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Chikungunya Vaccine – Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI)

Key Messages

- CHIK-LAV (trade name IXCHIQ) is a single dose chikungunya live attenuated vaccine authorized for use in Canada for the prevention of disease caused by the chikungunya virus. It is not available as a publicly funded vaccine in Ontario, but it is available through private sale.
- The Committee to Advise on Tropical Medicine and Travel (CATMAT) in Canada advises that the vaccine may be considered following an individualized assessment for people aged 18 to 64 years who are at high risk of infection (e.g., travel to an area experiencing a chikungunya outbreak).
- There have been post-marketing reports of serious adverse events following immunization (AEFI) with CHIK-LAV in Europe, the United States, and Canada, mostly among persons 65 years or older and those with pre-existing health conditions. Reported serious adverse events have included hospitalizations with chikungunya-like illness and three deaths, including one death directly attributable to the vaccine.
- To date, the United States Food and Drug Administration is the only jurisdiction that has suspended the vaccine's license. The vaccine continues to be authorized for use in other jurisdictions including Canada, Brazil, the European Union, and the United Kingdom.
- CHIK-LAV AEFIs are being closely monitored nationally by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Health Canada as well as globally.
- To support vaccine safety surveillance, health care providers are requested to report AEFIs for CHIK-LAV to their local public health unit as soon as a suspect AEFI is identified.
- The usual AEFI process should be followed by health care providers for reporting through your local public health unit. Details can be found at Vaccine Safety | Public Health Ontario.