

If we get a report of something that's an adverse reaction that is unexpected and serious, we hold that lot of the vaccine, wherever it may be, while we investigate.

We do our laboratory testing, we work with the company to get more information. We see if whatever reaction it was, if it's actually tied to the vaccine or not.

If it is something that we need to look into, the question is, is it just that lot? Is it just that batch? Is it something in the way that it was administered? It really depends on what the issue is, but the whole system is set up to detect it quickly, and then stop, drop and roll while we figure out what the issue is and then figure out the best course of action.

Just to be clear, what are we counting as a serious adverse reaction?

Usually it's something that either creates the need to go into a hospital, or if somebody is in a hospital, it makes the hospital state worse. It has to be something quite significant. **Do you worry about people who don't feel comfortable taking the vaccine?**

Absolutely, I do. The thing is that a vaccine is only as good as it is when it's actually given to somebody. Vaccines are one of those things where it's not only yourself that you're protecting, but it's the collective.

So I can understand that there can be some hesitancy about vaccines, because I think there's a lot of misinformation out there.

But it's really important for people to understand that absolutely no vaccine will get distributed unless it's got Health Canada approval, and they should have faith and confidence in the integrity of that review.

What kind of information are you giving to the public about the decisions you're making?

We are going to be as open and transparent as possible.

At this point in time, we're just saying which vaccines we have under review. But at the time of authorization, there's a database that gets updated, and it'll say that we have authorized it. There's something called a product monograph, which is more scientific and technical information, but it summarizes how to use the vaccine and any potential adverse reactions.