

From: [Tony Huppert](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:27:27 PM

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Dear Vaccine Subcommittee

I've contacted everyone I can think of to convince someone in vaccine authority that gas station employees should be a priority for the Covid Vaccine. It doesn't take rocket science to realize EMT's, Fire Trucks. Police, people on their way to get tested for Covid, all healthcare workers, all have to stop and get gas. Any research would show in a disaster the first places that get protected or rushed are gas stations. Why have we got forgotten? Please wake up someone to the fact, gas station employees have been on the front line for every disaster. HELP US Provide for emergency responders....

Tony Huppert

tonyhuppert@gmail.com

715-495-9859

Team Oil Travel Center

W2555 State Road 29

Spring Valley, Wisconsin 54767

A mom and pop store serving Western Wisconsin

From: [Delores Scharmer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee, Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:17:32 PM

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Regarding vaccinations & the order of those considered most important, where do Dental Hygienists & Dentists place? My daughter-in-law works with patients every day as a Dental Hygienist & must be inches away from their unmasked faces. She wears all the protective equipment available, however, spray from their mouth comes back at her from the equipment that must be used, landing on her face shield & clothing. Is this not considered a dangerous job? Keeping up with dental health is most important not only to our mouth but, also, our physical health. I worry about her safety all the time. Also, please consider moving age for seniors back from 75 to 70. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.
Delores Scharmer

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Taylor West](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Farm Workers Covid-19 Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:17:26 PM

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Dear Secretary-Designee Palm and Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee:

My name is Mark Lieberherr and I work for Nuto Farm Supply, Inc. in Rice Lake Wisconsin. The owners and employees at Nuto Farm Supply, Inc. have been working hard for nearly one year to bring safe food to the public amid a national health crisis. The delayed access to the COVID-19 vaccine not only jeopardizes the current food supply, but in a few short months without protection, next year's food supply could also be jeopardized.

I am writing to you to ask that you include Wisconsin farmers and farm workers in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Thank you for considering this request.

Mark Lieberherr

From: [Melissa Blease](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:00:45 PM

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To the members of the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

I would strongly encourage you to consider adding Municipal Clerks, Municipal Treasurers, and Election Workers into the definition of the Public-Facing Essential Workers. Every day these workers deal with the public and play a critical role in upholding our democracy, keeping municipalities functioning, and helping the citizens throughout our state. It is especially imperative to be able to vaccinate these workers as soon as possible due to the nature of their professions and how many people they must interact with on a daily basis, especially due to tax collection that is already currently underway and the upcoming elections. Please consider adding these workers to the definition of Public-Facing Essential Workers so they can get the protection they so desperately need to continue to uphold their duties.

Thank you for your consideration,

Melissa Blease WCMC, CMTW

Village of Cambria

111 W Edgewater Street

PO Box 295

Cambria, WI 53923-0295

Cambriadeputy@gmail.com

P - [\(920\) 348-5443](tel:(920)348-5443)

F - [\(920\) 348-6050](tel:(920)348-6050)

From: [GARY ALLAN KASZA](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid vaccinations
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:53:47 PM

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Please consider adding all free and charitable clinic staff and volunteers not associated with a healthcare organization to Phase 1B

Thank you,

Gary Kasza

From: [Lyn Ungrodt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: response to vaccine subcommittee on Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:51:59 PM

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I am writing to ask you to consider adding another specialized children's service provider to the list of Phase 1b care providers. Foster parents and treatment foster parents provide a critical need in our communities and as a board member and former owner of a treatment foster care agency, I know how necessary this option is for children. Also, as you know, many children in care have critical special needs and are at high risk and the threat of Covid is very high for them. Placements are down because foster parents are afraid to commit to caring for children who may be carriers of the virus leaving the industry suffering but worst of all, leaving children in need of care suffering. We desperately need these services for our youth. Therefore, I believe a vaccine for people who care for these children should also be on the 1b priority list.

Thank you for your consideration to add those involved in foster care and treatment foster care to Phase 1b.

From: [Matthew Hill](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B Comments from Matthew Hill, Concerned Citizen
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:49:51 PM

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Dear DHS Vaccine Subcommittee,
Thank you for all of your diligence in ensuring Wisconsin's Covid-19 vaccine rollout is as swift and smooth as possible. I greatly appreciate your efforts, as well as the efforts of everyone at DHS on this issue.

For Phase 1B, please consider including people who serve in professions that involve directly physically touching members of the public.

Specifically, I am referring to members of the beauty and wellness industry, including but not limited to hairstylists, massage therapists, acupuncture therapists, nail and skin care professionals, as well as dental care professionals.

There is a significant likelihood that such professionals may directly encounter droplets from clients infected with Covid-19 and/or pass along Covid-19 droplets of their own to previously non-infected clients, within their line(s) of work.

Many professionals in these industries have done their utmost to implement proper precautions, including increased PPE and increased sanitation and ventilation of their spaces (expenses in addition to the earlier financial injury of the weeks/months in 2020 in which many were forced to close, either by State mandate and/or by market pressures and personal choice).

Yet, despite heightened precautions and vigilance, these professionals are still directly in harm's way, as there simply is no easy way to avoid breathing some of the same air as a client one is tasked to lay hands upon.

Thus, given the dozens upon dozens of clients on the books in a given week, each of these professionals carries the potential risk of becoming a superspreader, given the kind of close-proximity service work they perform.

Please, please, please consider adding these folks to the Phase 1B rollout plan and/or provide them vaccine access as soon as possible.

Thank you kindly,
Matthew Hill

From: [Halbach, Nathan](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee regarding Phase 1B public Comments for Wireless Infrastructure Association
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:42:21 PM
Attachments: WI Vaccination Letter.pdf

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Good Afternoon,

Please see attached the comments on behalf of the Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA) to the Vaccine subcommittee regarding inclusion in Phase 1B.

WIA represents the businesses that build, own, and operate the nation's wireless infrastructure. Our members include infrastructure providers, wireless carriers, and professional service firms that operate telecommunications facilities in Wisconsin and across the nation.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Nathan

Nathan J. Halbach
Government Affairs Specialist

HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP
33 East Main Street,
Suite 300
Madison, WI 53703
Direct: 608.258.7386
Fax: 608.258.7138
Nathan.Halbach@huschblackwell.com
huschblackwell.com

Husch Blackwell COVID-19 Toolkit

Husch Blackwell has launched a COVID-19 response team providing insight to businesses as they address challenges related to the coronavirus outbreak. Content and programming to assist clients across multiple areas of operations can be found on our website via our [Coronavirus toolkit](#).



Wireless
Infrastructure
Association

January 14, 2021

The Honorable Tony Evers
Governor, State of Wisconsin
819 N 6th St
Ste. 560
Milwaukee, WI 53203

Dear Governor Evers:

On behalf of the Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA) and our members, I ask for your consideration that communications infrastructure workers be afforded phase 1b priority status in the vaccine distribution schedule. Health care providers, small businesses, students, and Wisconsin families are largely relying on wireless connectivity throughout the pandemic. As such, it is important that communication workers whose job it is to keep wireless networks running can continue to maintain, operate, and update facilities uninterrupted.

WIA represents the businesses that build, own, and operate the nation's wireless infrastructure. Our members include infrastructure providers, wireless carriers, and professional service firms that operate telecommunications facilities in Wisconsin and across the nation. On the federal, state, and local levels, WIA advocates for the widespread, responsible deployment of wireless infrastructure to deliver mobile broadband access to all communities.

WIA and its members commend your efforts to stem the spread of COVID-19. You have shown great leadership and courage throughout the pandemic. We strongly support the CDC and Wisconsin guidelines on vaccine rollout and are committed to implementing them within our industry. We recommend, however, that Wisconsin update its vaccination policy to include communications infrastructure workers in phase 1b due to the unique role wireless broadband plays in our communities.

The pandemic has significantly altered the way we live, work, and interact with each other. Digital connectivity has become a core issue in ensuring continuity of our economy and educational system, with historic numbers of people turning to wireless services to maintain their daily lives. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) recognized this need to ensure our workers were able to do their jobs to keep Americans connected early in the pandemic by designating telecommunications workers as "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers." We ask that the essential function of communications workers be similarly recognized in your state's vaccination policy. Telecommunications is a vital and essential service to Wisconsin's communities.

We agree with the CDC's recommendation of prioritizing healthcare workers, and in no way advocate that communications workers should skip the line in front of heroes working on the front line every day to stem the pandemic. However, this request is consistent with the CDC



Wireless
Infrastructure
Association

guidelines which recommends that phase 1b include non-healthcare frontline essential workers and essential workers as designated by CISA. In this category, we note that the CDC has already included fire fighters and police officers, critical roles which largely rely on communication services for their everyday job. Further, as people continue to move their worlds online, broadband is indispensable for health, work, school, and visits with friends and families. Keeping these services working at their peak level is no small task and is achieved by the hardworking men and women in the communications infrastructure industry.

Demand for wireless broadband services has never been higher. As a result, the stress on those networks has never been greater. We are pleased to report that throughout the pandemic, the broadband networks have performed terrifically due to the hard work and dedication of the wireless workforce. Maintaining wireless service is dependent on skilled work being done every day. To keep the broadband networks operating optimally, teams of highly skilled workers must climb towers, work in tight spaces, and operate in a variety of environments to repair or maintain the broadband infrastructure. These jobs often require working near others, hundreds of feet above the ground or in office and residential buildings. Tower crews, for example, are at a higher risk of transmission as they are required to travel from community to community, and often to neighboring states, to do their work. Wireless connectivity has become a substantial priority during this pandemic, and the essential workers keeping us online should be a priority as well.

The CDC guidelines provide significant flexibility for states to determine their own priorities for vaccination rollout. Before the pandemic, fifty-four percent of Wisconsinites were reliant solely on wireless telecommunications, this number has only increased as people move their lives online. Wireless connectivity is a necessary part of everyday life throughout Wisconsin. We urge you reflect this need in your vaccination priorities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. WIA and our member companies stand ready to assist in any matter your office needs to ensure a continuity of service in your state.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan S. Adelstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Jonathan S. Adelstein
President and CEO
Wireless Infrastructure Association

From: [Bonnie Medley](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:42:13 PM

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I feel very strongly that School Bus drivers should be considered as essential workers and be included in Phase 1B for COVID Vaccine as they are in close contact with children in a confined area.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [St.lawrence, Kristen L](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: 1B consideration
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:38:42 PM

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Please consider Adding all free/charitable clinic **staff and volunteers** not associated with a healthcare organization to Phase 1B of vaccine roll-out protocol.

Thank you

Kristen St. Lawrence

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From: [Jennelle Wolf](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee; Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:30:51 PM

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Hello. My name is Jennelle Wolf and I am the Manager of the Child Protection Unit at Pierce County Department of Human Services. I am writing to you to express my concern related to Child Protection staff not being explicitly named in the list of essential staff slated to be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1B. My Child Protection staff of 15 have been tirelessly working throughout this pandemic over nearly the last year. We have been told many times over the last month or more that we would be included in the Phase 1B vaccine delivery. However, today I was informed that Human Services staff (Social Workers) are not listed in the essential workforce staff. Having this vaccine available to Child Protection staff within the Phase 1B is critical. These individuals continue to have daily contact with some of the most vulnerable populations--children at risk of maltreatment, in out of home placement, abused and neglected, and their families. These contacts include face to face contacts in homes, foster homes, schools, and the community. The risk of contact with those positive for Covid-19 is high. Recently, we nearly had to make arrangements for a suspected Covid positive child to stay in a hotel with a staff member, as there was not a foster home or family member willing to accept placement with a pending Covid test. We have situations with concerns for possible exposure to Covid daily; offering of the vaccine to front line Child Protection staff during Phase 1B is necessary to help ease fears of staff risking exposure, daily.

Thank you for taking the time to review this email and request.

Respectfully,

Jennelle Wolf

--

Jennelle Wolf, BSW
CYF Program Manager/Child Protection Supervisor
Child Protection Team
Pierce County Department of Human Services
Direct Line: 715.273.6778
Work Cell: 715.307.5567
Fax Number: 715.273.6862

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From: [Jeffrey Bybee](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:30:48 PM

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Dear Secretary-Designee Palm and Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Subcommittee,

I am writing on behalf of FUJIFILM Cellular Dynamics, Inc (FCDI) located in Madison, WI and on behalf of my fellow biohealth, medical device and biotechnology companies to respectfully request that you amend your proposed Phase 1b draft COVID-19 vaccine distribution prioritization to expand Phase 1b to include biohealth frontline workers.

FCDI and our biohealth workforces in the State of Wisconsin includes frontline workers who are have been working tirelessly to achieve the following:

- Researching SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19) in order to better understand its effects on human health and to identify therapies to treat patients suffering from the virus;
- Manufacturing COVID-19 testing kits, testing supplies and PPE; and
- Developing, testing and producing COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics.

Our employees and our peers in biomanufacturing and research infrastructure in this state are providing our citizens with testing and treatments for COVID-19 across Wisconsin. As such, we urge you to prioritize their access to the vaccine in the next phase of vaccine distribution in order to preserve their ability to maintain this critical work moving forward as we strive to effectively combat this pandemic. The biohealth workforce has been included in Phase 1b in multiple other states as part of their “manufacturing” designation because maintenance of these workers’ ability to continue working is critical to bringing an end to the devastating effects that this pandemic has had on our state. Thank you for considering this request.

Regards,

--

Jeff Bybee
Sr. Director, Human Resources
FUJIFILM Cellular Dynamics, Inc.
Direct: 608-310-5134
Cell: 608-405-2646



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From: carol.zeman
To: DHS.SDMAC
Subject: massage therapists and covid Phase1A or Phase1B of covid vaccines?
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:27:20 PM

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I am a massage therapist, and we are unable to socially distance. In fact as a neck specialist, I am regularly 14 inches away from people's nose and mouth several times a day.

I am also 60 with autoimmune disorders, and really feel like risks of us being super spreaders are not prioritized properly.

When and where will massage therapists over age 60 be prioritized for vaccination?

--

Carol Zeman

Wisconsin Licensed Massage Therapist

ph# 262-227-3398

[email:carolzeman8@gmail.com](mailto:carolzeman8@gmail.com)

"It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."

Mahatma Gandhi

From: [Mayor Shawn Reilly](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Dennis Angle](#); [Daniel P. Thompson](#); [Kevin Lahner](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:26:43 PM

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Dear Vaccine Distribution subcommittee members;

I understand that you have already made and must continue to make difficult decisions as to which entities should be next in line to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. I do not envy your position. I fully understand that COVID-19 is continuing to impact everyone's daily life. The decisions you make are not focused solely on the impact to someone's daily life. Your decisions need to work through how to save lives while ensuring that our institutions and society keep functioning.

I ask that you consider that dispatchers be included in Phase 1B. I ask this, as the Mayor of the City of Waukesha, because our police operations are so dependent upon having a fully functioning dispatch center. Dispatchers are the most critical of non-sworn police staff and they are also the most vulnerable because their work requires at least 8 hours in close proximity to other dispatchers. The Waukesha Police Department has taken all reasonable steps to limit the spread of COVID-19 among dispatchers. The dispatchers have been platooned, protective plastic shields have been installed and the dispatch room is restricted to dispatchers and supervisors. Even taking precautions, there have been problems. Two dispatchers have had COVID-19. That resulted in temporary quarantines resulting in difficulty fully staffing the necessary positions. I want to end the danger of not having the ability to minimally staff our dispatch department.

My job as mayor is to ensure that our police department is fully functioning at all times. Our officers are being vaccinated as I write this email. For that I am grateful. My plea today is to ask that dispatchers be included in Phase 1B in order to limit the danger of the city of Waukesha being gravely impacted due to an outbreak of COVID-19 among dispatchers.

Thank you for considering my plea. COVID-19 has required each of us to make difficult decisions during the last 10 months. I am happy that vaccines are now available. I am hopeful that our citizens will be able to interact normally by summer. I fully recognize the moral implications of the decisions you are tasked with. I understand the need to balance many different interests. Taking all of this into consideration, I ask you to please consider the vital importance of a fully functioning police department, dependent upon the non-sworn dispatchers be included in the Phase 1B vaccine group.

Respectfully

Mayor Shawn Reilly
Waukesha

Shawn N. Reilly



Mayor
City of Waukesha
Phone: 262-524-3700
Email: sreilly@waukesha-wi.gov

201 Delafield St., Waukesha, WI, 53188
<https://waukesha-wi.gov/>



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From: [robert chaffee](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:25:32 PM

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Committee,

I feel it important to include small businesses in this phase. Grocers, convince stores, bakeries as many others are keeping normal daily life going. They risk exposure everyday. Working families are struggling. Retired persons are not as financially hurting as much. My mother is 84 years old. She doesn't have to go out. She has food and a roof over her head. Not that is is easy for anyone. She acts right and avoids contact she will be fine. Let's help those who have to work and risk exposure doing their jobs.

Respectfully,
Robert Chaffee

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Brenda Elsing](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee" and "Phase 1B"
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:15:41 PM

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Get the manufacturer done. This is so important, as it's not just one company it affects if a company has to shut down for covid-19, it is multiple manufacturers!

Thanks!
Brenda Elsing

From: [Katherine Boullion](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Comment to Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:11:46 PM

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WI Subcommittee Vaccine Distribution,

Please prioritize Child Care teachers in Phase 1B of vaccine distribution. We have been on the front lines providing care for children so that other essential workers could continue to work. Physical distancing is challenging with young children, and we have all put ourselves at risk to keep child care available. Vaccinating child care teachers would bring peace of mind to us as well as working parents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Katherine Boullion

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Sarah Wainscott](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B - Financial institution front line essential workers
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:59:24 PM
Attachments: image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
Vaccine_Subcommittee_Comment_Letter_WCUL_WBA.pdf

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Good afternoon –

On behalf of Wisconsin’s credit unions and their 3.4 million members, we submit the attached comment letter. The comment letter, written in partnership with the Wisconsin Bankers Association, identifies the importance of financial institution front line essential workers and respectfully requests their prioritization in the COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

Please contact me with questions. Thank you for your consideration!

Sarah

Sarah Wainscott
SVP of Advocacy



The Wisconsin Credit Union League
1 E Main St, Ste 101
Madison, WI 53703
t: (608) 640-4030 cell: (414) 416-6454
www.theleague.coop



From: [Mindy Stanelle](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Charitable clinic staff and volunteers need to be added to Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:58:20 PM

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Please consider:

Adding all free and charitable clinic staff and volunteers not associated with a healthcare organization to Phase 1B

Sent from my iPad

From: [Keith Piotrowski](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:50:33 PM

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Please consider:

Adding all free and charitable clinic staff and volunteers not associated with a healthcare organization to Phase 1B.
Front line medical support and outreach staff must be protected, regardless of health care system or which patients they serve.

Thank you,

--

Keith Piotrowski

Manager,
U of MN Soil Testing and Research Analytical Laboratory
135 Crops Research Building
1902 Dudley Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

612-625-9713

<http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/>

<http://ral.cfans.umn.edu/>

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."
- African proverb

From: [John Johnson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:49:23 PM

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As a retired Social Worker that was involved in protective placements for children, I encourage you to consider Foster Parents in the next round. Especially Foster Parents of children who are caring for medically challenged.

From: [Town of Prairie du Sac](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:43:04 PM

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A comment regarding the Recommendations for the WDHS COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b. The Public-Facing Essential Workers group should include elections workers in this phase rather than in phase 1c. Their work can not take place remotely. They are face to face with many people on election day, and must also help with the sanitation of the facility throughout the day. (Many may have one or more demographic characteristic and/or medical conditions that are identified as high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 infection.) They are front-line essential workers dedicated to the democratic process.

