



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504

April 7, 2020

Re: Petition to raise awareness about baker's yeast-recombinant technology in vaccines

Dear Dr. Obukhanych:

This letter is in response to your request to “*raise awareness about baker’s yeast-recombinant technology in vaccines*” submitted to the Washington State Board of Health. The board shared your request with the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) who is the appropriate agency to respond to your petition due to the responsibility of DOH to develop vaccine guidance and technical assistance for the public and for healthcare providers in Washington.

Your request has been reviewed and we are denying your petition based on the reasoning below.

The Department of Health bases all vaccine guidance and information on current recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). These recommendations are based on disease epidemiology, burden of disease, vaccine efficacy and effectiveness, vaccine safety, the quality of evidence reviewed, economic analyses and implementation issues.

Vaccines produced using yeast have an excellent safety record and have been used for decades in the United States. Vaccines are held to the highest standard of safety, undergo years of testing before they are licensed, and are continually monitored for safety and effectiveness through multiple processes. To raise awareness about contraindications, precautions, and possible side effects of each vaccine, Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) are required and provided before any vaccine is administered. Vaccine providers should follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for screening patients to determine if there are any contraindications or precautions to vaccinating patients with yeast sensitivities (see Table 4-1 on page 54 in the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/downloads/general-recs.pdf>). I am sorry you believe you suffered from contraindications after receiving the Hepatitis B Vaccine. We strongly encourage you to report this to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (<https://vaers.hhs.gov/>). We also encourage anyone who has any potential side effect after getting a vaccine to report to the system.

Sincerely,

Michele Roberts, MPH, MCHES
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cc: Michelle Davis, State Board of Health
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Informed Choice Washington