Southern IFCA](#)

Applicants should have a willingness to positively engage with both IFCA members and officers and to support and champion Southern IFCA's role in the development of sustainable inshore fisheries and provision of marine environmental protection within the district.

During this recruitment campaign, the MMO will be seeking to appoint to fill current vacancies as well as creating a reserve list for any upcoming opportunities.

### **The role of an IFCA General Member**

The members of the IFCA contribute their knowledge and experience to provide sustainable management of the inshore marine area of their IFCA district. Appointees to IFCAs are legally required to consider all the local fishing and marine conservation interests in the waters of the IFCA district in a balanced way, taking full account of the needs of the IFCA district. Appointees should recognise that they are part of a committee and should not regard themselves as representing solely one area of particular interest within the IFCA district.

These voluntary roles require candidates who can take a balanced approach to caring for our seas, assessing the priority and importance of all users and stakeholders. It is essential that candidates have a good local knowledge of the IFCA area for which they are applying. The members of the IFCA contribute their knowledge and experience to provide sustainable management of their IFCA District. As an IFCA General Member, you will have the opportunity to contribute your knowledge and experience to committee meetings helping to

shape and direct the work of the IFCA.

This membership puts local people in the driving seat of fisheries management and is an exciting opportunity to shape the development of inshore fisheries in your region.

As a member of an IFCA committee you will work in a team with others, helping to ensure that:

- the use of sea fisheries resources is carried out in a sustainable way and is balanced with the need to protect the marine environment or promote its recovery from, the effects of exploitation
- the different needs of those engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries and marine resources are balanced
- the conservation objectives of marine conservation zones are achieved

Although these appointments are unpaid, Southern IFCA will reimburse any reasonable expenses.

IFCA's seek to achieve a balanced membership across various interest groups, including but not limited to those with commercial, recreational, and environmental interests.

## **How to Apply**

We welcome applications from the recreational angling sector who have a good knowledge of the Southern IFCA District.

To apply please complete and submit an application form no later than 7 October 2022. Applications forms should be emailed to [ifcarecruitment@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:ifcarecruitment@marinemanagement.org.uk) or posted to IFCA Recruitment, Marine Management Organisation, Lancaster House, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7YH.

Should you have any questions about the recruitment process please contact the Marine Management Organisation on 0300 123 1032.

Should you wish to find out more about the role of an IFCA General Member or require assistance with completion of your application form please contact your local IFCA Office by telephone (01202 721 373) or via email at [enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk)

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# PM call with the leaders of the United States, France and Germany: 21 August 2022

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Sholz.



The Prime Minister spoke to the leaders of the United States, France and Germany this afternoon to discuss cooperation on matters of international security and diplomacy.

On a joint call, the Prime Minister, President Biden, President Macron and Chancellor Scholz underlined their steadfast commitment to supporting Ukraine in the face of Russia's invasion.

They stressed the importance of ensuring the safety and security of nuclear installations and welcomed recent discussions on enabling an IAEA mission to the Zaporizhzhia facility.

They also discussed other shared priorities, including Iran and joint efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation and deter Iran's destabilizing regional activities.

The Prime Minister welcomed the opportunity to speak, and the leaders agreed their teams would continue working closely together in the coming weeks.

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