Thank you

Dick Nolden, Town Clerk
Town of Prairie du Sac

From: [Mike Semmann](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Heather Mackinnon](#); [John Cronin](#); [Alex Paniagua](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:40:01 PM
Attachments: image002.png
Vaccine Subcommittee Comment Letter (002).pdf

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Hello,

Attached (with text below) you will find a joint comment letter from the Wisconsin Credit Union League and the Wisconsin Bankers Association on the Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Recommendations for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b.

Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information. Thanks,
Mike

Michael Semmann

Executive Vice President/Chief Operations Officer | Wisconsin Bankers Association | 608.441.1206 | (c) 608.516.8567 | www.wisbank.com

January 18, 2021

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
1 W Wilson St, Madison, WI 53703
<mailto:DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Vaccine Subcommittee: Priority Group 1b

Re: Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Recommendations for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b

Dear Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory – Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee:

The Wisconsin Bankers Association and Wisconsin Credit Union League respectfully request that frontline essential workers at financial institutions be included in Phase 1b of the COVID-19 vaccination distribution. Frontline workers at financial institutions include positions such as teller, customer service representative, personal banker and others who interact on a regular basis with the public as a required portion of their employment.

In March of last year when the Governor and Department of Health Services issued a Safer at Home order, Wisconsin’s financial institutions were identified as “essential.” This is consistent with a Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) list issued by Homeland Security earlier this year and guidance on critical infrastructure worker designations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in November.

Banks and credit unions have worked tirelessly to continue service while prioritizing the safety of their staff, customers, and members. Now, as distribution of the vaccine continues, we ask that you recognize the value of protecting these dedicated front-line workers. While some institutions have closed their branches during most of this time, many others have remained open particularly those institutions in rural areas. Many institutions don't have the drive-through capacity to handle accommodating customer transactions in this manner. As a result, branches have remained open to handle customer needs in-person.

In addition, financial institutions have been struggling to manage staffing levels when one or more employees need to quarantine due to direct or indirect exposure. This has resulted in some financial institutions having to close branches and disrupt customer access due to insufficient staff available to keep the location open. While financial institutions have invested heavily in technology to facilitate the ability for customers to interact remotely, many customers (notably the elderly) still need to do business in person. These unexpected branch closures have negatively affected customers in several ways.

All financial institutions have put extensive measures in place to protect the safety of their employees and customers at our combined nearly 3,000 branch locations. Yet, protecting frontline financial institution employees by including them in Vaccine Priority Group Phase 1b will help meaningfully remedy the potential for further spread of the virus while allowing customers unrestricted access to their banking needs.

Moreover, as critical support for consumers facing financial challenges because of COVID-19 or the economic impact of the pandemic, banks and credit unions should be considered vital services, and their frontline employees should receive priority access.

On behalf of Wisconsin's banks and credit unions, we thank you for your leadership in ensuring financial institutions can continue to provide necessary financial support for Wisconsinites. We appreciate your consideration as we all work together to stop the spread of COVID-19 and return to a safe, stable, and thriving Wisconsin.

Respectfully,



Rose Oswald Poels
President/CEO
Wisconsin Bankers Association

Brett Thompson
President/CEO
Wisconsin Credit Union League

Michael Semmann

Executive Vice President/Chief Operations Officer | Wisconsin Bankers Association | 608.441.1206 | (c) 608.516.8567 | www.wisbank.com

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From: [TimKatie Bain](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Group 1b COVID Vaccine
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:36:34 PM

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WI DHS and Advisory Committee,

I am writing submit a comment regarding inclusion of Phase 1b:

I ask that consideration for inclusion in 1b is given to certain healthcare workers who have the ability to work from home. It was noted that those who can work from home should be included in a later phase. While this does account for those persons as mitigation of spread, it does not account strongly enough for the fact that non-direct patient care is still needed for the functionality of healthcare systems.

In my Utilization Review role in a mental health hospital system, I have experienced the strain of coworkers unable to work (even from home) when ill with COVID. This places a strain on our department, which in turn burdens other departments as well. Although our role can be done from home, it should be noted that (perhaps unlike billing or coding) the role we provide has immediate impact on patients and treatment teams, as we discuss numerous facets of the utilization review process. Many other departments share in this same type of direct care, although not in person. Our absence in these roles is also immediately felt and has an imminent impact on patients and providers.

While we have been careful to avoid direct patient contact by working from home, this may not be feasible long term. In addition, those in non-direct patient care positions have been asked, numerous times since the pandemic began, to be trained to step into direct patient care roles during staffing shortages.

Please consider inclusion of COVID vaccination Tier 1b to include certain specialized indirect patient care roles. Such as, those who can perform essential healthcare roles remotely, but who interact directly with patients, providers, and/or those who have integral roles in patient care. While we may not provide direct treatment, we are still considered a vital part of a treatment team.

Thank you for your consideration. Stay well,

Katie B

From: [Barb Kopperud](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:25:51 PM

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Dear vaccine subcommittee,

Please consider allowing building/electric/HVAC/plumbing inspectors to receive the vaccine during Phase 1B. We protect the life, safety and welfare of the public by ensuring buildings are constructed in a code complying manner. We have been considered essential workers from the start of the pandemic and have had a record year for construction. This requires us to inspect commercial job sites, new houses and businesses as well as home remodeling projects and look in to complaints. Often, the public comes to our municipal office to inquire about permitting and with code questions. During the course of a work day, we are in contact with many members of the public.

Risk of COVID: Typically, contractors on job sites do not wear masks. Job sites are loud. In order to communicate, contractors need to stand close. At first, we were asking contractors to clear the site for four hours prior to and during, our inspection. This proved to be impractical, especially when we needed to meet in person to point out an area of concern or needing correction. We have been told of entire insulating crews, sheet rock crews and plumbers being out with the virus. We then have to determine how close we stood to them during inspections or if we were on the job site while they were there. For residential remodeling, we are going into occupied homes to meet with home owners to inspect construction. At first we tried accepting photos or videos of work done, however some homeowners lack the technology needed to do this. Or, if construction couldn't be clearly viewed on video/photos or they had questions that required further explanation, we ended up going into the home anyways.

Benefits of vaccine: we would be able to perform our job without worrying about picking up the virus on a job site, exposing others in the office (two municipalities in our area have had to completely close for a period of quarantine) and then being unable to make necessary inspections.

Additional considerations: our municipality has two inspectors. Many smaller municipalities only have one. We don't drive together to inspections any more and try to alternate time spent in the office so that if one of us contracts the virus, there is less chance of spreading it to the other. There aren't any back up or substitute inspectors that could fill in for us. We have each had to quarantine due to exposure or symptoms. Fortunately, so far, we have always been able to have one of us in the office and able to inspect. We strive to make inspections in a timely manner so construction projects can stay on schedule. The vaccine can help ensure this continues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barb Kopperud
Building inspector

Sent from my iPad

From: [clehr0413](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Local government vaccine
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:19:16 PM

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Hello,

I work for both the Kegonsa and Pleasant Springs Sanitary Districts and staff here are wondering if we will be included in tier 1B for vaccinations. We are small in number staff wise and serve about 1100 customers in Dane county around Lake Kegonsa.

Thank you

Cindy Lehr
Info@kegonsasanitarydistrict.com
Cindy.lehr@pssd-wi.org

Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Smartphone

From: [Patti Kratt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:16:36 PM

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Are those in the banking industry being considered? We are essential workers. Think about what happens to the economy if banks have to close even for a short time.

Thank you.
Patti J Kratt

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Neal Kedzie](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B - Public Comment
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:49:50 AM
Attachments: Outlook-3exizwza.png
BRWD80F9925DFE5_007045.pdf

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Dear SDMAC,

Attached is public comment submitted by the Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association requesting that professional truck drivers and trucking personal be included in the Phase 1B COVID-19 vaccination distribution plan.

Neal Kedzie

President
Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association
P.O. Box 44849
Madison, WI 53744
608.833.8200 ext. 160
www.witruck.org



Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/witruck



From: [Randles, Jean](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: FW: vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:49:06 AM

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Hello,

The Safer-at-Home order allowed for individuals to leave their residence in order to perform certain types of work which are deemed “Essential”. SSI Technologies, LLC manufactures products used in other industries that have been deemed essential, according to section 13 of the order. Additionally, we were notified by several of our customers that we are essential to their continued supply of critical products; therefore, our operations were identified as exempt from the Safer-at-Home order. As such, our operations has remained open and employees continued to travel to work during this pandemic. We continue to follow all the other recommendations of the order, as well as the practices we have put in place to maximize employee safety and wellness. These include social distancing where applicable, temperature screening, daily health questions, restricted travel and increased intensive cleaning and disinfecting practices.

As essential workers it is imperative that our employees receive priority to the COVID-19 vaccinations. We are working in a manufacturing environment where we can't ensure social distancing is practiced 100% of the time. And, we have experienced over 600 COVID-19 related events, meaning we have had over 600 events where employees have required some time off work due to COVID-19 like symptoms or exposure to the virus. On average, we have had 35 COVID-19 related absences per day in the months of November and December.

Please add manufacturing essential businesses to the defined “essential workers” list. Our employees deserve the opportunity to continue their work with all the safety precautions available to them, including the vaccinations.

Regards,

Jean Randles, MBA-HR
Director of Human Resources
SSI Technologies, LLC ~ an Amphenol Company
3200 Palmer Drive
Janesville, WI 53546
608-373-9228
jean.m.randles@ssitech.com

From: [Bruce Peetz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee/Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:32:49 AM

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Hello. I am a retired 66 y/o RN who still holds a valid RN license in good standing. I have 34 years of nursing experience. I have participated in flu vaccine clinics in the past, and also have multiple years of acute care nursing. I have no doubt there are many RNs who are retired, still hold a license, very capable of giving vaccinations and still willing to volunteer to participate in COVID vaccination efforts. However, most of us are in that COVID vulnerable age/ pre-existing conditions category, so we hesitate to come forward to participate unless we have some vaccination protection. Please consider including this group of RNs in Phase 1B so that we can assist in the mass vaccination efforts. I believe many retired RNs renew their licenses in case we are called upon to help out in natural disasters. COVID is unique in that it prevents capable but vulnerable nurses to jump in without vaccination. Thank you. Deborah K Peetz, MSN RN (Ret.)

From: [Sarah Resch](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1B request
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:32:12 AM

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The American Camp Association of Wisconsin (ACA) represents over 50 accredited camps throughout the state of Wisconsin that serve tens of thousands of children through virtual school support programs, day camp programs and summer camp programs. We provide children with camp experiences in a safe nurturing natural environment so they can reconnect to themselves and once another, be free from worry, bask in kindness, have success on their own terms, and simply have fun.

ACA has been working diligently on a national level to create COVID mitigation strategies and provide them to ACA camps as well as youth organizations across the country free of charge on the website. The materials are in place to support a safe, happy and physically-distanced but socially connected experience for children this summer.

We need your help to get back to business providing children with critically important camp experiences. As vaccines and vaccination plans emerge, **please consider supporting the American Camp Association's call for camp employees to be classified as Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers with their eligibility for vaccinations coincident with other workers in the Education sector.** "Education and child care" is specifically listed, but we ask that you consider including "summer camp employees." The ongoing availability of healthy staff will allow for critical out-of-school programming. Camp programs allow working parents and caregivers to return to their jobs knowing that their children are benefitting from in-person education and quality supervision. A return to camp sooner rather than later begins the massive healing process our children need. Childcare staff in out-of-school educational and recreational settings such as camps are critical for continued support to serve the nation's health care, first responders, frontline and essential workers, as well as in assisting in the continued economic recovery of our country. Parents and caregivers cannot return to work without a functioning out-of-school sector. It will not be easy but neither are the lives our children.

Why camp? Because **human connection and sense of belonging in a community have never been so important**, particularly for children whose lives have been massively disrupted by a collapse of the structure and systems that normally support them. American Camp Association accredited camps in Wisconsin have been creating these connections and building that community for over 110 years – and we have no intention of stopping now.

Help our children return to camp. We all need it now more than ever.

Thank you and stay well.

Sarah Resch

Chairperson

Wisconsin American Camp Association Local Council of Leaders

Ph: 262-538-1190

Fax: 262-538-1904

From: cjmonty5@att.net
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covet level 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:31:59 AM

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Dear Martha McCamy,

Attached please find a letter recently mailed to Governor evers regarding level one inclusion of freight and package delivery personnel. Please consider including this group in level 1B distribution of the covid vaccinations.

Thank you, Joe Monty

From: [Cheryl Lee](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:20:31 AM

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Vaccinate our long term care patient with respiratory illness including ventilator dependent. These patients exactly like skilled nursing facilities have family and nursing staff coming and going from their homes. These patients are high risk! Their care often funded by Medicaid/Medicare. Thank you.

From: [Linda Joyce](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid vaccine
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:18:08 AM

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I don't understand what is taking so long to get the phase in order. Working fire and ems for 21 years we learn to make decisions urgently we should be vaccinating our population that are high risk 65 and up and high risk in lb get your act together we need to get moving there are so many ems that could be administering shots along with other health care this should have been pre planned event already to much discussion going on not enough implementation

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Barb Van Clake](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Kutchenriter, Linda - MUN](#); [Kelly Michaels](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee and Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:16:39 AM

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Committee,

Could you clarify if specifically trained front-line election workers and city hall elections staff would be considered part of the group titled Public-Facing Essential Workers in Phase 1B?

The Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association members and all state of Wisconsin clerks require the work of specifically trained election workers in order to facilitate voting at our polling locations and municipal administration buildings. There is a Wisconsin primary scheduled for Tuesday, February 16th and a Spring Election for Tuesday, April 6th. It is imperative that we be able to convene election workers for training and at the polling locations prior to the April election. Authorizing election workers and critical municipal election staff with Phase 1B would allow timing for the second dose and cure period to have them immune from Covid prior to the election.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Upon your answer, I will forward your response the clerk's association throughout our state to spread awareness.

PUBLIC-FACING ESSENTIAL WORKERS: The Subcommittee asks the public and employers to only select those who are at risk due to performing public-facing positions with considerations of frequency, intensity, and duration of contact, and ability to mitigate. Employees who are able to work from home, perform most tasks outdoors, or have limited engagement with the public are asked to delay vaccination until supply is robust. The Subcommittee acknowledges that most of the following populations are unlikely to have high percentages of staff who are able to adequately mitigate the risk of SARS-CoV-2. In addition, the large population that met the ACIP definition of "front line essential worker" necessitated subprioritization within this group to avoid inappropriately delaying vaccine access for other high-priority groups (e.g. those with high risk co-morbid conditions).

Barbara Van Clake, MMC, WCPC
City of Omro Clerk / Deputy Treasurer
205 S. Webster Avenue
P.O. Box 399
Omro, WI 54963
Population: 3584
(920) 685-7035 Ext 100
(920) 685-7000 phone
(920) 685-7011 fax
www.omro-wi.com
bvanclake@omro-wi.com

2013-2014 Past President

From: [Maia Hanson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid vaccine
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:14:09 AM

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Hi,

I am wondering if anyone has considered hairdressers and nail techs being on the short list for the vaccine? I work in a salon, I am 61 years old, and all of my clients wear a mask, but several people who see other (younger) stylists come in the salon without wearing a mask. Even wearing a mask, being in such close contact with people makes me feel vulnerable. Please consider us.

Thank you
Maia Hanson
Waukesha

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Susan Hughes](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:06:06 AM

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We provide emergency food and diapers to over 500 families each month in Walworth County. Up until this past August, the organization has been all volunteer for the past 11 years, involving 72 volunteers almost all over the age of 65 (As the volunteer director, I am 66 years old). The number of volunteers is greatly reduced now.

The need for our services escalated last year and continues to grow. We are now functioning with 22 volunteers, the oldest is 85 years old and we have remained open and serving the public uninterrupted. We have never been considered "essential", yet to the 500+ families who rely on the 2 weeks worth of food and diapers they receive, the service we provide is essential and life saving. These are front line workers, there is no way to escape that and they are not paid to do what they are doing. Yet, they have not stopped.

Is there anything that could possibly be done to have this team of active volunteers (now 14 people who face the public each week) considered essential/front line workers in 1B in terms of the pending VOCID 19 vaccine?

Thank you,

Susan Hughes

262-581-3524
Walworth County Food Pantry Inc
205 E Commerce Court Suite B
Elkhorn, WI 53121
<https://www.walworthcountyfoodpantry.org>



Our Mission To Provide the people of Walworth County nutritional supplemental food and diapers during a time of crisis, in a cheerful, welcoming, nonjudgmental environment without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, physical or developmental disability.

From: [Sally Wittlin](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee and Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:48:10 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I am hoping that you would take into consideration including Auto Service repair facilities into Phase 1B? We were considered an essential business during the original state closures. We have high public contact and we are often responsible for keeping community services running. In our particular case we service all the US Postal vehicles in the Village of Menomonee Falls.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sally and John Wittlin
Wittlin's Service, Inc

262-251-4670

From: [Amber Ward](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:41:34 AM

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Hello,

I am not sure if construction trades are included in the public facing essential workers group, but if they are not, I think that they should be. This is my recommendation being a painter in the construction field, I am in contact with many different tradespeople and in also many peoples' homes.

Thank you for your time,

Amber Ward

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jennifer Amacher](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee- Phase 1 B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:39:17 AM

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Good Morning,

As a county employee who works with foster parents in Green County, I would ask that foster parents be given some thought and priority in order to receive the covid-19 vaccine. Foster parents are considered essential as we talk about their role in keeping children safe. Per our standards, we need to ensure contact between foster children and their family for which they were removed. Despite using safety measures, having children go from home to home can increase the risk to our foster parents to become ill with covid. In addition, if foster parents have an exposure or test positive, this also limits our ability to place children in their home when the need arises.

Please keep foster parents as a consideration when prioritizing the vaccine distribution.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. O. Amacher
Green County Human Services Supervisor
Children, Youth & Families Unit
608-328-9314

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From: [Betsy Olson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee" and "Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:35:25 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image004.png

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Title companies, as we are essential workers-

Thanks,

Betsy

Betsy Olson
Business Development
Licensed in Wisconsin for:
Resident Intermediary Individual Title Insurance



Our closings open doors!

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13700 West Greenfield
Avenue
Brookfield, WI
53005
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Main: 414-257-
0068
Fax: 414-257-0928

Email: betsy.olson@merittitle.com

Visit us on the web: <http://www.merittitle.com>



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From: [Tonia Tilson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee and Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:17:39 AM

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Hello, as a nurse with a managed care organization in the state of Wisconsin, I see many in home care providers that should be in this round. This includes RN's, LPN's, CNA's and general care givers. These important services; self directed support and supportive home care, make the difference for so many Wisconsin residence to not only remain living in there own home, but to not be hospitalized or need urgent care frequently. This is important. I hope the state accepts this initiative, and promotes this group to be vaccinated earlier, rather than later.

I have been made aware this morning that DHS has tasked managed care organizations (MCO's) in the state to compose a list of these workers. That is a start.

Sincerely,
Tonia Calo-Tilson, RN

From: [Kate Allison](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee, Public Comment on 1B group
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:17:35 AM

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Dear Martha and Vaccine Subcommittee members,

My name is Kate Allison and I live in Appleton. I read the committee's most recent proposal and I have one piece of feedback that I'd like to share with the group:

I wonder why other jobs that have been labeled as "essential" throughout the pandemic are not being included in the 1B phase? More specifically manufacturing?

In reading the reasoning for the jobs that were chosen in the committee's proposal, there was mention of jobs not being able to switch over to a Work-From-Home setting without potential negative consequences to the business and its staff. I see manufacturing as fitting this description completely. My partner currently works for a local small manufacturing business and it is impossible to do their work from home. He doesn't have the space or technological access to finish customer orders or interface with the shop staff from our duplex. A better, more workable scenario does not exist. Furthermore, should he become sick there is no one else to take over his duties during recovery.

