

## Immunization Update (Part 1): Pneumococcal Vaccine, Avian Influenza, Mpox

### Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV):

**Prevnar20® (PCV20)** has replaced **Prevnar13® (PCV13)** and **Pneumovax®23 (PPV23)** effective July 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.

There is no change to the immunization schedule. Please continue to vaccinate your clients as scheduled; do not delay vaccination while awaiting delivery of PCV20.

Once you receive PCV20, please return any unused PCV13 or PPV23 to your local public health unit (cold chain does not need to be maintained).



[Read more here](#)

### Avian influenza (H5N1) vaccine

While the overall risk of avian influenza to the general public remains extremely low at this time, a limited number of vaccine doses are now available for specific populations.

Eligibility: lab workers who routinely handle samples that likely contain avian influenza virus, veterinary staff examining dead animals that may be infected, people involved in the management of infected animals including animal culling, building cleaning etc., people working in close contact with wild birds or in/around waterfowl habitats (e.g., wildlife or animal control officers, wildlife researchers, hunters and trappers, people working on environmental impact assessments and surveys, people and contractors working on waterborne pathogens).



[Read more here](#)

Locations: Westshore, Peninsula, Cowichan, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Comox Valley, and Port Hardy [health units](#).

Please note that annual influenza immunization is also recommended for the above groups, and anyone who interacts closely with influenza-susceptible animals (e.g., poultry, dairy and swine industry workers). Immunization may reduce the potential for human-avian reassortment of genes should such workers become co-infected with human and avian influenza.



[Client Information](#)

### Mpox vaccine

The risk of mpox in Island Health has not changed and remains low.

BC pre-exposure eligibility criteria for Imvamune™ vaccine have been expanded:

- Two-Spirit, transgender, non-binary people or cisgender males who self-identify as belonging to the gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men community and meet one or more of the following criteria:
  - Have sex with more than one partner
  - Have sex with a partner who has more than one sexual partner
  - Have had a confirmed sexually transmitted infection acquired in the last year
  - Have casual sex
  - Engage in sexual contact in sex-on-premises venues
  - Have sex with sex workers
- Sexual partners of individuals who meet the above criteria.
- Sex workers regardless of gender, sex assigned at birth, or sexual orientation.
- Staff or volunteers in sex-on-premises venues where workers may have contact with fomites (i.e., surfaces) potentially contaminated with mpox.
- Those who engage in sex tourism regardless of gender, sex assigned at birth, or sexual orientation.
- Individuals who anticipate experiencing any of the above scenarios.



[Read more here](#)



[Health Unit Locations](#)

### Island Health Medical Health Officers

Chief MHO: Dr. Réka Gustafson 250-519-3406; North Island: Dr. Charmaine Enns 250-331-8591

Central Island: 250-739-6304; Cowichan Region: 250-737-2020

South Island: Dr. Carol Fenton, Dr. Christina Kay, Dr. Mike Benusic 250-519-3406

[islandhealth.ca/about-us/medical-health-officers](https://islandhealth.ca/about-us/medical-health-officers)