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Dear Mayors, Regional District Chairs and Chief Administrative Officers:

Immunization plays a critical role in preventing disease and protecting the health of all British Columbians. Maximizing the opportunities for people to get immunized against vaccine preventable diseases, including influenza, is a public health priority and especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to continue safely delivering immunization services to as many people as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, our regional health authorities are looking to work in partnership with their local communities to use large public buildings, facilities and indoor spaces, such as recreation centres and sports arenas, as venues for public immunization clinics.

As a result, I am writing to request that your municipality make its large public buildings, facilities and indoor spaces available to public health officials on a temporary basis for immunization clinics in the fall and winter. It is our expectation that these spaces will be used by health authorities in full compliance with health and safety plans and related public health guidance, including requirements for routine cleaning and limiting the number of persons on site at any given time. Health authorities will cover the costs of using these spaces, including those related to additional cleaning.

Local public health officials will be contacting you directly to discuss this request. Please also feel free to reach out to them in advance with any questions. A copy of this letter is being sent to all Mayors, Regional District Chairs and Chief Administrative Officers in British Columbia.

Thank you for supporting immunization and the health of your community.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Henry
MD, MPH, FRCPC
Provincial Health Officer