We've seen throughout the pandemic that processing and manufacturing facilities are breeding grounds for larger COVID-19 outbreaks. Masks and other PPE are difficult to wear in hot, crowded spaces that already have poor air quality/ventilation. Maintenance and Engineering staff must work side-by-side to keep equipment running. And even if folks wear masks, it is difficult to adequately space out with dynamic work-spaces. I also question how many manufacturing businesses in Wisconsin are completely enforcing a mask policy.

And what happens if companies here have outbreaks? What happens if a plant has a large number of workers out sick (or worse)? Manufacturing as a field is already struggling to acquire and maintain the number of skilled workers needed to balance a specific level of productivity; what happens when their workers aren't physically capable to do their duties? Or what if, because manufacturing isn't exactly known for having progressive sick-leave policies, you have infected workers coming in with one of the newer, more contagious strains? Many (if not all) of these workers are hourly, so they are having to decide between recovery (and not infecting coworkers), paying the bills, or unemployment.

I fully recognize that this is a monumental task to take on and appreciate all that you are doing to help make our communities safer. With that said, I humbly ask that the committee please reconsider adding manufacturing jobs to the essential positions included in Phase 1B. This will assist the containment of Covid-19 infections and aid businesses as they attempt to continue their functions statewide.

Sincerely,
Kate Allison

From: [Jay Jennings](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B "Vaccine Subcommittee"
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:13:44 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png

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I was curious if any considerations have been given to vaccinate frontline workers in the mechanical service industry.(Plumbers, Fitters, HVAC and Electricians) We were deemed an essential business when the pandemic began. We have a large service department that services plumbing and fire protection in residential and commercial settings. Our service crews are going into private and public spaces everyday and have a the potential to contract or spread Covid-19 to many different groups of people. There should be some consideration given to all of the different trade groups for these reasons.

Thanks

Jay Jennings | Safety Director

MONONA PLUMBING & FIRE PROTECTION, INC.
3126 Watford Way Madison, WI 53713
P 608.216.9038 F 608.216.9093 C 608.225.2272
jennings@mononapfp.com | mononapfp.com

Site Work | Plumbing | Fire Protection | 24/7 Service |  

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From: [Martin Hall](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:01:31 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

As you are likely hearing from many voices and groups regarding the vaccine rollout, I want to encourage the team to consider the place of clergy in the coming phases of the rollout. While I do not know if the timing is more fitting for Phase 1b or Phase 1c (my sense would be the latter), I do think it would be highly beneficial to add clergy of all faiths to the vaccination process before the public rollout begins. Clergy are often older members of the community, we are seeking to balance safety and service to our members in worship, and we have many members who are clamoring for us to be able to return to our in-person visits at homes, hospitals, and elder-care facilities. There are also many of us (myself included) who have standing engagements with groups and worship experiences at nursing homes that are currently on pause and/or are putting the participants at greater risk as they continue. Our need to be in and out of multiple facilities suggests that vaccinations would be a benefit not only to us as individuals, but to the facilities we visit and the congregations we serve.

While there are many groups that most certainly be addressed sooner than clergy, when I start seeing conversation about 'non frontline healthcare workers,' I would suggest that clergy ought to be considered as part of a similar grouping.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

In Faith and Service,

Rev. Dr. Martin W. Hall, Sr. Minister
MartinHall@NSCChurchWI.org
North Shore Congregational Church
7330 N. Santa Monica Blvd.
Fox Point, WI 53217
(414) 352-6123
<https://nscchurchwi.org/>
www.facebook.com/north.church.3

From: mschru73@gmail.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public comment for phase 1b vaccine committee
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:57:13 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to submit consideration for Postal Workers (and possibly delivery personnel) to be added to phase 1b. With many companies having to rely on online for purchasing and distribution of goods as well as the receivers of those goods also being dependent on delivery this is an essential area that has been overlooked. Many of the public continue to come into post offices whether they are ill or not and put workers at risk. Many are looking to send packages for their business they are trying to keep viable and many are looking for payment checks – also trying to maintain their own viability and when it comes to this issues they will not take precautions or stay away which is the source of the risk.

Possibly the decision has already been made for the next considerations but postal workers come in contact with many people through each day every day of the week and could be a significant source of spread if not protected.

Thank you for the consideration.

Michelle Schroeder, MHA, BSN, RN

Nurse Manager Infusion Program

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Grace Rothstein](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Expand 1b vaccinations to Judges and Lawyers
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:41:04 AM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good morning,

As a healthcare professional, I respectfully suggest opening 1b vaccination groups to include Judges and Lawyers.

As police, corrections officers, and inmates are being vaccinated, it would be prudent to have judges and lawyers also vaccinated; that way the courts can return to work more efficiently in the coming months.

Respectfully,
Grace Rothstein Immel PA-C

From: [Carrie Turk](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:39:03 AM

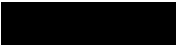
Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Hi,

I believe that daycare providers in both daycare centers and in home child care should be included in phase 1b. My argument behind this proposal is due to the close proximity the providers have with our children. They are changing diapers, spoon feeding our babies/toddlers. They are lifting our children to get in a high chair or on a toilet along with several other daily activities.

I would also like to advocate for our sick patients. Especially those who have pulmonary and cardiac issues. Reach out to our pulmonologist and cardiologist. They know who their sickest patients are and what diagnosis are at the highest risk. I understand the role of essential workers. But we need to look at our vulnerable patients first as they are a ticking timebomb. They are doing their part by wearing a mask and isolation but they require rehab, extra doctor appointment and other treatments where they risk exposure.

Thank you,
Carrie Turk



From: [Susan McBryde](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:32:14 AM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Committee members,

Thank you for giving the public the opportunity to voice our opinions in the matter of phase 1b vaccines.

I am nominating childcare workers as soon as possible, please. We have been considered “essential workers” from the very beginning of the pandemic so that working parents in hospitals and on the front lines could continue going to work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Susan McBryde

From: [Andrea Toldt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:32:08 AM
Attachments: DOD Memorandum re Vaccine Allocation and Distribution prioritization.pdf

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Pursuant to the Under Secretary of Defense's, Ellen Lord's, memo dated January 7, 2021 (please see attached), we are urging that Wisconsin include Department of Defense Contractors performing mission critical activities, inclusion in Phase 1B for the Covid vaccine. We have been officially and personally identified by the Department of Defense via memo dated March 2020, that we are an Essential Government Contractor, providing essential critical infrastructure to the Department of Defense.

In order to ensure the "[DOD's] mission to our warfighter remains successful," we respectfully request inclusion in Phase 1B of covid vaccine distribution. We have stayed open in business by DOD mandate throughout the course of the pandemic at great personal sacrifice to ourselves in order to serve our country. We continue to travel, meet with subcontractors and vendors, perform testing at facilities, and work in close contact with one another in order to ensure that we provide the required support to the Military/Defense Department. Just as healthcare support workers are being prioritized as they support frontline health workers, so too should Defense contractors who are in mission critical roles providing support to America's warfighters.

Adding DOD contractors performing such mission critical functions to phase 1B would not burden the system. There are a very limited number of such people in the state of WI performing such functions and they can easily be identified by providing their March 2020 Memo issued by the DOD and distributed via DCMA identifying that they are part of the Critical Defense Industrial Base. This memorandum states that we have a "special responsibility to maintain [our] normal work schedules." Because of this responsibility that we have so dutifully carried out through this pandemic, we respectfully request that we be included in Phase 1B so that we can continue to safely perform these essential DOD functions and support our Nation's defense and safety.

Andrea Toldt
Exo-Atmospheric Technologies, LLC
www.Exo-AT.com

W140 N5092 Lilly Rd
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
262.289.9223 (office)
414.587.0057 (cell)

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From: [Kevin Tebrinke](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: COVID vaccination Phase 1b request - Heparin Manufacturing
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:16:50 AM
Attachments: image001.png

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Good morning,

To protect the public by maintaining a critical drug supply, we request that DHS include people that work in heparin manufacturing companies in the 1b vaccination list.

1. Heparin is a life-saving drug used to treat blood clots, heart attacks, kidney dialysis, as preparation for surgery, and for diagnostic purposes.
2. Heparin is manufactured from a slaughterhouse byproduct.
3. Scientific Protein Laboratories LLC (SPL) is a biopharmaceutical manufacturer in Waunakee, Wisconsin. We make heparin, pancreatic enzymes, and other life-saving drugs.
4. SPL is the largest US manufacturer of heparin and the only.
5. SPL has about 250 employees.

We ask that you consider our request for inclusion in the 1b group to protect this critical pharmaceutical supply.

Thank you,

Kevin R. Tebrinke, PE
Vice President, Environmental, Health, and Safety, Engineering, Maintenance
Scientific Protein Laboratories LLC
700 E Main St. | Waunakee, WI 53597
Office (608) 849-1619 | Cell (608) 577-6790 | tebrinke@splpharma.com



From: [Mary Troutt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public comment 1b caregivers
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:12:41 AM

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Unpaid caregivers in homes taking care of high risk folks left out because they chose to care at home rather than place person in group setting. Caregiver has to do all outside needs as well as inhouse. These people should be equal to assisted living because it is assisted living without having a business involved.

From: [Mike Davis](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Jocelyne Sansing](#); [Shawn Stauske](#); [Bill Burns](#); [Brian Wolhaupter](#)
Subject: Public Feedback Concerning Phase 1B for Vaccinations in Wisconsin
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:02:29 AM
Attachments: image001.png

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To Whom It May Concern,

As City Administrator of the City of Middleton, I am commenting to urge the inclusion of public Library staff and water and waste water operators in the next phase of vaccinations. Public libraries are very much akin to employees working in education and childcare (daycares, preschools, k-12, and higher education), as they serve the educational needs of our communities without charge, particularly those most in need of services. This is a critical function of local government in providing equitable services for all residents.

Moreover, water and waste water operators are the first line of work in protecting the water supply of municipalities around the state without whom our state's strategic water needs would be in peril.

Both classes of employees should be next behind our public safety staff—police, fire and emergency medical care. Thank you for your consideration.

Elected Officials and Members of City Committees: In order to comply with the Open Meetings Act requirements, please limit any reply to only the sender of this electronic communication

Mike Davis
City Administrator
7426 Hubbard Avenue
Middleton, WI 53562
(608) 821-8358
mdavis@ci.middleton.wi.us



'Like' the City of Middleton on [Facebook](#).
Follow the City of Middleton on [Twitter](#).

From: [Mollie Salisz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee and Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:00:51 AM

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Hi,

I would like to see the convenience store and transportation industry included in the 1B category. Auto service businesses and convenience stores keep essential vehicles such as mail trucks, HVAC vehicles, food distribution, and private vehicles going. There is high traffic of people in and out of the store, and close contact with customers needing rides for broken down vehicles/towing. The mechanics also need to work closely together for auto repair jobs and often are unable to be masked due to the risk of being caught in machinery or exposed with chemicals. These businesses were deemed essential during the initial shut down and would hope they would be on the list as essential for the vaccine as well.

Thank you for your consideration,
Mollie Salisz

From: [Applebaum, David](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Voeck, Julie](#); [Paultre, Pamela](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:53:36 AM
Attachments: Wisconsin SDMAC Submission NextEra 01182021.pdf
Importance: High

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Dear Subcommittee:

Attached is the submission of NextEra Energy, Inc. on behalf of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC on the "Recommendations for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b."

Thank you for your consideration and your ongoing hard work.

David Applebaum

David B. Applebaum
Senior Director, Regulatory
Affairs
NextEra Energy Resources, LLC
700 Universe Boulevard
Juno Beach, Florida 33408
(561) 304-6751 (office)
(609) 203-0056 (cell)
david.applebaum@nee.com

From: [dawn kelm](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:51:00 AM

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I feel truck drivers should be added to this phase. They were once considered essential workers. The vaccines wouldn't get delivered without truck drivers. If they stopped working for one day I think we would all realize how essential they are.

Thank you!
Dawn

Sent from my iPhone

From: [kay.pendl](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Suggestion for who gets the vaccine
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:48:14 AM

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Hello and good morning. I think massage therapists and hairstylists (beauty industry) should be considered for receiving the vaccine. We are with clients face to face every day all day. A lot of us work in private suites or rooms with out clients all day.
Thank you for your time and all of the work you do.

Best regards,
Kay Hart



From: [Mark Nicholson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:35:50 AM

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Good morning,

Building and facility managers and maintenance engineers should be taken into consideration as part of phase 1B. We are essential workers who have been at work every day since the pandemic began. Without real professionals maintaining and operating these buildings, other essential workers would not have a place of work. We are a critical part of the supply chain at this unprecedented time. Thank you for the consideration. Take care and be well.

Regards,

MARK NICHOLSON

General Manager | Irgens

DIRECT [414.443.2591](tel:414.443.2591) | **CELL** [414.349.7680](tel:414.349.7680) | mnicholson@irgens.com

From: [Dave Turner](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Jim Hagstrom](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:28:04 AM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

We support Wisconsin Bio health workers being included in Phase 1b for vaccine distribution.

Our company, [Mirus Bio LLC](#) has been at the forefront of providing innovative gene delivery technologies. We manufacture, support and deliver our cell transfection research products to laboratories around the world working on treatments for disease including leading companies that are developing and manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines. Since the beginning of the COVID pandemic we have been unable to have our entire company work onsite together and we have had to stagger small work groups which has severely limited our productivity as a company. We ask to have our work force and others in the important Bio health industry in Wisconsin included in Phase 1b for COVID-19 vaccine distribution to allow for an unbroken supply chain of the research materials and services that are needed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you

*James Hagstrom
President / Owner
Mirus Bio LLC*

From: [Jocelyne Sansing](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccines for frontline library workers
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:27:55 AM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good Morning,

Public library workers need to be included in Phase 1B Covid Vaccine administration.

As institutions of information and education frontline workers provide essential and valuable resources to all ages of the community. Public Libraries are a service to EVERYONE! Frontline staff are positioned for an enormous risk of exposure and the opportunity to vaccinate would allow libraries to finally reopen and minimize community spread of the virus.

Communities need this essential and equitable public service and the people who provide this service deserve to be included in Phase 1B.

Thank you for your attention to this critical need.

Sincerely,

-Jocelyne Sansing

--

Jocelyne Sansing
Library Director
Middleton Public Library
7425 Hubbard Ave.
Middleton WI, 53562
www.midlibrary.org
608-827-7425



From: [kenneth klinzing](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:26:55 AM

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Hello,

I feel that phase 1b should start as soon as a possible. I also believe that it should include transportation workers. We have been out here in the public everyday during this pandemic. We are delivering everyday items as well as lifesaving supplies across America. I deliver medical grade oxygen as well as other medical, beverage, food, and industrial grade liquids and gasses. Please get this process in gear.

Thank you
Ken Klinzing

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Fabio Duarte](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee: Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:26:50 AM

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I'd like to recommend Amazon employees for the vaccination.

From: [Ann Puser](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:26:34 AM

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Please include public.library employees in Phase 1B of civic vaccinations.

The services provided by public library employees are an integral part of the education and access to information of the people of Wisconsin.

Vaccination of public library staff would hasten and expand the services we are able to safely provide, especially access to technology that supports educational and vocational activities. Many library patrons do not have access to these resources due to limited public access to library buildings due to covid restrictions.

Thank you,

Ann E. Puser



From: [Rob Michaelson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Don Duenkel](#); [Troy Adams](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:25:20 AM
Attachments: 2021-01-18 SDMAC Vaccination prioritization request.pdf

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Hello State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC) Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee:
Please see the attached request to include water utility frontline and operations workers in Phase 1B of the COVID vaccination prioritization.

Thank you for all you do in these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,
Rob Michaelson, PE

Rob Michaelson P.E. | Water Systems Manager
Manitowoc Public Utilities
(920) 686-4354 | [Direct Line](#)

1303 S. 8th Street | P.O. Box 1090 | Manitowoc, WI 54221
(920) 686-4376 fax | www.mpu.org

Community Owned ... Customer Focused

From: [Nate Boettcher](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1 B Public Comments
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:23:31 AM
Attachments: image001.png
DHS_Vaccine_1B_Comments.pdf

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Please see the attached comments.

Thank you,



Nate Boettcher

President & CEO
W7725 US Highway 10, PO Box 420
Ellsworth, WI 54011
Mobile: 715-307-1517
Office: 715-273-4355
Fax: 715-273-2019

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From: [Bronna Lehmann](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:15:47 AM

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To the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee:

I am writing in support of including Wisconsin library workers in the Phase 1B vaccination plan.

Libraries are essential, trusted institutions in our communities that provide critical educational support and access to computers. Providing frontline library staff with vaccinations would allow libraries to reopen to the public. Staff would then be more accessible to help people in these trying times. This would include information requests, homework assistance, computer use assistance, and job search support.

Having worked at our small town library during the 2009 economic downturn, I know firsthand how necessary access to our computers, broadband, and technical support is for job seekers. Searching for a job is a high-tech activity that requires regular access to a computer and often support in mastering new technical skills needed to navigate the application process.

Library workers want to help our communities to our fullest ability. To do so while keeping ourselves and our patrons safe requires access to vaccination.

Thank you for your consideration.

--Bronna

*Bronna Lehmann, Director
Belleville Public Library
130 S. Vine Street, P.O. Box 140
Belleville, WI 53508
608-424-1812*

From: [Debby Hufford](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine and Transportation Workers
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 7:59:34 AM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I am saddened and frustrated that Wisconsin is considering transportation workers a 1c for vaccination. Most states recognize this category as 1b.

I am a flight attendant. I am in contact with hundreds of people in a confined space for hours. My safety and the safety of the guests on my plane are important.

I am a first responder on my plane, trained to provide CPR and other necessary medical care. Am I to deny medical care to guests on my plane due to the situation of my state not providing me adequate vaccination?

I have co-workers from all across the US, and co-workers in other states are either receiving vaccination due to their first responder status or have appointments scheduled as 1b is where they are classified and 1b is scheduling for them. Wisconsin is lagging in all of these steps. I am a health risk to myself and hundreds of guests.

Please consider a better approach to transportation workers, especially those (like myself) who also are considered first responders.

Sincerely,
Debby Hufford

From: [Nancy Kunde](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Comments on Phase 1B recommendations
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 7:57:20 AM

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1-18

To: State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee

From: Nancy Long



I am writing to urge the Subcommittee to add library staffs to the Phase 1B vaccine distribution list of employee groups. Librarians and library workers are educators in every sense of the word. They are intimately involved in the educational initiatives of local schools across Wisconsin. They also provide a wealth of educational programming within the confines of libraries. Many libraries have remained open providing curbside service to families during the pandemic. Now, many libraries are planning to open or partially reopen and will have youth again coming through their doors. Library workers deserve to be on the Phase 1B list of employee groups. Please consider adding them to the priority list of Phase 1B.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Nancy Long, Chair
Columbia County Library Systems Board

From: [AT&T Odell Ball](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine sub committee
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 7:53:33 AM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good Morning:

I had to comment on the fact that thousands of essential workers have worked and sacrificed their health and their family's health, to make sure our communities were fed.

Now we have Hedge fund executives and bankers who want to skip in front of these essential workers to get vaccinated. That is an abomination!

