



October 30, 2009

The Honourable Ronald Liepert  
Alberta Minister of Health  
#323 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

The Honourable Fred Lindsay  
Alberta Solicitor General and  
Minister of Public Security  
#402 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Liepert and Minister Lindsay:

**RE: Priority Access to H1N1 Vaccine for Police**

I am writing on behalf of the Edmonton Police Commission and the Edmonton Police Service.

We are gravely concerned that Alberta Health Services has not yet arranged for police to have priority access to the H1N1 vaccine.

The Government of Canada has specifically identified first responders as a group that would benefit from immunization because police are at a greater risk of both contracting and spreading the virus. Yet, Alberta Health Services has not included police first responders on its *high risk list* and has not made the vaccine available to police outside of public immunization clinics.

We fear that by not making the vaccine readily available to police during work hours, members will forego vaccination. Given wait times in excess of 3 hours, it is unacceptable to expect members of the Edmonton Police Service to get the vaccine from public clinics while they are on duty. This would severely hamper our capacity to respond to calls for service or emergency situations in a timely manner.

The police provide an essential service and it is of the utmost importance to have them protected against this virus. If police are not vaccinated, and 30 per cent of our workers become ill, it will become a matter of public security. Police must be given the same priority access to the H1N1 vaccine as health care workers and emergency medical services first responders.

We implore you to put into action emergency plans in accordance with Alberta's Plan for Pandemic Influenza and make the H1N1 vaccine available to the Edmonton Police Service on a priority basis without further delay.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Gibson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Gibson  
Chair

Cc: Dr. Stephen Duckett, President and CEO Alberta Health Services  
Mayor Stephen Mandel, City of Edmonton  
Chief Mike Boyd, Edmonton Police Service  
Tony Simioni, Edmonton Police Association  
Chris Kellett, Senior Officers' Association