

From: Health Minister <Health.Minister@gov.ab.ca>
Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine
Date: November 5, 2020 at 2:31:59 PM MST
To: "abmkprovpres@gmail.com" <abmkprovpres@gmail.com>

AR 176976

Dear Judy Look:

Thank you for your email to Premier Kenney regarding the development and use of a future COVID-19 vaccine. As Minister of Health, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Government of Alberta. I apologize for the delay in responding.

There are still many unknowns about a future COVID-19 vaccine as this is still an active area of research and rapidly changing. Due to the urgent need for medical counter measures against COVID-19, many novel technology platforms are being investigated alongside established technologies already in use by licensed vaccines.

The Ministry of Health is continually monitoring the emerging research and the clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccine candidates for a potential vaccine. The findings of the clinical trials will be used to inform vaccine recommendations made by Alberta Health. Clinical trials in Canada are governed by Health Canada and all clinical trials in Canada require approval from an independent Research Ethics Board.

Once a potential COVID-19 vaccine is identified, the approval processes in Canada will be rigorous and thorough. Vaccines are approved for use only after extensive review and testing for quality, safety, and effectiveness. Licensing of a vaccine in Canada would not occur if any of the ingredients were present in quantities sufficient to cause harm. In addition, after a vaccine is licensed, its use is monitored to confirm continued safety and effectiveness. Fetal tissue or human cells are not present in any current day vaccines used in Alberta.

The Government of Alberta recognizes immunization as one of the most important ways to protect and promote the health of Albertans. When immunization schedules are followed, immunizations are highly effective at preventing disease in those who receive them. We choose an approach that is collaborative rather than mandatory because we want to encourage conversations on the benefits of immunization, while still allowing Albertans to make decisions about their own health.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Tyler Shandro, Q.C.
Minister of Health

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