Deacon Odell Ball
Providence Baptist Church

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Hillary Acker](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1 B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 7:40:57 AM

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Good morning,

I would like to request that Massage Therapists be added for Phase 1B due to client close contact for an extended period of time . I would also like to request for those who are self employed to be added and not just therapists working for Medical Facility or other non-medical facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hillary Acker
Fueled for Life

From: [Heather Schmitz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 7:18:54 AM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee:

We urgently request that the essential workers of Wisconsin's drinking water industry be re-prioritized from Phase 1C to 1B for vaccine distribution. We recognize the incredible task you have had to take on in deciding which industries are most in need of the vaccine; however, we believe the critical work of the water industry has been overlooked amid this pandemic. It would be nothing short of disastrous to risk the health of people who supply such a fundamental necessity.

The workers of Lake Como Sanitary District NO. 1 never stopped working, despite the pandemic. The water industry requires professionals to be experts in their own systems, due to the many variables that make up a water system, and are therefore highly specialized and impossible to replace without substantial notice. Metering experts specific to each municipal water system have to go into homes and businesses every time water is turned on or off so that we can flush their system and ensure the water is going to be safe. This frequent contact with the public is dangerous, but impossible to avoid. Additionally, despite efforts to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 among our workers, the nature of our work requires our workers to be in close proximity to each other. The water supplied by water utilities is vital to public health for virtually everyone: hospital workers, police officers and especially the firefighters, who have no means of fighting a fire if the water has been shut off.

The foundation of public health is clean water. All living things depend on it to survive and no one can wash their hands without it. The Department of Homeland Security has specifically recognized water workers as essential critical infrastructure workers, and EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler specifically included water workers as essential in writing to the Nation's Governors about the spread of the COVID-19. Recently, the CDC published a recommendation to vaccinate based on three criteria, the second of which is to "preserve the functioning of society." It is hard to imagine anything more important to a functioning society than clean water. It is a testament to our workers and industry that people rarely think about what it takes to deliver water to their homes—until the water is disrupted. However, we respectfully request that you consider our workers today.

Lake Como Sanitary District NO. 1 and all of Wisconsin's municipal water utilities are committed to serving our communities. Please consider immediately including the frontline workers of water utilities in Phase 1B in order for them to continue delivering the critical services our customers and society rely on. Thank you for considering our input.

Sincerely,

Heather Schmitz
Office Manager

Lake Como Sanitary District #1

(262) 248-2077

From: [Ellie Genduso](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Comment on 1b- Spa Industry
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 7:13:07 AM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

To whom it may concern,

Please don't forget the spa industry. Massage therapists, hair stylists and nail techs were all told that our services were "necessary" rendering us unable to continue to collect unemployment if we didn't go back when we were recalled. None of these professionals can do their job and stay the recommended 6 feet from their clients and many have to work in small, poorly ventilated areas, for an hour at a time.

Please don't overlook us in the vaccine roll out.

Thank you,
Ellie Genduso

Sent from my Moto G5 Plus

From: [Morgan Gottschalk](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine priority
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 7:11:40 AM

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To whom it may concern: I work for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Department and we have always been deemed essential as well as working in a high risk environment. Please put us on the next priority list. Thank you.

Morgan Gottschalk
Network Administrator
Veolia Water Milwaukee



From: [TERESA KRAFT](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Re: IRIS/Family Care Vaccination
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 6:59:27 AM

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Please put this very vulnerable group IRIS/FAMILY CARE at the top of the vaccination list. My daughter and so many of this population have very vulnerable needs. Thank you so much for your consideration!

On Sun, Jan 17, 2021 at 10:45 AM TERESA KRAFT <teresa_kraft@msd.k12.wi.us> wrote:

Please put this very vulnerable group IRIS/FAMILY CARE in the top vaccination group. So many of this population have very vulnerable needs. Thank so very much for your consideration

Sent from my iPhone

--

*Teresa Kraft
500 21st Street S.E.
Oaklawn Elementary School
Menomonie, WI 54751
715-232-3798*

“Change your thoughts and you change your world.” – Norman Vincent

“You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.” – Mae West

“Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.” – Carl Bard

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From: [Mary Beitzel](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Distribution
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 6:41:57 AM

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The caregivers and police and firefighters are very important in the first round for vaccines.

It is also important to remember the 70 + residents of the communities who live independently. They need directions/an appointment and access to the vaccine.

Thank you!!!!!!!!/Mary Beitzel

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Marilee Cronin](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 6:38:58 AM

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I am writing to submit that I think the state needs to move ahead with the recommendations for Phase 1B. I think all of these committees are the bottleneck for getting the vaccine and we need to cut down on this red tape. I am an educator in an elementary school. I have seen many friends who teach in other states who have already received their first dose. I was frustrated as the state tried to call foul on the School District of Janesville. We need to keep moving with these vaccines, and I think Rock County has the right idea with taking surplus and organizing with an employer who employs people in 1B. I would like to see more of this happening.

I appreciate that the recommendation is for people age 70 and older.

I would also like to see our state employees who work in some of these areas be included such as our State Public Defenders who regularly need to visit jails and prisons to meet with clients, as well as appear for courtroom hearings.

Thank you

--

Marilee Cronin


Madison, WI

From: [Elizabeth Klinzing](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid vaccine phase 1B consideration
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 6:31:54 AM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

As you consider those eligible for covid vaccinations, please consider transportation workers, as well as grocery store, gas station and like employees. They have foundationally kept our state going through this pandemic. Their diligence to work and responsibility puts them at a greater exposure risk.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Klinzing

From: [Cory Lynch](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 6:07:18 AM

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I am resending my public comment in the event that it didn't make it through the first time.

As the President of the WI Chapter of APCO International and a working dispatch supervisor I am requesting the subcommittee to consider the following:

I believe that the distribution plan is missing a vital group that fully relates to the direct care of COVID patients and that is the 911 dispatchers. While some counties in the State are rolling dispatch into their plans for 1b vaccinations, not all are and we believe public safety communications/911 dispatchers need to be specifically named in the plan.

911 dispatchers are a skilled, not easily replaced group of essential workers that are vital to getting emergency medical responders to the patients. If COVID were to get into any 911 dispatch center in the state it would have devastating effects on the communities that that center serves. For example, if COVID were to infect team members in my center we would need to quarantine between 4 and 10 people, depending on contact tracing and direction of our local health department and HR, out of a staff of 22. On the high end of that number, the 12 team members remaining cannot staff a 24/7 operation that requires a minimum of 4 on-duty at any given time while the affected individuals are quarantined. The effect of COVID on a larger center such as Dane County or Milwaukee would have much deeper impacts as they run with many more people per shift. Most 911 dispatch centers in Wisconsin are smaller spaces that don't allow for separation of workers due to the nature of the job and the majority have many shared spaces and shared equipment.

Including 911 dispatchers in the first distribution tiers I believe is essential to the continuity of service to the communities that we cover. 911 dispatchers were specifically named in Governor Evers initial orders as essential workers, however the distribution plan appears to leave us out as we are not considered first responders by state statute.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter, your work on this subcommittee is vital and appreciated.

Cory Lynch, ENP
Public Safety Communications Supervisor
La Crosse County Emergency Services
President, WI-APCO
MSAG Coordinator
333 Vine St, La Crosse, WI 54601
Phone: 608-785-9634 Fax: 608-785-9858
www.lacrosse911.org

From: [Barkow, Aisha](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee and Phase 1B - Public Comment
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 5:53:16 AM

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Dear Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the COVID-19 Vaccine priority group 1b. I spoke to the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management and they were not clear if my officers were able to receive the vaccine under group 1b. After speaking with various individuals within public health, many are unclear what group public safety officers fall into, but I believe they fall into the same group as law enforcement.

I want to take a moment to explain why Public Safety Officers should be specifically named in 1b and under Non-EMS First Responders. As a Public Safety Officer at a college, we are the first responders. We respond to medical emergencies, disturbances, trespassers and numerous other calls for services that increase our risk of exposure to COVID-19 while we wait for emergency personnel to include law enforcement. We are the first line of defense to incidents requiring an EMS or law enforcement response. There have been incidents where we responded to service calls and the individual was COVID-19 positive. We are responsible for providing basic life support to the people we serve. We are front line essential workers where the nature of our job, providing safety and security, is critical to the daily operations of the college. Beginning Tuesday, January 19, MATC will open 4 campuses to approximately 2,500 students for in-person instruction. Our population includes many students that live in urban communities that have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 virus.

I plea to you to specifically name/write Public Safety Officers in group 1b to prevent misinterpretation and subjection as to who are Non-EMS First Responders. As Public Safety Officers, we are committed to serve our community during this pandemic and need to be considered as first responders to minimize exposure and keep everyone safe.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to a clear delineation of Public Safety Officers in group 1b.

Sincerely,

Aisha

--

Aisha Barkow
Director of Public Safety
Milwaukee Area Technical College
700 West State Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1443
PH - (414) 297-7035
FX - (414) 297-6182
barkowal@matc.edu

From: [Kari Breunig](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: 1B Vaccine
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 5:45:16 AM

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Please include United States Postal workers in your 1B phase of the vaccine rollout.

From: [Randy Nagy](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 5:31:08 AM
Attachments: image003.png

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To: Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Re: Phase 1b vaccine distribution

Gentueri is one of a number of biohealth frontline companies helping to fight this pandemic and we have four COVID-19 collection kits listed on the FDA website. Our 35 employees help to produce over 10,000 COVID-19 testing kits each day. We are currently producing 120,000 COVID-19 collection kits for the University of Wisconsin. If our workforce became infected with COVID-19, not only would we not be able to deliver kits for the University of Wisconsin to screen students for COVID-19, but local health departments, would miss over 50,000 COVID-19 collection kits each week.

Without our kits to test for COVID-19, your department will have less information to determine the best path forward to fight this pandemic. We are committed to help fight COVID-19, so we ask that you help protect our workforce by being included in the Phase 1b vaccination distribution so we can continue our efforts without risk of contracting the virus.

Thank you,

Randy Nagy
608-259-6735
rnagy@gentueri.com



The Future of Biological Sample Collection

312 Locust Dr.
Verona, WI 53593

From: [Paul Bruhnke](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Thoughts on who should be in group 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 5:23:10 AM

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I am a civilian employee of the Madison Police Department and I along with one other civilian "shuttle" squad cars in Madison. As Police are first responders I feel we should be included in that group as well. Personally I am 61 yo and have around 3-4 of the medical issues that put me at higher risk. Just my thoughts.

Thanks for your time.

Paul Bruhnke

From: [Angel H](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: FedEx, UPS DELIVERY DRIVERS ARE VERY ESSENTIAL
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:56:54 PM

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To whom It may concern,

Please remember of all the essential workers, we drivers are the key to making doctors and nurses, as well as other medical personnel serving in the efforts to combat this pandemic. If it weren't for us, much needed medical deliveries wouldn't and can NOT be delivered to where they need to be.

As well, in efforts to keep more people home and further exposing people to this virus, we have been delivering to homes necessities needed to keep them from going out and being exposed or exposing others.

A bit of an urgency is needed to get us daily delivery people vaccinated and protected from the possibility of contracting this possibly fatal virus.

Think about the decision you make when classifying us below 1A, and the impact you are making on the progress of the medical field, and the people in our state utilizing us for the betterment of all our health.

Respectfully,

Angel Hewer 

From: [Douglas Hoelz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:24:01 PM

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My comment is before you consider vaccinating the 1 B group, please finish up the 1A. My husband is a retired pharmacist from Waukesha county who came back into the workforce to help out and administer the vaccine. He has almost completed his training and should be ready to immunize this week. He has not been allowed to receive his vaccine yet because of the restriction of who the vaccine can be given to, namely the long term care facility and their staff. He is working for a chain drug store. Where is the protection for my husband ? He is over 70 and I am concerned that he will administer vaccines to many different people without the protection of receiving the vaccine first.

I am sure he is one of many in this predicament.

Linda Hoelz

Sent from my iPad

From: [Kitty Rahl](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: VACCINE SUBCOMMITTEE - PHASE 1B Vaccination Public Comment
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:11:11 PM
Attachments: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B Letter_ 011721.pdf

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Dear Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

Attached is a request from the Chippewa Valley Parish Nurse Group regarding the Phase 1B Vaccination Recommendations. We communicated this request to the health officers in the counties we represent as well. Please reply to acknowledge having received this email and contact me if any further information is needed.

We appreciate your hard work during this challenging time and the opportunity for public comment!

Kitty Rahl, Chippewa Valley Parish Nurse Group
6830 North Road
Eau Claire, WI 54701
Kit21@chipvalley.com
(c) 715-829-5395



This email has been checked for viruses by AVG antivirus software.
www.avg.com

To: Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee of the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee, and

Directors/Health Officers of -

- Buffalo County Public Health Department
- Chippewa County Public Health
- Dunn County Health Department
- Eau Claire City-County Health Department
- Pepin County Health Department
- Polk County Health Department
- Trempealeau County Health Department

From: Chippewa Valley Parish Nurse Group

Attn: Kitty Rahl

6830 North Rd

Eau Claire WI 54701

Kit21@chipvalley.com

Date: January 17, 2021

As members of the Chippewa Valley Parish Nurse Group, we are writing to ask that pastors, priests, rabbis and other ordained clergy be included in the group of non-health care frontline essential workers eligible to be vaccinated in Phase 1B of the Wisconsin Vaccine Distribution Plan. This action will help assure a critical support for individuals and families in Wisconsin communities. Clergy meet the definition of workers in this group as follows:

Clergy are **frontline workers** at-risk because –

- Clergy offer spiritual counseling and support to parishioners in distress due to physical, mental, emotional/behavioral and spiritual health crises;
- Clergy provide services for ill and dying patients, their families and significant others;
- Clergy have the potential for high-risk exposure as they plan and conduct funeral, wedding, and baptismal services for parishioners and their families; and
- Clergy offer services on demand, day and night, often taxing their self-care and health.

Clergy are **essential workers** because –

- Clergy provide spiritual care and support that is essential to the well-being of parishioners in the community, and is critically important during this period of significant fear, stress, loss, and grief associated with the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- Clergy have essential skills and knowledge that would be difficult to replace should they require isolation and be unable to work while recovering from COVID-19 illness.

For these reasons, the Chippewa Valley Parish Nurse Group urges you to prioritize ordained clergy as non-healthcare, frontline essential workers eligible for vaccination in the Phase 1B group. Early vaccination of clergy will help assure a critically important support in Wisconsin communities at this challenging time. We thank you for your consideration.

Becky Kneer, RN, Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Dunn County

Karen Dolan, RN, Immaculate
Conception Parish
Eau Claire County

(continued)

Jean Gardner, RN
St Mary's Church – Durand, Pepin County
Holy Rosary Church – Lima, Pepin County
Sacred Heart Church – Mondovi, Buffalo County

Vicki Deuringer, RN, Trinity Lutheran Church
Eau Claire County

Sarah Zarbock, RN, Menomonie
United Methodist Church
Dunn County

Charlene Anderson, APNP, RN
Trempealeau County

Amy Whelan, RN, Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Dunn County

Karen Fossum, RN, Peace Lutheran Church
Polk County

Alison Martin, RN, Immanuel Lutheran
Church
Eau Claire County

Kitty Rahl, RN, Immanuel Lutheran
Church
Eau Claire County

Geri Long, RN
Eau Claire County

Jackie Tiller, RN
Trempealeau County

Pat Garber, RN, Trinity Lutheran Church
Eau Claire County

From: [Lt Thompson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Recommendations for vaccine priority group 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:38:51 PM

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I write to inquire if anyone has considered the important role of private security officers and private detectives in critical infrastructure and public safety. I am a supervisor at one private detective agency, and an officer at another. At one company, we provide security to essential businesses in the greater Milwaukee area; at the other, we provide security to critical banking infrastructure and ensure the flow of liquid capital to and from banks to each other and to the public.

At the former, I have had most of our officers working shifts on-site contract COVID-19. I presently have one officer out with an active infection. Of the people who are actively working shifts on-site, only myself, one of our contractors, and the owner of the company have not yet contracted the illness. I don't have access to records for the latter, but I do know that there has been at least one person of a dozen or so out with COVID-19.

It is common for security personnel to be overlooked in these initiatives, so I am asking the committee to consider including personnel such as my officers and detectives, who selflessly continue to provide security for critical infrastructure and essential businesses, in phase 1b of Wisconsin's COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

Sincerely yours,
Morgan M Thompson
Lieutenant
Advanced Private Police LLC
WI Private Detective #12796-63

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Chris Anders](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid vaccine recommendations
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:10:36 PM

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I think you need to look into airport employees, specifically the service associates that have to deal with passengers everyday.

Christopher Anders

From: [Kay Papageorgio](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid Vaccine
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:05:38 PM

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Hello! To whom it may concern! I am a hairstylist and I really feel we are an essential business! I also feel everyone in my industry is at high risk being so close to our clients providing them with all their grooming needs! Therefore, I believe we should be able to receive our vaccinations sooner than later!!!

Thank you for letting me share my opinion with you!

Sincerely,

Kay Papageorgio

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sue](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccination for Covid-19
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 8:52:24 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is my understanding that grocery/convenience store workers will NOT be in line for the next set of vaccinations for Covid-19.

I cannot tell you how much this disappoints me. Every day I go to work, I put my health in jeopardy as literally hundreds of people enter our stores.

I'm fortunate that my store owner, Mitch Eveland, of Lake Mills Market, has mandated that EVERY SINGLE CUSTOMER wear a mask, but we also know this isn't infallible. Plus, I work a second job with Kwik Trip, and they DO NOT ENFORCE the mask mandate. My life is literally being put on the line because close to 70%—or more—REFUSE to wear a mask. I'm literally in harms' way for a pack of gum, a case of beer, a pack of cigarettes.

I blame this on the Republicans and especially Trump—for NOT taking this pandemic seriously, and for NOT insisting everyone wear a mask (no shoes, no shirt, no service—PERIOD!)

We deserve to be immunized to protect us against those who just don't care.

Sincerely,

Sue Noyes

From: [Fred Thimmel](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:45:20 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in response to your proposed COVID-19 Phase 1B recommendations. I own a manufacturing company in SE Wisconsin. We manufacture components for the conveyor industry serving warehousing, parcel distribution and delivery such as FedEx and UPS and airline baggage handling. During the spring lockdown in Wisconsin, we were categorized as critical infrastructure and remained open as we are an essential industry.

We have lost hundreds if not thousands of work hours to COVID-19. Due to the lost work hours directly related to COVID-19, we have been late on some deliveries placing business at risk. This places jobs at risk. I feel that essential workers should be placed ahead of prison inmates on the priority list. We are helping to move products (and now vaccines) to where they are needed. Our employees are paying mortgages and buying groceries. I can't keep them all employed and meet our client's tight demands if people are ill or quarantined due to COVID-19 protocols, schedules are missed, and clients go elsewhere.

Prisoners have made choices that land them where they are. My employees, who are all essential employees in manufacturing are providing skills and labor that is deemed to be critical. While they are not PUBLIC-FACING essential employees, they are doing honest, essential work to provide for themselves and their families. Please consider their needs and the needs of the customers we provide our products to ahead of our inmate population.

Very truly yours,

Fred Thimmel
Chairman, Bryant Products, Inc

From: [Dale Lenz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee - phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:45:34 PM

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Many of these essential workers are older and have no choice but to work. I'm in my 70's and can stay home but my son-in-law has no choice!!

Dale Lenz

Sent from my iPad

From: [Gary & Kathy Vater](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee, phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:39:03 PM

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I would like to chime in on who to include in 1b vaccinations. I propose that those who live with frontline essential workers who are exposed to Covid positive patients be allowed to get the vaccine soon. I am an ICU RN and I fear bringing it home to my husband, this even though I have been vaccinated.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kathleen Vater BSN, RN, CCRN

Sent from my iPad

From: [Stemo, Jayson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:33:31 PM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

To whom it may concern,

I would like you to reconsider not including critical manufacturers within the phase 1B vaccine for the state for Wisconsin. During the pandemic, the employees of Curtiss Wright came to work to keep major industries working such as Agriculture, Transportation, Aviation, Energy, and even the State of Wisconsin. I would ask that you reevaluate, who is eligible to the phase 1b vaccine and include critical manufacturers.

