



February 12, 2024

Currie Dixon
Chair
Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Dear Currie Dixon,

Re: December 12, 2023 PAC Public Hearing Response

Question to HSS

Mr. Kent: I just have one question, and you may or may not have the answer today, but if you could follow up with a letter, that would be great, and that is just with respect to adverse reactions. We have heard anecdotally about some adverse reactions that people have had to the vaccine. I have seen some of the national numbers. They are very low, but I am just curious how the Yukon numbers compare and if you have tracked the severity and number of any adverse reactions to either of the two mRNA vaccines — the Moderna or the Pfizer — or the non-mRNA — I think that it was Johnson & Johnson that we used. If you don't have those, I would just appreciate a letter back to the Committee; that would be great.

Response to Mr. Kent from HSS

The Yukon's adverse event following immunization (AEFI) rates are considerably higher than the Canadian rate. Despite the disparity, we do not think there is reason for concern.

We believe our rate is higher than the Canadian average for the following reasons:

- Case definitions early in the pandemic were inconsistent across the country, and the Yukon's case definition for an AEFI was very sensitive (i.e. cast a wide net and captured many mild AEFIs). Therefore, these rates may not be directly comparable.
- Additionally, AEFI surveillance in Canada is largely dependent on individual client/healthcare provider recognition of the condition, and manual reporting processes, so this can impact the accuracy of the data. Given that Yukon is a smaller jurisdiction, reporting of AEFIs to public health may be more accessible and more complete.

The chart below contains comparison numbers.

Number and rate (per 100,000 doses administered) of reports received for all people by vaccine type, up to and including September 15, 2023.

Reported AEFIs	mRNA count	mRNA administered	mRNA rate per 100,000 doses administered	non-mRNA count	non-mRNA administered	non-mRNA rate per 100,000 doses administered
National	52,347	96,013,343	55	4,830	2,869,877	168
Yukon	578	112,270	515	< 5	93	-

Source for national data: as retrieved on the internet <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/vaccine-safety/> on January 15, 2023

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Tiffany Boyd, Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services.

Sincerely,



Tiffany Boyd
Deputy Minister
Health and Social Services