Best Regards,
Jayson Stemo

Jayson Stemo
Business Unit Manager

Surface Technologies

Curtiss-Wright

8201 N. 87th St., Milwaukee, WI 53224

T: 414.355.6119 | F: 414.355.9114 | M: 414.699.2218

jayson.stemo@cwst.com | www.cwst.com

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From: [Rick Phelps](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Response to vaccine subcommittee on "Phase 1B"
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:28:57 PM

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I write to ask you to add a critically important direct service provider to your 1B priorities. There are a limited number of foster parents for high needs children that are living with the intense pressure of caring for someone else's children during the pandemic. They face great personal responsibility pressure as well as potential liability. Some of these children have immune system complications. It is very difficult to recruit foster parents in general and especially rare when it comes to foster parents willing to take high risk kids. Please extend to them the modest support of vaccines asap. If such a parent tests positive how do you replace them without causing yet another round of insecurity and hardship for the child? Losing children in a foster care system with ever changing care givers must be avoided at all costs. The numbers you would be adding to the vaccine priorities would be small but the impact would be great !!

You are currently including child care workers, group care facilities, day care workers. This is a small but fair and important expansion. Ideally you should provide coverage for all foster parents but at a minimum extend immediate coverage to the care of higher risk children. Thank you for your consideration.

From: [Ann Z](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#); [GOV Info](#)
Subject: PHASE 1B - Vaccine Subcommittee WISCONSIN
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:27:47 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Annie Zaborowski and I'm a proud Wisconsin resident.

I'm also a TIER 1 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE Essential Employee as defined by the Department of Homeland Security.

I'm a Flight Attendant Purser for one of the biggest Airlines in the world but I live in small community in NW Wisconsin.

I'm severely disappointed TRANSPORTATION WORKERS are being overlooked completely for PHASE 1B in the state of Wisconsin for the COVID Vaccine. We're not even in discussion for 1B even though the CDC recommends airline employees/transportation workers for Phase 1B.

I understand many work group want consideration but CONSIDER THIS....

FLIGHT ATTENDANTS are Aviation's First Responders.

We are trained to deal with In Flight MEDICAL Emergencies.

We are trained to deal with In Flight passenger disturbances.

We can have up to 400+ Passengers in one day and the next day have another 400+ passengers.

The same Flight Attendants who fly legislators to DC on general flights also fly private charters for Wisconsin's Professional Sports teams. GO Packers and Bucks!

Flight Attendants have to fly overseas right now even though the general public is advised not to do so.

We are public facing employees who can NOT hide behind a plexiglass partition to do our job, rather we work in very close quarters on airplanes. Pilots can isolate in the Flight Deck with the door closed to hundreds of people everyday, I CAN'T.

I understand if the state of Wisconsin can't consider all transportation workers at this time so PLEASE CONSIDER FLIGHT ATTENDANTS.

If Mink Farmers are in the discussion, don't forget FLIGHT ATTENDANTS.

Texas and New York are already vaccinating my coworkers, please consider Flight Attendants ESSENTIAL enough for a Vaccine.

Annie Zaborowski
Delta Airlines Flight Attendant
*International
*Private Professional Sports Charters



Sent from my iPad

From: [Annette Edwardson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase1B recommendations
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:30:30 PM

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I think people working in legal field should definitely be in Phase 1B. People are scared and worried and wanting and needing to get their estate planning in order. We are meeting with numerous clients multiple times everyday for signing documents or discussing plans. We are also meeting with people to do probate work for those who have died suddenly from Covid. These two types of services are essential. We need to be protected. Please help us do we can help them.

Thank you for your consideration

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Patience Roggensack](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Koschnick, Randy R - COURTS](#); [Morrison, James A - COURTS](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee; Phase 18
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:27:47 PM
Attachments: COVID-19 Task Force Final Report.pdf

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I request that all judges and employees who serve in Wisconsin courts be included in level 1b distribution for vaccines. The courts are part of Wisconsin's critical infrastructure that must be maintained during COVID-19.

Vaccination of judges and court staff will promote justice. Courts interact on a daily basis with people throughout Wisconsin. The need to adjudicate civil claims, criminal violations and protect constitutional rights have not taken a break because of COVID-19, and our courts have not taken a break either.

In March, I convened the COVID-19 taskforce with state-wide representatives of the judicial system and two physicians from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health serving as our advisors. We developed a plan by which the courts could continue in operation with a lessened exposure to infection. I attach a copy of our taskforce report for your review.

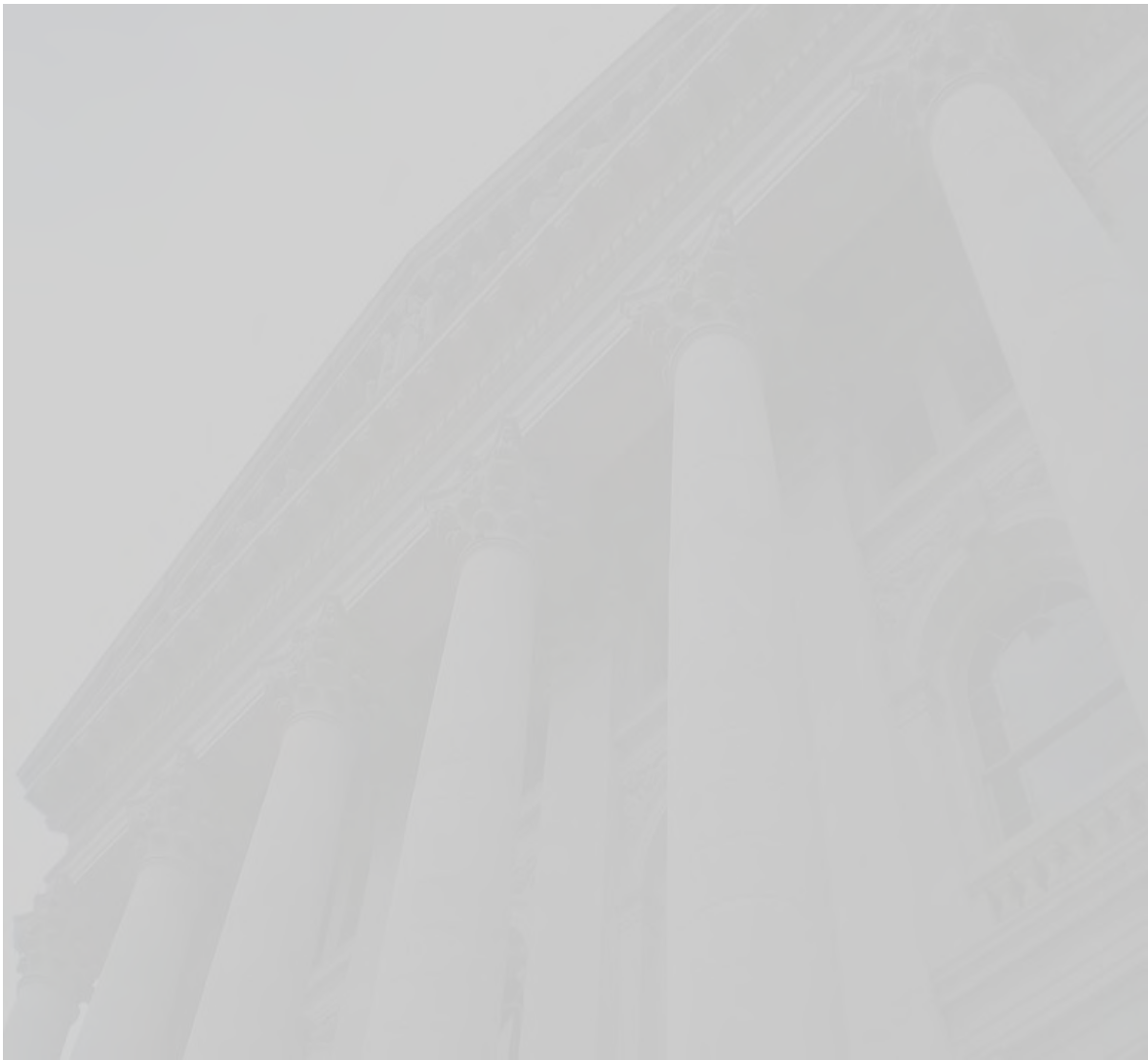
However, notwithstanding our plan and cooperation by judges and court staff, court personnel and one judge did contract COVID-19. We need to vaccinate judges and all court personnel at the earliest opportunity because Wisconsin courts need to remain open. The vaccination will provide protection for these essential workers who have continued to serve the people of Wisconsin on a daily basis at a personal risk to themselves.

You may have received a letter from Randy Koschnick, Director of State Courts, in which he erroneously asked vaccinations for judges and court personnel at the 1c level. Today, I received a copy of that letter, and I see that he made a typo in his letter that no one caught. He should have asked for a 1b listing for all judges and court personnel, as I have here.

If I can be of assistance as you set your vaccination protocols, I will be happy to discuss this matter with you further.

Sincerely,
Patience Drake Roggensack
Chief Justice Wisconsin Supreme Court

CHIEF JUSTICE'S WISCONSIN COURTS COVID-19 TASK FORCE



FINAL REPORT
MAY 2020

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Chief Justice Patience Roggensack, Wisconsin Supreme Court
Diane Fremgen, Deputy Director of State Courts for Court Operations (Chair)
Hon. Kitty Brennan, Milwaukee County Circuit Court and District I Court of Appeals (Retired)
Patrick Brummond, District Court Administrator - Seventh Judicial District
Hon. John DiMotto, Milwaukee County Circuit Court (Retired)
Hon. Guy Dutcher, Waushara County Circuit Court
Carlo Esqueda, Dane County Clerk of Circuit Court
Dr. Robert Golden*, Dean, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Atty. Tim Gruenke, La Crosse County District Attorney
Atty. Joseph Guidote, Outagamie County Corporation Counsel
Hon. Patrick Haughney, Waukesha County Circuit Court (Retired)
Karen Hepfler, Chippewa County Clerk of Circuit Court
Hon. Tammy Jo Hock, Brown County Circuit Court
Dr. Dennis Maki*, Prof. Emeritus, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Hon. Scott Needham, St. Croix County Circuit Court
Ann Olson, Office of Court Operations Policy Analyst
Atty. Suzanne O'Neill, State Public Defender's Office Deputy Trial Division Director
Hon. James G. Poulos, Washington County Circuit Court
Atty. Christopher Rogers, Habush & Rottier S.C.
Hon. John Storck, Dodge County Circuit Court (Retired)
Sheriff Maury Straub, Ozaukee County Sheriff (Retired)
Hon. Mary Triggiano*, Milwaukee County Circuit Court and Chief Judge, First Judicial District
Atty. Sara Ward-Cassady, State Public Defender's Office Director of Administrative Services
Atty. Erik Weidig, Waukesha County Corporation Counsel

**Consultant*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On March 22, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic, the Wisconsin Supreme Court issued two administrative orders pertaining to operations in the circuit courts. The first suspended most in-person hearings, with limited exceptions, in the circuit courts and ordered that they be held remotely, utilizing available technologies. This order was amended on April 15, 2020, to clarify additional exceptions, and extended until further order of the court. The second administrative order, issued to limit the number of individuals physically present within the courts to protect the health of the public and the individuals who work in the courts, suspended all jury trials through May 22, 2020.

On April 28, 2020, Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack, in her administrative capacity as the Chief Justice, convened a statewide Wisconsin Courts COVID-19 Task Force to recommend criteria for courts throughout the state to safely re-engage in-person proceedings, including jury trials. The work of the Task Force is intended to complement other federal and state-level guidance, which may not apply specifically to Wisconsin's court system.

This document is the framework that has been established by the Task Force. It is intended to provide guidance to counties and circuit courts as they work together to reopen facilities, return to in-person proceedings, and begin to normalize operations. The recommendations contained in the following pages acknowledge the continued threat of COVID-19 and provide a mechanism for local county officials to make determinations specific to the current conditions in their community.

The work of the Task Force was undertaken by four subcommittees addressing the following areas: (1) staffing, (2) facilities and equipment, (3) resumption of in-person proceedings (non-jury), and (4) resumption of jury trials. All members of the Task Force provided input, including medical consultants from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. Overwhelmingly, the Task Force recommends that each county begin by establishing a stakeholder group to develop a plan and make decisions. Resuming operations affects many stakeholders, as defined within this document. Because each stakeholder represents a particular area of expertise, it is recommended to provide equal weight to each participant's input.

Once the local stakeholder group has been established, the first step is to address staffing concerns. An initial consideration as to whether the county is in a position to re-engage is the ability of staff to safely return to the workplace. The group is encouraged to consider the physical facilities, availability of equipment and supplies, and the ability to continue social distancing. The stakeholder group should make these critical decisions prior to the court calendaring in-person proceedings.

The section related to in-person proceedings recommends that the stakeholder group carefully consider which proceedings should continue to be held remotely. This section outlines a

phased-in approach that monitors conditions within the county and requires that conditions continue to be periodically reviewed. While COVID-19 continues to be a threat, counties may find after increasing in-person proceedings that they must go back to remote hearings to address safety concerns, whether it relates to staff, jurors, litigants, other courthouse users, or the availability of supplies.

Ensuring that local conditions allow for the safe resumption of jury trials is critical before requiring the presence of jurors, attorneys, jury bailiffs, victims, witnesses, and court staff. When considering a return to holding jury trials, stakeholder groups should carefully and thoughtfully examine the specific jury trial-related recommendations outlined in this document, as well as any additional guidance from local public health authorities and risk management officials. Stakeholder groups must balance the civic duty of jury service with the need for public health and safety as long as COVID-19 continues to be a threat.

In order to assist counties in implementing the recommendations contained in this report, an appendix with informational links and templates for developing general and jury-specific plans are included.

As all Wisconsin residents try to adjust to the new normal during this pandemic, it is important to remember that “normal” court operations in this environment will mean something very different than in the past. Judicial leaders and administrators must balance the speed in which we manage our caseload with the ability to do so safely. Our courtrooms are filled with the citizens of this state; each of us is called upon to make thoughtful decisions that protect these citizens. We are entrusted with making decisions that instill public trust and confidence in the third branch of government.

COUNTY-LEVEL STAKEHOLDER GROUP

In order to implement the recommendations contained in this report, each county is directed to create a stakeholder group and any subcommittees as necessary to address questions related to (1) staffing, (2) facilities and equipment, (3) resumption of in-person proceedings (non-jury), and (4) resumption of jury trials. Plans developed by county stakeholder groups are recommended to be approved by the chief judge of each judicial administrative district prior to implementation.

It is critical that the presiding judge of each county, or the chief judge designee, prepare a plan that outlines the safety procedures that will be implemented for the county. This plan should be developed in consultation with the following stakeholders:

- Judges and court commissioners
- The county health department
- The county emergency management director, if applicable
- The clerk of circuit court
- The district court administrator
- The county sheriff/security director
- Probation and parole (ES) supervisor
- The county administrator/executive, or equivalent
- The county corporation counsel
- The county facilities manager
- Attorneys, including district attorneys, public defenders, and members of the county bar association
- Any other stakeholders the presiding judge or designee may deem necessary

All judges and court commissioners in a county should have the opportunity to review and comment on the recommendations before they are submitted for chief judge approval. It is not anticipated that chief judges will attend stakeholder group meetings unless requested to do so.

STAFFING

Before in-person hearings and jury trials resume, it is important to note that the COVID-19 virus continues to pose a threat. Accordingly, counties should take steps to enable normalization of court functions while protecting the workforce and members of the public. Courts should work collaboratively with county and state public health officials and county agencies, including emergency management and human resources, to establish consistent procedures for all county staff. Below is an outline of suggestions and attached tools to assist court personnel in developing a plan to resume fundamental court operations in a manner that is as efficient and as safe as possible, given the circumstances.

1. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Considerations

A link to the EEOC summary of ADA requirements related to a pandemic is included in the Appendix of this report. This information provides guidance on ADA-compliant employer inquiries, reasonable accommodations, and actions during a pandemic. Below are some common employment scenarios covered by the ADA guidelines. Refer to the EEOC and ADA guidance for a more complete list of clarifications.

- a. Employers may require post-offer medical examination for new hires.
- b. Employers may send an employee home who had or has symptoms associated with COVID-19.
- c. Employers may measure an employee's body temperature. Before implementing this practice, employers should consult with their human resources and public health officials as there may be questions as to the qualifications of those designated to check temperatures, as well as accuracy of equipment.
- d. Employers may require adoption of sanitary procedures.
- e. Employers must continue to provide reasonable accommodations for employees with known disabilities.
- f. Employers may require COVID-19 testing if an employee is showing symptoms.

2. Additional Staffing Needs and Considerations

- a. Determine staffing needs in the event of a shortage due to return-to-work restrictions as a result of quarantine requirements.
- b. Determine staffing needs in the event of a shortage due to employees caring for family members who have COVID-19.
- c. Determine staffing needs due to employees taking leave for child care under the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act \(FFCRA\)](#).
- d. Determine whether additional maintenance/custodial work is necessary to maintain a safe work environment.
- e. Determine whether work areas allow for proper social distancing of staff.
- f. Determine whether additional county IT or CCAP staff assistance is needed to set up remote hearings and remote work environments.

- g. Consider cross-training staff and keep some key staff working remotely in the event an outbreak occurs in the office.
- h. Create temporary policies for employee protection. Consider requiring the use of PPE such as surgical masks, good hand hygiene, and as needed, gloves.
- i. Encourage employees to regularly disinfect personal work surface areas such as desks, keyboards, phones, etc. Encourage employers to provide the necessary disinfecting supplies.
- j. Encourage employees to maintain social distancing requirements.
- k. Determine reporting requirements if an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19.
- l. Encourage employees to report to a supervisor if there is information that a co-worker either has or had symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Discourage employees from directly approaching co-workers with such concerns.
- m. Consider amending the county continuity of operations plan (COOP) from a staffing perspective to address situations where key/multiple court staff cannot report to work due to illness or other authorized leave during a pandemic.
- n. Consider developing cooperative agreements with neighboring counties that would allow for sharing of employees for short-term emergencies where training-intensive positions cannot be filled by limited-term employees or from temporary staffing agencies.
- o. Discourage employees from sharing equipment such as telephones and keyboards if possible and, where not possible, develop procedures for sanitization between uses.

3. Other Considerations

- a. Develop early communications between the court, county administration, and the county board, as appropriate, to determine budget requirements and identify sources of revenue for additional staffing, equipment, and facility needs.
- b. Identify a point person for the courts (e.g. a representative of the clerk of courts/register in probate office, a designated judge, or both).
- c. Determine whether a staffing or equipment need is a state or county funding issue while emphasizing the importance of the state-county partnership for the administration of vital circuit court functions.
- d. Determine whether staffing needs fall within the judicial, executive, or county board purview.
- e. Encourage the presiding judge and clerk of court to discuss additional staffing needs well ahead of the resumption of in-person hearings and jury trials.
- f. Determine whether public spectators, witnesses, or victims will be allowed into courtrooms in-person or remotely, or both.

4. Staffing Needs for In-Person Hearings

- a. Identify whether any employees can or should continue to work remotely within the in-person hearing environment.
 - 1. Be aware of employees who qualify for federal, state, or local leave and/or benefits under recent emergency legislation. Pay particular attention to the federal [Families](#)

- [First Corona Virus Response Act \(FCRA\)](#). When dealing with county personnel, relevant staff must work with the county human resources department.
2. Be aware of ADA accommodations listed above.
 3. Consider remote work opportunities to help accommodate social distancing requirements and reduce the number of people in your facilities.
- b. Assess computer hardware and software needs to enable remote work environments and report to county IT, county administration, and CCAP as applicable.
1. Explore use of Digital Audio Recording (DAR) units for court reporter flexibility
 2. If possible, procure laptops capable of accessing state systems that meet county IT security and hardware specifications.
 3. Emphasize the need to protect confidential and sensitive electronic and paper documents in a remote work environment.
- c. Identify which employees will be returning to the courthouse.
1. Consider conducting a health assessment of returning workers regarding potential COVID-19 exposure.
 2. Consider performing health screening in coordination with local public health department and human resources.

5. Staffing Needs for Jury Trials

- a. Consider the factors listed in items 1-4 above.
- b. Assess additional staffing needs:
 1. Determine whether additional bailiffs are needed to provide adequate juror management during jury selection and trials.
 2. Consider staffing requirements for spectator management, if spectators are allowed to be physically present in courtroom.
 3. Consider conducting health assessments of jurors and employees supporting jury trials.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

The purpose of this section is to identify what type of facility equipment and space considerations are necessary for the resumption of in-person court activities. References below to “court activities” include in-person court proceedings (particularly jury trials), as well as activities of the clerk of circuit court’s office (e.g., records inspections, acceptance of paper filings, receipting of payments, etc.). As with the other sections of this report, county agencies should collaborate to determine the best course of action in any particular courthouse.

Before increasing in-person court activities in your courthouse, the following facilities and equipment needs should be discussed:

1. Signage and floor markings

Signage should be posted around the courthouse to remind individuals to maintain proper social distancing. Floor markings in queuing areas should indicate where individuals should stand in order to maintain physical distancing.

2. Enhanced barriers

Courthouses should erect plexiglass (or similar material) dividers between the public and court staff, as well as between individuals participating in in-person courtroom proceedings, where acceptable social distancing cannot be maintained. This includes customer service counters in the clerk’s office, as well as throughout the courtrooms/hearing rooms to protect judges/commissioners, court clerks, testifying witnesses, court reporters, parties at counsel tables, and jurors.

3. Air purifying equipment

In consultation with local public health officials and building facilities staff, consider strategic placement of portable air purifiers (HEPA grade) in courtrooms, offices, conference rooms, and wherever people are required to congregate. The size and number of units should be based upon the placement and location to divert air away from people. Attendant to this will be the procurement of replacement filters, as such filters typically last between six to eighteen months, depending upon the size of the space and the overall air quality. Some courthouses report having HVAC systems that incorporate ultraviolet light air treatment systems. Although this may be helpful, public health experts consulting the Task Force indicated that localized (in-room) air filtration/purification may be more effective.

4. Health screening equipment

Public health experts recommend health screening upon entry to the courthouse. This includes asking simple questions regarding symptoms and prior contacts with exposed individuals, as well as the utilization of no-touch infrared thermometers to assess individuals for fever (as recommended by OSHA and the CDC).

5. Personal Protective Equipment

Court staff and court officials should be provided with surgical grade facemasks, as well as gloves if it is necessary to handle exhibits. Litigants who are attending proceedings where their presence is mandatory should be provided with a surgical mask if they do not have one (this would include jurors). It is recommended that members of the public entering the courthouse on a voluntary basis should provide their own face coverings; the court would not provide this equipment to them. This recommendation should be addressed by a larger county committee based on the occupancy of building (e.g., what functions and offices are located within the courthouse or county building).

6. Cleaning/sanitizing agents

Court officials and staff should have sufficient hand and surface sanitization products to ensure that their hands are clean and that surfaces that have been touched during one transaction or proceeding can be wiped down before the next transaction/proceeding. The emphasis between hearings should be to quickly wipe down surfaces that are likely to have been touched during the proceeding (e.g., counsel tables, the witness stand, etc.). A deeper cleaning of courtrooms should be performed after hours. Additionally, wall-mounted or free-standing hand sanitizing dispensers should be located throughout the courthouse for use by the public.

7. CCAP-provided touchscreen kiosk

If use of the touchscreen kiosk is a priority, consider placing sanitizing wipes at the kiosk and adding signage requiring users to wipe the screen before and after use. Provide a trash receptacle to collect used wipes. If staff and supplies are not available to clean the screen after each use, it may be advisable to temporarily prevent access to kiosks.

8. Install keyboard protectors on public access computers

These devices are necessary for required records inspection. Staff should ensure they are disinfected between uses (either by spray or anti-viral wipes). This equipment may be seen as a CCAP responsibility.

9. Drop box

Many clerk's offices have installed drop boxes to allow litigants to file documents with the clerk's office without entering the courthouse. Use of such drop boxes will continue to be encouraged in order to minimize the number of people who need to physically enter the courthouse.

10. Elevator protocols

Staff will have to be allocated to control traffic at elevators, as physical distancing is not possible in that enclosed space. Public health officials will have to advise on how many people, if masked, can ride an elevator at once. Staff may have to press the summoning and floor buttons for riders. Staff will have to frequently disinfect button panels.

11. Seating

Fabric-upholstered chairs are difficult to clean/disinfect. Consider replacing such seating with plastic or other hard chairs that can be disinfected more easily.

12. Doors

To minimize the need for sanitizing frequently-touched door handles, doors should be propped open or even removed, to the extent that this does not disrupt courthouse security.

Before holding jury trials, carefully review the **Jury Trials** section of this report for more information. Assembling and selecting juries may present significant facility and equipment challenges.

If a particular courthouse does not contain adequate space to process jurors while maintaining physical distancing, counties may consider using an alternative facility, such as an empty school or convention center, to conduct jury selection - and perhaps even to conduct jury trials. If an alternative location is being considered, CCAP, county IT staff, public health, facilities, and sheriff's department staff should be approached to review the following:

- Security of the premises
- In-custody defendant transport
- Sound amplification needs
- Furnishings
- Wi-Fi/network access for remote CCAP functionality

The Task Force understands that there are costs associated with most of these facility and equipment considerations. Determining costs related to each circuit, and assigning responsibility for such costs (e.g., to the state court system or to individual counties), is beyond the scope of the Task Force's charge.

IN-PERSON RE-ENGAGEMENT

When resuming in-person court appearances, it is imperative that the local court's response to COVID-19 instills public confidence in the Wisconsin Court System, protects the public's safety in the courtroom, and protects the safety of staff in the courtroom. The circuit courts have remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic, but have modified practices to primarily accommodate only essential and mandatory proceedings, utilizing remote appearance (video, telephone, live-streaming, etc.), and allowing waivers of appearance to the greatest extent possible. The purpose of this section is to outline basic safety criteria for in-person appearances, as well as to provide a four-phased approach to resuming the full array of in-person court functions while still protecting the safety of all employees and citizens using the courts.

It is expected that each individual county will have unique challenges and differing levels of access to resources. The following framework is not intended to answer all of the questions that will arise or anticipate every issue that may emerge. Nonetheless, jurisdictional uniformity in safety practices within each county, as well as within each judicial administrative district, will support public safety as well as the effective functioning of the court system.

The recommendations in this section are based on guidance issued by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other federal entities. In addition, medical and health experts from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health have reviewed these guidelines as part of the Task Force's deliberations. Any application of these recommendations should account for the most current local COVID-19 data and guidance from local, state, and federal experts regarding what threshold should be used to move from one phase to another, such as local infection rate trends, testing capacity, hospital capacity, or other factors.

Safety Criteria for In-Person Appearances

1. Personal Protective Equipment

Health experts recommend requiring surgical grade masks as the safest and most cost-effective means to reduce transmission of COVID-19. Masks should be worn continuously in the courthouse/room and during proceedings.

2. Air Purifying Equipment

As described in the Facilities and Equipment section of this report, HEPA air filters should be used to maintain air quality given the specific size of each courtroom, hearing room, and jury room. The filtration devices should be placed between the court personnel and the jury so that the purified air is aimed at the jury and public. If adequate filtration devices cannot be obtained for every courtroom/jury room, the county should utilize only those rooms that

are sufficiently equipped with filtration devices and reduce court calendars to accommodate the reduced number of courtrooms.

3. Social Distancing

A distance of at least six feet should be maintained between all individuals in the courtroom. It is recommended that seats be set out and marked prior to admitting individuals into the room. Signage should be posted in the courthouse and in the courtrooms to remind individuals to maintain minimum social distancing requirements.

4. Limited Attendance in the Courtroom

Because of the importance of social distancing requirements and the need to maintain six feet between individuals, it will be necessary to control and restrict attendance in the courtroom. Circuit courts should utilize remote appearances for hearings participants when possible. In order to permit the public to view open proceedings, live streaming through YouTube may be appropriate. Cases must be carefully calendared to avoid any overlap that may result in violation of social distancing requirements. The numbers of all witnesses, court personnel, and law enforcement officers must be carefully restricted.

5. Anti-Viral Wipes

At the conclusion of each proceeding, all frequently-touched surfaces in the courtroom must be wiped-down with anti-viral wipes. While a deep-clean is preferable, this may not be practical in each county.

6. Entry Screening

Each county should establish a screening protocol at the building's entrance. Each court should have designated a phone number for screening personnel to call in the event an individual fails the screening test. The judicial officer in the courtroom must make the decision about what action is necessary given the person's failed or refused test, based on his or her role in the proceeding.

7. Hand Sanitizers

Each courtroom should have alcohol-based hand sanitizer available for use before, during, and after the proceeding. Where courtrooms/jury rooms are in a multi-use county building, especially where individuals must use an elevator following entry screening, hand sanitizer should be available before entering the courtroom.

Process: A Four-Phased Approach

A four-phased approach for returning to full in-person court operations is described below. County stakeholder groups should set specific guidelines to determine the initial phase at which a county should begin resuming operations, and what local conditions (infection rates, etc.) will trigger a move from one phase to another.

After an initial phase has been determined, the presiding judge (or designee) should review staffing, public health, and facility conditions at least every fourteen (14) days to determine whether a change in phase is warranted. Depending on local circumstances, such as a sudden increase in COVID-19 cases, it may be necessary to revert to a previous phase until such time as expanded operations are once again warranted.

Phase One: Resumption of limited in-person proceedings (beyond essential and mandatory proceedings). All courts should continue to favor remote appearances wherever possible and encourage the broad use of waivers of appearance. As soon as **Safety Criteria for In-Person Appearances** are in place in the county, the circuit courts should again resume in-person appearances in the following cases:

1. All criminal matters, except jury trials
2. Mental commitment and guardianship hearings with time limits
3. Juvenile proceedings in juvenile delinquency (JV), juvenile CHIPS (JC), juvenile guardianship (JG) cases and termination of parental rights cases with time limits
4. Civil matters as follows:
 - Restraining order proceedings under Ch. 813
 - Family - Temporary order hearings if placement is at issue under Wis. Stat. 767.225(1)(am)
 - Family - Enforcement of physical placement orders under Wis. Stat. 767.471(5)
 - Family - Relocation motions under Wis. Stat. 767.481(2)
 - Stipulated final divorce hearings
 - Time-sensitive small claims proceedings, with special consideration given to the social distancing and limited attendance guidelines as outlined below.

Phase Two: In-person processing of all cases, except jury trials. Phase Two includes all case categories from Phase One, but would now allow all civil proceedings other than jury trials. All of the above-reference **Safety Criteria for In-Person Appearances** must continue to be utilized. It is still recommended that remote appearances be utilized to the greatest extent possible.

Phase Three: In-person processing of all cases, including jury trials. Before reinstating jury trials, please review the specific guidance in the Jury Trials section of this report. All of the **Safety Criteria for In-Person Appearances** must continue to be utilized, in addition to any jury-

specific safety precautions that should be instituted. It is still recommended that remote appearances be utilized to the greatest extent possible.

Phase Four: Resumption of all cases on an in-person basis with no restrictions. If a public health announcement is made determining that COVID-19 has been suppressed in the state, the processing of all cases may be resumed on an in-person basis without reliance upon the **Safety Criteria for In-Person Appearances.**

JURY TRIALS

This section is intended to assist counties in developing reasonable jury practices to address safety issues and to ensure the rights of all parties and the public who come before the court to participate in a jury trial, recognizing the extraordinary public health concerns related to COVID-19. Local courts must accommodate jury practices designed to minimize exposure and infection of jurors, litigants, attorneys, witnesses, and court staff through interpersonal contact in a jury trial setting. The recommendations below are intended to be proactive, recognizing we must provide all constitutional and statutory protections to the litigants and interested parties, as well as the public's right to access. In so doing, we understand it is not possible to ensure absolute safety, but accept that we can take reasonable steps to protect the health of all participants within the physical limitations of individual court and county facilities and resources.

In order to safely resume jury trials, the recommendations below outline several factors for counties to consider. A template for planning the resumption of jury trials has been included as an appendix to this report.

Recovery Planning and General Education

Each county should establish a COVID-19 recovery planning jury committee. The jury committee or subcommittee should include stakeholders (district attorney, public defender, clerk of circuit court, presiding judge (or chief judge designee), county administrator or county board chair, sheriff, local bar association representative, courthouse facilities management, and a county health department representative) who can address jury service and jury trial issues as they arise. The main stakeholder group or a subcommittee thereof may serve as the recovery planning jury committee.

The stakeholders should keep open lines of communication with each other and meet as necessary to address jury service/jury trial issues and coordinate decision-making in light of pandemic status and health recommendations from the county health department.

In addition, efforts should be undertaken to educate the general public about the importance of jury service to the administration of justice and how the safety and well-being of all jurors and participants in the jury trial process are being addressed. Each county is encouraged to reach out to the public through local print and television, and through the county's website and social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). It is also recommended that each county and the Director of State Courts reach out to the State Bar of Wisconsin, local bar associations, WisconsinEye, and other media outlets in their area to participate as a partner in this educational effort.

Specific Jury Considerations and Recommendations

1. Notice Regarding Specific Public Health Precautions

It is of the utmost importance that each juror who receives a jury summons be provided with information regarding what efforts the county has taken to provide for the safety and well-being of jurors. It is recommended that the clerk of circuit court send a letter with the jury summons outlining precautions being taken at the courthouse to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The letter should refer the jurors to the county's website where detailed information should be set forth. (Note: A jury information letter from the Texas federal court has been included in the Appendix.)

It is further recommended that the Director of State Courts Office develop a publicly-available resource with information as to importance of the safety and well-being of jurors.

2. Deferral and Excusal Policies when Summoning Jurors

Each county should develop a standard deferral and excusal policy or review the existing policies in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those policies should be liberally applied in recognition of juror safety issues and concerns raised by COVID-19. Jurors should be given notice with the jury summons and on the county's website as to what they should do if someone is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Each county should determine whether special consideration will be given to any of the following groups: healthcare workers, elderly/at-risk populations, people caring for the elderly/at-risk populations, individuals caring for/educating school-age children at home, or certain essential working groups. Any such consideration should be carefully balanced with the litigants' right to a representative jury panel. Deferral and excusal policies should be carefully considered and clearly outlined so court staff and jurors are aware of these policies for consistent application.

3. Juror Assembly and Reporting

Each county should take into consideration its ability to accommodate social distancing with respect to the number of jurors that are summoned. In order to accommodate social distancing, the Task Force recommends the following: counties increase the number of juror reporting dates to decrease the number of jurors reporting on any one date; stagger jury reporting dates; stagger reporting times; use a larger, nontraditional space as needed for jury reporting (e.g., empty courtrooms, county board rooms, gymnasiums, etc.); schedule only the number of jury trials that the facility can appropriately handle on any given day.

Additional considerations include the following:

- Each county should investigate options to expedite juror entrance into the courthouse so as to reduce the contact jurors may have with the general public or with courthouse employees.
- Counties should utilize a check-in system that minimizes physical contact with documents by both jurors and clerk staff in order to reduce viral contamination.

- Counties should post notices regarding hygiene and distancing practices throughout the courthouse.

4. Health Screening of Potential Jurors Upon Reporting to Court

It is recommended that each county work in conjunction with the county health department to determine whether COVID-19 health screens via noninvasive body temperature checks and/or health questions should be used for all summoned jurors. If a county decides to implement health screening of jurors, any juror identified as being at high risk of having COVID-19 should be excused.

5. Juror Personal Protective Equipment

Personal protective equipment (“PPE”) is equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses. Such equipment may include, but is not limited to, face masks, face guards, gloves, and hand sanitization systems. It is recommended that each county, at a minimum, provide face masks, and liberal hand sanitization for jurors.

It is further recommended that each county initially mandate the use of face masks by all participants and spectators in a court proceeding and each county shall make hand sanitization available at all times for all participants in court proceedings. It is recommended that this mandate may only be eliminated when the county health department determines such mandate is no longer necessary for the safety and protection of jurors and all other participants in court proceedings.

It is further recommended that each county use HEPA air purifiers in both courtrooms and jury deliberation rooms.

6. Social Distancing in the Courtroom

The court in each county should make all reasonable efforts to comply with state, federal, and local recommendations and orders regarding social distancing and group functions.

With respect to jurors, it is recommended that every effort be made to enforce social distancing in the courtroom between jurors and all other participants in a jury trial. If there is a need for jurors to be spread throughout the courtroom, such accommodation should be considered.

With respect to the judge, court clerk, court reporter and witness in the witness box, each county should give consideration to the use of plexiglass shields between these participants for social distancing or to assess witness credibility.

With respect to all other participants and spectators, it may not be possible for social distancing to be constitutionally applied to the defendant and defense counsel. Furthermore it may be impractical for other participants in the trial. It is recommended that

the trial judge make social distancing determinations based on statutory and constitutional provisions, and require the use of masks as necessary.

7. Safely Conducting Voir Dire

It is recommended that the court consider the following strategies to reduce the number of people required to report for jury selection: utilize preselection questionnaires as part of voir dire to reduce the number of jurors needed in the courtroom; pre-select jurors (commonly referred to as a paper selection) so only the empaneled jurors report to the courtroom; conduct voir dire in sessions based on the number of jurors that can be socially distanced in the courtroom; conduct voir dire virtually in full or in part to reduce the number of jurors reporting to the courtroom; utilize in-person and virtual voir dire simultaneously (in-person in the courtroom virtually broadcasted to another room(s) with the rest of the jurors); to preserve space for voir dire, broadcast jury selection and limit or eliminate spectators in the courtroom; utilize six-person juries upon stipulation to cut the number of jurors needed in half; give priority to “strikes for cause” based on juror health and safety concerns.

It is further recommended that the court empanel at least one extra juror given the unknown potential for a juror not reporting during the trial due to health issues.

8. Jury Attendance and Participation during Trials

After the jury has been empaneled, every effort should be made to accommodate social distancing between jurors and all trial participants, including seating jurors outside the confines of the jury box.

Counties should embrace technology in the courtroom for the purpose of allowing jurors to fully participate in the trial while maintaining social distancing. (E.g., consider the use of video monitors in the courtroom to enhance the sight lines for the jurors who are seated outside the confines of the jury box; consider providing iPad/tablets for each member of the jury for note taking and viewing exhibits introduced during the trial.)

The court should ensure that each juror has adequate sight lines to the witness stand and can hear and see all proceedings. It is recommended that the court instruct all jurors that they must advise the court if at any time during the in court proceedings they cannot hear or see any part of the proceedings.

The court should institute a policy that reduces the handling of exhibits during the trial to enhance the safety of all participants.

The court should consider banning the use of sidebars because of social distancing concerns.

It is recommended that the use of HEPA air purifiers in the courtroom be encouraged.

Empaneled jurors should be reminded to maintain social distancing and recommended hand hygiene to limit exposure for the duration of their jury service.

9. Jury Trial Breaks and Deliberations

During breaks in the jury trial and during deliberations, every effort should be made to accommodate social distancing between the jurors. It is recommended that the chairs in the jury room be moved to the walls of the room to increase capacity; use a room large enough to provide for the entire empaneled jury; provide meals during the entirety of the trial to minimize outside contact and the need for resanitization; provide a HEPA air purifier in the jury room; provide hand sanitization in the jury room; provide adequate, clean bathroom facilities attached to the jury room; if necessary, clear the courtroom and make it the jury room for the deliberation process, or find a facility that will accommodate adequate social distancing.

It is recommended that the county discontinue providing self-serve refreshments and vending machines for jurors to reduce viral contamination.

10. Prioritizing Jury Trials in Multi-Judge Counties

The presiding judge (or chief judge designee), after consultation with the county's judges, should issue an order stating which jury trials will be given priority when scheduling. It is recommended that judges not deviate from the order without the permission of the presiding judge or designee. It is recommended that when establishing the policy, the following factors are taken into consideration: the nature of the cases; the extent to which the cases involve liberty interests; the extent to which cases have time limit requirements; and cases with victim rights interests.

11. Scheduling Jury Trials in Multi-Judge Counties

In counties with multiple branches, the presiding judge (or chief judge designee), after consultation with all the judges in the county, should establish by order a jury trial schedule. The order should do the following: identify when each judge may schedule a jury trial; determine the number of jury trials that can be safely tried at the same time; and take into consideration social distancing in order to reduce the jury pool size and enhance the safety of all jurors. It is recommended that judges not deviate from the schedule without the permission of the presiding judge or designee.

Such counties should consider alternating days or weeks so the clerk of circuit court can divide the jury pool into smaller sub-pools for different branches. Counties should also consider assigning courtrooms not by judge, but rather by the ability of a courtroom to accommodate a jury trial while maintaining adequate social distancing. This may require temporary changes to the courtroom a judge typically uses in order to give priority to juror and participant safety.

12. Public and Victim Access to Jury Trials

The public has the right to view open public court proceedings that are not otherwise closed or confidential according to law. If restrictions and recommendations for social distancing are in effect during a jury trial, there may not be any room in the courtroom for the public to attend in-person. If there is no room for members of the public to be inside the courtroom, it is recommended that the public have access to the jury trial and all on-the-record proceedings via live stream controlled by the court.

If there is limited space in the courtroom for members of the public, it is recommended that the court determine who will be allowed to be physically present by taking into account statutory and constitutional provisions. This recommendation to limit the number of people in the courtroom is not intended to infringe upon the rights of victims to attend and be heard at court proceedings. Victims should work with the county's victim-witness coordinator or clerk of court to determine how best to participate in court proceedings.

CONCLUSION

The framework outlined in this document is intended to give county stakeholders a solid basis for meaningful discussions regarding how to safely increase in-person court operations. While this information is based on current recommendations for public safety, the Task Force acknowledges that the constantly-evolving nature of this pandemic will require counties and local courts to reassess and adjust operations as needed.

The links and templates found in the Appendix provide state and federal resources to assist local stakeholder groups in the development of plans to resume and expand operations, schedule jury trials, and offer accurate information to jurors and the public. As noted, county plans and revisions to these plans should be submitted to each district's chief judge for approval.

Although we encourage each county and district to develop plans based on specific regional trends, available resources, and local needs, and to rely upon the advice and counsel of local stakeholder group members, the Director of State Courts Office and the Office of Court Operations are available to provide assistance and resources.

APPENDIX A

State and Local COVID-19 Health Data

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>

County-Level COVID-19 Data

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/county.htm>

Federal Policy Guidance and Information

EEOC Publication “What You Should Know About COVID-19 and the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and Other EEO Laws”

<https://www.eeoc.gov/wysk/what-you-should-know-about-covid-19-and-ada-rehabilitation-act-and-other-eeo-laws>

OSHA ALERT “Ten Steps All Workplaces Can Take to Reduce Risk of Exposure to Coronavirus”

link: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3994.pdf>

OSHA ALERT Covid-19 Guidance for Retail Workers (which could be applied to Clerks of Court)

link: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3996.pdf>

OSHA ALERT Prevent Worker Exposure to Coronavirus (COVID-19) :

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3989.pdf>

OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19:

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

CDC recommendations for Businesses and Workplaces:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>

Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA):

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>

EEOC/ADA “Pandemic Preparedness in the Workplace and the Americans with Disabilities Act”

<https://www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/pandemic-preparedness-workplace-and-americans-disabilities-act>

National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Pandemic Information Clearinghouse:

<https://www.ncsc.org/pandemic>

APPENDIX A

National Center for State Courts (NCSC) COVID-19 Resources link: <http://www.ncsc-jurystudies.org/What-We-Do/COVID-Resources.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Informational Workplace Posters

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/cloth-face-coverings-information.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/sick-with-2019-nCoV-fact-sheet.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID19-What-You-Can-Do-High-Risk.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/Please-Read.pdf>

APPENDIX B



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
100 EAST HOUSTON STREET
MARSHALL, TX 75670

CHAMBERS OF
Rodney Gilstrap
CHIEF JUDGE

May 6th, 2020

TELEPHONE
(903) 935-3868
FAX
(903) 935-2295

To All Prospective Jurors
Summoned to Appear for
Jury Selection at the
U. S. District Court
in Marshall, Texas
on Monday June 1st, 2020

RE: Your Upcoming Jury Service in the Era of Coronavirus

Dear Prospective Jurors:

This letter is attached to the Summons directing you to appear for Jury Service at 7:45 a.m. on Monday, June 1st, 2020 at the Sam B. Hall, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse at 100 East Houston Street in downtown Marshall.

This will be the first jury trial which I have undertaken since the advent of the Coronavirus pandemic. I want to assure you that every reasonable precaution will be taken to enhance the health and safety of the jury, the parties, the lawyers and the Court staff during jury selection and the jury trial to follow.

So that you won't be surprised when you arrive, please be aware of the following:

1. Each prospective juror will have their temperature taken via a hand-held thermometer as they enter the Courthouse, to ensure that no one with fever or an elevated temperature is admitted;
2. Once you enter the building and pass through the initial security screening, you will be separately escorted by Court Staff to the Courtroom and seated to achieve the maximum distancing possible;
3. Masks will be distributed, or you may wear your own when you enter the Courtroom. Until the eight (8) person jury is actually selected, seated and

APPENDIX B

sworn, everyone appearing as a prospective juror will be required to wear a mask;

4. Latex gloves will be available for those who wish to wear them, but gloves are not required. If you would like gloves, ask the Court staff for them when you are seated in the Courtroom;
5. Smartphones, iPads or similar electronic devices should be left outside the Courthouse. You may certainly leave them in your vehicle rather than at home, if you choose, but do not bring them into the Courthouse;
6. Hand sanitizer (alcohol based) will be available to you at multiple locations inside the Courthouse, and you may ask Court Security Officers to make it available at your seat, once you are seated in the Courtroom;
7. Those selected for this jury should know that the eight (8) jurors will be spaced in the fourteen (14) seat jury box to achieve maximum distancing between jurors during the trial;
8. The jury box, jury room and jury room bathrooms will be deep cleaned each evening when the Court recesses, and this will continue throughout the trial;
9. Individual lunches will be provided to the eight (8) selected jurors during each day of the trial, to minimize any travel in and out of the Courthouse and to minimize juror's interaction at local restaurants.

If you:

a) have been diagnosed by a licensed physician as having Coronavirus anytime within the past 30 days;

b) are actively caring for a family member or loved one who has tested positive for the Coronavirus, or

c) are now in self-quarantine status and that status will continue on June 1st;

then, in any of these situations: you should immediately advise Mrs. Kecia Clendening, the Court's Deputy in Charge, at her phone number in the attached summons. Her phone number is also listed at the conclusion of this letter. She may ask you to furnish documentation regarding such from your physician, for the Court.

There are two cases that are now scheduled to begin trial on June 1st. At this time, I am not sure which trial will actually begin on the 1st. However, the longest of these trials should last from June 1st through approximately June 10th. That being the case, if you have a scheduled surgical procedure for yourself or a dependent that can't be rescheduled, or if you have some other pre-existing obligation that would make it extremely difficult and create a real hardship on you to be here each day from June 1st through the 10th, then you should immediately advise Mrs. Kecia Clendening, the Court's Deputy in Charge, at her phone number listed at the conclusion of this letter. Please be aware that the right to trial by jury

APPENDIX B

is one of the cornerstones of our democracy, and jury trials necessarily involve sacrifice from those citizens called upon to serve. This has always been true, but it is especially true during these unique and trying times. It is my personal conviction that jury service is the second highest form of public service that any American can perform (second only to service in the Armed Forces). The right to trial by jury has been enshrined within the Seventh Amendment to our U. S. Constitution since 1791, and it was one of the stated principles in the Declaration of Independence which fueled our struggle to become an independent nation. Only those with extreme hardships should seek to be excused based on pre-existing obligations.

It is vital that you appear and present yourself for jury service on June 1st; however, the Court wants you to know that we are mindful of these challenging times and we will take every reasonable precaution to maintain your health as well as that of the parties, lawyers and Court staff during this upcoming trial.

I hope this personal letter is helpful and informative. I look forward to seeing you in Marshall on June 1st.

Respectfully,



J. Rodney Gilstrap
Chief United States District Judge

cc: Mrs. Kecia Clendening
Deputy Clerk in Charge
Phone: 903.935.2912

COVID-19 Circuit Court Operating Plan for [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) **County**

Recognizing the need to ensure the health and safety of litigants, attorneys, visitors, court staff, judges, and other individuals entering the buildings housing the courts, the courts of [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) County will implement the following protective measures:

General

1. The county judiciary has established a stakeholder committee to discuss and consider the recommendations outlined in the Wisconsin COVID- 19 Task Force report.
2. All judges will use all reasonable efforts to conduct proceedings remotely.
3. Before calendaring in-person hearings, the stakeholder committee has addressed staffing needs and has procured any equipment and supplies deemed necessary.
4. The stakeholder subcommittee will continue to meet regularly, maintain communication with the local health authority and the county office of risk management, and will adjust this operating plan as necessary with any changes in the public health conditions in the county.
5. Judges will begin setting non-essential in-person proceedings no sooner than [Click or tap to enter a date.](#)

Judge and Court Staff Health

1. Judges and court staff who can perform the essential functions of their job remotely will continue to do so, whenever possible.
2. The following procedures have been implemented to monitor the health of Judge and Court Staff: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
3. Judges and court staff will be required to wear face coverings, practice social distancing, and practice appropriate hand hygiene recommendations at all time.
4. Protective Measures: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Scheduling

1. The following court schedules are established to reduce occupancy in the court building: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Vulnerable Populations

1. Individuals who are over age 65 and individuals with serious underlying health conditions, such as high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer or other conditions requiring such therapy are considered to be vulnerable populations.
2. Each judge will include information on orders setting hearings, dockets notices, and in other communications notifying individuals who are in vulnerable populations of the ability to contact the court to identify themselves as a vulnerable individual and receive accommodations.
3. Vulnerable populations who are scheduled for court will be accommodated by [Click or tap here to enter text..](#)

The completed plan must forwarded to the Chief Judge of the Judicial District for approval.

Social Distancing

1. All persons not from the same household who are permitted in the court building will be required to maintain adequate social distancing of at least 6 feet.
2. No more than two individuals not from the same household will be permitted in an elevator. If more than one individual from the same household is in an elevator, no other individuals will be permitted in the elevator.
3. Each restroom has been evaluated to determine the appropriate capacity to ensure social distancing and the maximum capacity has been posted on each restroom door.
4. Public common areas, including breakrooms and snackrooms, have been closed to the public.

Gallery

5. The maximum number of persons permitted in the gallery of each courtroom has been determined and posted. The maximum capacity of the courtroom will be monitored and enforced by court staff.
6. The gallery of the courtroom has been marked to identify appropriate social distancing in the seating. Seating is limited to every other row.

Well

7. In each courtroom, the counsel tables, witness stand, judge's bench, and clerk, court reporter, and bailiff seating have been arranged in such a way so that there is social distancing of at least 6 feet between each space.

Hygiene

1. Hand sanitizer dispensers have been placed at the entrances to the building, outside of elevators on each floor, outside of each courtroom, and outside of bathrooms.
2. Disinfectant wipes or spray have been placed near the door of the courtroom, at counsel tables, at the witness stand, on the judges' benches, and in the hallways.
3. Post CDC flyers outlining appropriate hygiene, social distancing, or public safety have been posted in multiple locations on each floor of the court building.

Screening

1. When individuals attempt to enter the court building, [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) will ask the individuals if they are feeling feverish; have a cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing; or have been in close contact with a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19. Individuals who indicate yes to any of these questions will be refused admittance to the court building. If required to appear in court, the appropriate court office will be immediately notified.
2. When individuals attempt to enter the court building, [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) will use an infrared thermometer to determine the temperature of the individual. Individuals whose temperature equals or exceeds 100.0°F will be refused admittance to the court building.
3. Inmates being transported from the jail to the court building will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and have their temperature taken prior to transport. Inmates with symptoms or a temperature equal to or above 99.6°F will not be transported to the court building.

APPENDIX C

TEMPLATE MAY BE MODIFIED AS APPROPRIATE

4. Staff who are screening individuals entering the court building will be provided personal protective equipment, including [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
5. Staff who are doing the screening will have a listing of court official phone numbers in order to notify the courts of individuals who may have been denied entrance.

Face Coverings

1. All individuals entering the court building will be required to wear face coverings at all times.
2. Individuals will be encouraged to bring cloth face coverings with them, but if the individual does not have a cloth face covering, a disposable face mask will be provided.
3. Individuals who will be required to be in the court building for a judicial proceeding will be provided surgical masks and required to wear them while in the court.

Cleaning

1. Court building cleaning staff will clean the common areas of the court building so that common spaces are cleaned at least every [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) hours.
2. Court building cleaning staff will clean the courtrooms between every hearing, between morning and afternoon proceedings, and at the end of each day the courtroom is used.
3. Court building cleaning staff have been provided cleaning supplies shown to be effective with this coronavirus.
4. Court building cleaning staff have been trained on proper cleaning techniques and provided appropriate personal protective equipment.

Other

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

I have conferred with all judges of courts with courtrooms in the court building regarding this Operating Plan. In developing the plan, I consulted with the stakeholder committee. A list of members on the committee and the frequency in which they will continue to meet is attached to this plan. I will ensure that the judges of courts with courtrooms in the court building covered by this Operating Plan will conduct proceedings consistent with the plan.

Date: [Click or tap to enter a date.](#)

(Presiding Judge or stakeholder committee chair)

Date: [Click or tap to enter a date.](#)

Chief Judge Approval

The completed plan must be forwarded to the Chief Judge of the Judicial District for approval.

COVID-19 Circuit Court Operating Plan for [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Addendum: Jury Trial Plan

As an addendum to the Operating Plan filed with the Chief Judge of the Judicial District on [Click or tap to enter a date.](#), this plan is developed to ensure the health and safety of jurors, litigants, attorneys, visitors, court staff, judges, and other individuals participating in jury trials. The courts of [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) will implement the following additional protective measures related to jury trials:

Recovery Planning and General Education

1. A recovery planning, jury committee including the following stakeholders, has been established: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
2. The following efforts have been undertaken to education the general public on the importance of jury service and the specific precautions taken in the county with respect to public safety and ensuring the safety of jurors during the pandemic: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Summoning Jurors

1. Considerations have been made for the safety and wellbeing of jurors. The attached letter was developed and will be sent with the juror summons to each juror.
2. The attached policy has been developed regarding deferral and excusal of jurors due to the pandemic. This information has been clearly outlined so court staff and jurors are aware of these policies for consistent application.
3. The following protective measures, including expedited entrance into the courthouse, check-in that minimizes physical contact with documents, posting notice regarding hygiene and distancing practices, are in place for jurors who report to court.
4. When jurors attempt to enter the court building, [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) will ask the individuals if they are feeling feverish; have a cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing; or have been in close contact with a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19. Individuals who indicate yes to any of these questions will be refused admittance to the court building. If required to appear in court, the appropriate court office will be immediately notified.
5. When jurors attempt to enter the court building, [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) will use an infrared thermometer to determine the temperature of the individual. Individuals whose temperature equals or exceeds 100.0°F will be refused admittance to the court building.

Juror Attendance and Safe Participation

1. The following personal protective equipment will be available to the jurors, including masks, face guards, gloves, individual hand sanitizer, the use of HEPA air purifiers in courtrooms and jury deliberation rooms.
2. Social distancing of jurors will be enforced through the following strategies: limiting the capacity in the courtroom, marking off spaces 6 ft. apart within the courtroom and jury box,

The completed plan must forwarded to the Chief Judge of the Judicial District for approval.

APPENDIX D

TEMPLATE MAY BE MODIFIED AS APPROPRIATE

reconfiguring placement of counsel tables, court reporter, witness stand, and/or bench, using an alternate courtroom for additional capacity, installing Plexiglas shields between participants: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

3. The following strategies will be used to reduce the number of people required to report for jury selection: Utilize preselection questionnaires, conduct voir dire in sessions based on the capacity of the court room that will allow appropriate social distancing, conduct voir dire virtually in full or in part, utilize in-person and virtual voir dire simultaneously, broadcast jury selection and limit or eliminate spectators in the courtroom, utilize 6-person juries upon stipulation, give priority to “strikes for cause” based on juror health and safety concerns.
4. After the jury has been empaneled, the following efforts have been made to accommodate social distancing, but ensure that each juror has adequate sight lines to the witness stand and can hear and see all proceedings. Examples of such accommodations include: use of technology and video monitors to increase site lines, and handling of exhibits. Documented efforts: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
5. Social distancing consideration during trial breaks and deliberations include reconfiguration of the deliberation room, using an alternate room for deliberations, hand sanitizing and bathroom capacity, availability of refreshments: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
6. After consultation with all of the judges in the county, the attached policy has been developed to prioritize jury trials.
7. After consultation with all of the judges in the county, the attached order has been entered in regard to scheduling.
8. Due to capacity issues within the courtroom, the following accommodations will be given for public view of the proceedings.

Other

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

I have conferred with all judges of courts with courtrooms in the court building regarding this Jury Trial Addendum to the Operating Plan. Judges will begin setting jury trials no sooner than [Click or tap to enter a date.](#) I will ensure that the judges of courts with courtrooms in the court building covered by this Jury Trial Addendum will conduct proceedings consistent with the plan and the Addendum.

Date: [Click or tap to enter a date.](#)

(Presiding Judge or stakeholder committee chair)

Date: [Click or tap to enter a date.](#)

Chief Judge Approval

The completed plan must be forwarded to the Chief Judge of the Judicial District for approval.

From: [Gwen Kelly](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Cooperative Housing included in Congregate Housing (Phase 1B)
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:13:41 PM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Committee,

I'm currently a member of Madison Community Cooperative and I live in a cooperative house with 28 adults. Some members of our community are quite vulnerable, and we are all at higher risk to contract covid, living in a shared space, with shared bathrooms, living spaces, dining room and kitchen. Some of us are at significant risk of morbidity and mortality due to covid.

I'm writing to ask that you include cooperative housing in your definition of congregate housing. We live in community because it benefits us to share resources, to support one another, to be able to live and eat affordably. However, the risk of covid within this kind of community setting is also higher.

Members of our community range from 18 to 56, with a range of health issues and preexisting conditions. The organization to which our house belongs - Madison Community Cooperative has its mission to serve low income and marginalized individuals. As such, some of our members are especially vulnerable.

I have spent the last 10 months worrying about covid-19. I have not been particularly worried for myself, as much as I have worried that I might be the one to bring it into the community, might cause others to get sick and possibly die. I love the benefits of community, but covid has made it much more difficult and stressful to manage.

Madison Community Cooperative has about 200 members, other independent cooperatives in Madison have maybe 100 more. We are a small percent of the population, living in close proximity, but that is precisely why the vaccine would have a significant impact for our community.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Gwen Kelly

From: [Jane Cunningham](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccines
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:38:30 PM

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Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Smartphone
Please put hairdressers in the next phase!

From: [Zach Small](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public Comment Clarification about cooperative housing as priority for Covid-19 vaccine
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:20:41 PM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee:

I live in a 30-person residential cooperative as part of a larger housing cooperative organization that houses over 150 people in communal residences.

We have shared bathrooms, shared common spaces and we cook all our meals in a shared kitchen space. Our members range in age from children to people in their 60s, and are primarily low-income working people and students. While some houses have been able to avoid Covid-19 infections through social distancing and masking within the house and frequent testing, other houses have had residents contract and spread the virus. Here's a link to our website: <https://www.madisoncommunity.coop/about-us>

In your draft proposal, you prioritize people in congregate living facilities as part of Vaccine Priority Group 1b which includes employer based congregate housing, incarcerated individuals, shelters, transitional housing (Appendix C). You do not mention housing cooperatives specifically.

I'm wondering if you intend to include housing cooperatives as part of congregate living facilities in Priority Group 1b? If not, will they be considered in a later priority group?

Thank you so much for your work. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Best,
Zach Small



From: susan@alcc.solutions
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Comment regarding COVID-19 vaccine for non-frontline health care workers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:13:38 PM
Attachments: image001.png
Importance: High

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To Whom it may concern

I just want to share my thoughts regarding vaccinating non-frontline health care workers as that includes myself and nurses who work with me at ALCC (Assisted Living Consultants Consortium).

I am hoping that we will be included in the group who can receive vaccinations in this next round being dispersed via the mobile clinics.

I would request that we be given a high priority in this next phase.

My rationale:

We provide training and consulting for medication administration to frontline staff in assisted living facilities. This activity promotes safe medication administration to the vulnerable clients / residents they care for.

We provide clinical consulting to frontline staff in assisted living facilities to improve and enhance the care provided to vulnerable clients / residents who live there.

Due to COVID pandemic, we have been limited to providing remote training and support vs. in-person training and support. While remote training and support is being done, our in-person training and support is even more effective at enhancing the quality care the vulnerable populations in assisted living receive when we can have direct access to staff and assist them to improve their practices and skills.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards

Sue

Susan Schneider, RN
Principal

Assisted Living Consultants Consortium LLC
888.430.4591 414.531.0440
www.alcc.solutions



From: [Zach Smith](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:23:13 PM

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Please include massage therapists in phase 1b. People need the power of touch and stress reduction and the professionals deserve to be protected.

Thanks,
Ryan Z Smith
Lic #14045-146

From: [Kathy Morris](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee/phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:33:06 PM

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I am a hairdresser and I am hoping that you include hairdressers in phase 1B. I feel that we are essential and we are actually face to face with clients and we also touch clients. Because of this, I feel that we are in a much greater group that could contract COVID-19 and could spread COVID-19 especially if we are asymptomatic.

I am also hoping that you could consider essential delivery drivers. My husband is a delivery driver for a uniform and linen company and has had to work and deliver to many different companies that have remained open during COVID. He has to deliver to healthcare places and manufacturing facilities as well as many other businesses. If he contracted COVID he could spread to these facilities before he knew he was infected.

I know you have many people to consider and I thank you for your time in these considerations.

Kathy Morris

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [Jacquelyn Passow](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine priority
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:20:11 PM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Truck drivers deliver ALL of our food, goods and yes...vaccines.

J. Passow

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Mariah Kirchenwitz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee/Phase 1B, Ventilator Manufacturers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:53:32 AM

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To Whom it May Concern:

I am reaching out to you concerning an online post I read that your department is accepting recommendations as to who should be included in the next phase of vaccine implementation. I have a highly deserving group to recommend: ventilator manufacturers.

I recommend the following two groups be included in the next vaccine phase:

Manufacturing, especially medical equipment manufacturers which include manufacturers of ventilators and other critical equipment. These individuals come into work daily and cannot work remotely and are critical to the response for the pandemic. They work in enclosed manufacturing environments. These are extremely dedicated, hard-working individuals. The endless effort and hours ventilator manufacturers have spent ensuring the need is met and exceeded for life-saving equipment in Wisconsin, and throughout the U.S. proves just how critical they are.

I believe the spouses of these essential workers should also be included as they are also exposed given the high risk nature of their significant other's work. Spouses live with and support the needs of the ventilator manufacturers.

Please make ventilator manufacturing facilities priority in the vaccine implementation, as they answered the call of duty when we needed them the most, and continue to support us all through this pandemic.

Best,

Mariah

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Tyler Amundson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Farmers Don't Get Sick Days - For Public Comment Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:35:58 AM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Hello,

I am writing this email to respond to the Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee's recommendations for priority group 1B. I believe it is imperative to include Wisconsin's farmers in this group. They are an integral part to Wisconsin's economy and to the public for continuity of the food supply. Government leaders on both sides acknowledge how there is a crisis with food banks and farmers are the ones supporting these programs while the economy limps along in the pandemic. Farmers don't get sick days like many other essential workers. If they are too sick to work the cows don't get milked or fed, and the food supply suffers. Farmers are also exposed just as much as other essential workers as they are meeting with veterinarians, nutritionists, breeders, milk haulers, bankers, accountants etc. all of which are coming on the farm. Wisconsin prides itself on being "America's Dairyland", it's time it shows actual support for its farmers and get them the vaccine immediately.

Thank you,
Tyler

From: [Sarah Urban](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee, phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:06:45 AM

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To whom it may concern,

Retail workers, who we were calling heroes just a few months ago, should also be considered in this phase.

Please consider bus drivers, ALL school staff, including janitors and aides.

Thank you for considering public input,
Sarah Urban
Madison, WI

From: [Doreen Doornink](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee and Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 8:58:39 AM

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As an owner of a cleaning company who works feverishly at helping people feel comfortable about having to work at their worksites(not at home). I feel you need to take a harder look at who is keeping society safe. Grocery workers, sanitary , janitorial worker are essential and who needs to have the vaccine now. I hope you'll take into account that clean hospitals, grocery stores, and business offices are what Americans deserve and the people who clean require the vaccine immediately.

We put out lives at risk and ask your consideration to help protect us. Please feel free to contact at 414-416-1986 or via email.

Respectfully

Doreen M Doornink

Sent from my iPhone

From: george.velguth
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: Rep.Duchow@legis.wi.gov; Sen.Kapenga@legis.wisconsin.gov; [GOV Info](#)
Subject: Phase 1B comment
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 8:26:34 AM

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Visiting multiple cities each work day is an integral part of my job as a charter airline pilot. While on the job I carry a letter that explains to inquiring officials that I am a designated essential worker, exempt from travel restrictions and quarantine and testing requirements. Despite these facts, I will not qualify for vaccination under the Phase 1B schedule currently being proposed by WI DHS.

If I am to remain employed, I must stay in 180 different hotel rooms each year, eat food that has been prepared and handled by perhaps 1,000 strangers, and expose myself to innumerable potential carriers of the novel corona virus, often within the confined space of an aircraft cabin. Then, when I return home, I expose my wife - who, by the way, is a cancer survivor - to all the germs that attached themselves to me during my tour of duty.

I believe that those whose essential work requires frequent travel, and the family members with whom they reside, should be made eligible for Covid-19 vaccination as early in the program as possible.

Sincerely,
George Velguth

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

From: [Gerald Blohowiak](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccination Subcommittee!
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 8:08:34 AM

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Thank You for asking us to comment on why we should be included in the 1a 1b priority vaccination status. As of January 18th Fire and rescue department are receiving their vaccinations. AS the Fire Service is an (All Hazard) Responder to multiple reasons to service those in need. WE also respond to those families in need 24hrs a day 7days a week. As Health Professionals in the last stages of this effort, we would welcome your fair and humanitarian consideration in the priority Status. My Fellow Funeral Home Employees appreciate your effort in this Endeavor.

From: [mali.p](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:04:18 AM

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Hello - I am reaching out as I read an online post that your department is seeking recommendations for who should be included in next phase of vaccine implementation, I recommend the following groups be included:

Manufacturing, especially medical equipment manufacturers which include manufacturers of ventilators and other critical equipment. These individuals come into work daily and cannot work remotely and are critical to the response for the pandemic.

I believe spouses of essential workers should also be included as they are also exposed given the high risk nature of their significant other's work.

Thank you

From: [Jodi Tollefson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee for phase 1b
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 10:56:50 PM

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To whom this may concern,

I have read who is suggested for phase1b and I am completely baffled by who is and who isn't included on this list. I get that the 70+ group is a no brainer, but I don't understand why any worker in a store that was open from the beginning of this pandemic is not included. **While the teachers where safe in their homes teaching virtually these people were out making sure we had food on our table and the essentials we needed to survive.** My son and I have been working out in the public since day one of the pandemic. It is a slap in the face to any worker that worked since day one and we not in Phase 1B.

Please include the people that took care of everyone while we were in lock down in Phase 1B.

Thank you,

Jodi Tollefson

From: [bongutsch](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1b
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 10:02:22 PM

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Anyone deemed an essential worker throughout the pandemic (in other words anyone forced to work in the general public) should be next. Many of these workers are lower income and also trying to support families while being potentially exposed every day at their job. It's of public health, ethical, but also economic benefit to support these people who have risked their lives to keep the economy rolling and put food on their kids' tables. (I do not fall into this category but I believe we owe these people respect and protection.)

Bonnie Gutsch
Sun Prairie

From: [Matthew Schmaling](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccination Request
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 9:17:32 PM

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SDMAC

Please consider including 911 dispatchers in phase 1B along with firefighters and police officers. Our 911 dispatchers are critical to public safety and they often work in small, congregate spaces due to the need to access 911 phone systems and radios that cannot be accessed remotely. Outbreaks among staff in our 911 dispatch centers could be detrimental to the health & safety of the public since there are a limited number of highly skilled individuals who can fulfill that critical role.

- **Matt Schmaling**

Manitowoc County Dispatch Center

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From: [Summer Castro](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: 911 Dispatchers
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 9:16:45 PM

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SDMAC

Please consider including 911 dispatchers in phase 1B along with firefighters and police officers. Our 911 dispatchers are critical to public safety and they often work in small, congregate spaces due to the need to access 911 phone systems and radios that cannot be accessed remotely. Outbreaks among staff in our 911 dispatch centers could be detrimental to the health & safety of the public since there are a limited number of highly skilled individuals who can fulfill that critical role.

Summer Castro
Telecommunicator
Joint Dispatch Center
Manitowoc County
1024 S 9th St Manitowoc, WI 54220
920-683-4201
summercastro@co.manitowoc.wi.us

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From: [Jayne Moore](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: VaccinePriority Group 1b
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 7:25:19 PM

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I think workers in libraries should be moved up on the list as they are with the public and act as a public service.

thanks for listening.
Jayne Moore

From: [Olson, Lisa A - DHS](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: FW: COVID 19 vaccines
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 4:38:47 PM
Attachments: FSIS COVID Prioritization letter - States Final.pdf

From: Willems Van Dijk, Julie A - DHS <julie.willemsvandijk@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:54 PM
To: Olson, Lisa A - DHS <lisaa.olson@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: FW: COVID 19 vaccines

From: Sprouls, Dawn - FSIS <dawn.sprouls@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:46 AM
To: Willems Van Dijk, Julie A - DHS <julie.willemsvandijk@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Sprouls, Dawn - FSIS <dawn.sprouls@usda.gov>
Subject: COVID 19 vaccines

Good morning,

My name is Dr. Dawn Sprouls and I am the District Manager for Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) which is an Agency that has the responsibility for ensuring that meat, poultry and egg products are safe, wholesome and properly labeled. Our employees are essential to the safety of the nation's food supply. The Des Moines district includes the states of Iowa, Wisconsin, South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota. We have approximately 860 employees across the 5 states. I am writing to ensure one that you have received the attached letter from the FSIS Administrator Mr. Paul Kiecker and two to offer any assistance from my office that may be needed in this process.

We are also asking our supervisors and employees to reach out to local/county/area health departments to register as well. If there is any additional information that would assist this process or any other way we can help-please feel free to reach out to me.

Thank you again for all your Health Department's work through this past year as we have worked with them in various locations across the district. We realize that this past year has presented a number of unique challenges and opportunities for everyone and we look forward to working with the Health Departments to get FSIS employees vaccinated.

Dawn Sprouls, DVM
Des Moines District Manager
FSIS-USDA

210 Walnut Street RM 985
Des Moines, IA 50309

Office number-515-727-8977
Cell number-402-250-7481
dawn.sprouls@usda.gov

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Food Safety and
Inspection Service

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW.
Washington, D.C.
20250

January 8, 2021

Dear State Departments of Health and Agriculture,

We have received several questions regarding where USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) mission critical workforce should be included in State vaccination plans. As noted in the Secretary's letter to governors in December, FSIS personnel are essential to securing the safety of the nation's food supply.

On December 20, 2020, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) updated its interim COVID-19 vaccine allocation recommendations. These recommendations have been published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention¹, and state that in Phase 1b, the COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to persons aged ≥ 75 years and non-health care frontline essential workers.

The ACIP utilized guidance² from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to define frontline essential workers likely at highest risk for work-related exposure to COVID-19, because their work-related duties must be performed on-site. The CISA guidance specifies regulatory and government workforce to be among the essential workers in the food and agriculture industries.

Employees across USDA are engaged in essential government services supporting the critical Federal infrastructure as defined by CISA. The following functions are the essential government service or activity which prioritizes USDA employees as members of Phase 1b for COVID-19 vaccination:

- ***Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS):*** Meat, poultry, swine and egg inspection, investigation, district office personnel, and related laboratory services.
- ***Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service:*** Inspection of live plants and animals; managing animal and plant disease programs; veterinary, aviation and laboratory services in support of these operations.
- ***Agricultural Marketing Service:*** Commodity grading, commodity procurement, market news, and protecting fair agriculture trade performed by employees in the Agriculture Marketing Service.
- ***And other pertinent USDA agencies***

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm695152e2.htm?s_cid=mm695152e2_w

²

https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ECIW_4.0_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_Final3_508_0.pdf

We appreciate your consideration of the USDA essential workers outlined above who are critical in agriculture, food safety, food production and supply and protecting the health, welfare and safety of the public. As you develop your individual State vaccination plans, please include the essential USDA employees in Phase 1b of individual State vaccination plans.

Additionally, some private corporations, such as meat and poultry processing plants, may undertake vaccination efforts for their own employees, but not for federal employees. USDA employees providing essential services at those locations would still need to be included and accounted for in State vaccination plans.

USDA is prepared to provide essential worker information to State and County health officials, including the number of employees, their names, residence, and duty locations, to assist in State efforts to vaccinate Phase 1b priority groups. FSIS essential employees can furnish their Federal Government identification and a copy of a letter documenting essential worker status.

While the vaccine is not mandatory, we trust that the States will ensure priority is given to our essential workers as appropriate. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact FSIS' Chief Operating Officer, Jeremy "Todd" Reed, at jeremy.reed@usda.gov or (202) 573-1824.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Kiecker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "P".

Paul A. Kiecker
Administrator

From: [Andrea Henle](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B - public comment from higher education professional & immunologist
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 3:24:52 PM

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Dear Wisconsin SDMAC Vaccine Subcommittee members,

I am writing to make a public comment on the proposed phase 1B COVID-19 vaccination plan for Wisconsin residents.

I am currently an Associate Professor of Biology at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI. I received my Ph.D. in immunology from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN and I completed a postdoctoral fellowship in cancer biology at MIT. I have been following the science behind the COVID-19 vaccination development for quite some time and frequently read the scientific literature on COVID-19. Needless to say, I have anxiously been awaiting the announcement of the phase 1B groups in Wisconsin.

I would like to provide some perspective on what is like to be a faculty member who teaches college students during this pandemic. **I am specifically providing this perspective to help support your recommendations for allowing higher education professionals to be vaccinated in phase 1B.** As a faculty member in the sciences, I frequently teach lab-based courses. For instance, last semester, fall 2020, I met with my introductory biology students in person twice a week to conduct 2 hour and 20 minute labs each meeting. I also met with them at least once a week via synchronous virtual modalities for the lecture component. This was not an easy teaching experience. Running an in-person laboratory course while masked and trying to maintain social distancing is quite a challenge. Due to my own high-risk health condition during this pandemic (e.g. an advanced maternal age pregnancy), I felt that I often couldn't get close to help my students at their lab benches. I feared for my health literally everyday I walked into the lab. And my students also could not rely on lab partners since they needed to maintain social distancing. If I was to receive the immunological protection that a two-dose vaccine would confer, then I would certainly feel more comfortable having quick interactions next to my students at their lab benches. And they would certainly benefit from instructor assistance and guidance on their research experiments during these times when they have to work alone without a lab partner.

Laboratory experiences are crucial for undergraduate science courses. Without them, our students are not able to gain valuable hands-on research experience and apply the concepts they are learning about in class to actual scientific discoveries and methodology. Additionally, the majority of the students in my courses are pre-health focused, meaning they intend to go to pre-professional schools such as dental, veterinary school, medical school, pharmacy, or graduate school. These in-person laboratory experiences are typically required for entry into these programs. **If the COVID-19 vaccine is made available to higher education professionals, then we will better be able to support in person education of these students, some of whom will be graduating in just a few months and will be our future frontline health care workers who will see us through to the end of this pandemic.**

Some of them are even already working as certified nursing assistants in nursing homes, medical scribes, and in other healthcare positions. **I see no better way to help support these students in their education than to allow for the vaccination of their often middle-aged and/or high-risk professors/instructors so that in person learning can resume as it did prior to the pandemic.**

I also wanted to comment on the language in Appendix E of the phase 1B recommendations for public comment. The plan says, "The Subcommittee recommends limiting vaccination to faculty and staff with direct student contact." **I think it will be careful to specify that the vaccination is recommended to faculty and staff whose students could directly benefit from in person interactions.** Right now during the current spring 2021 semester at Carthage, one of the courses I am teaching in person is an Advanced Cell Biology laboratory to junior and senior biology students. However, I have chosen to offer most labs at the start of this semester in the far inferior virtual format due to my pregnancy and other high-risk conditions such as gestational diabetes. I would prefer for the students' sake to be able to switch to offering some in person labs midway through the semester as it will offer them a much better cell biology experience and better prepare them for what they will encounter after graduation. If I am fully vaccinated by that point I could surely teach in person while still maintaining social distancing and standard masking requirements in my laboratory classroom. **So in short, I think your plan should include vaccination of faculty and staff whose students would greatly benefit from in-person interactions, even if they might be electing to do virtual interactions right now.** Groups that would fall in this category would, in my opinion, definitely include science and nursing faculty members and others who educate future health professionals.

Lastly, I would like to comment on the state of higher education right now. Higher Ed has been hit hard by this pandemic. Many small schools did not have the endowment or slush funds to recover from refunding room and board fees to students last spring semester when most institutions sent their students home mid-March. At Carthage, we have experienced faculty layoffs (including tenured faculty), elimination of retirement contributions, rising healthcare costs, and have not seen a cost-of-living increase in years. In order for higher education institutions, particular small private institutions to survive, we need to return to what we do best, and that's in person learning and on campus experiences. For these reasons I think it is important to include all levels of education professionals in Phase 1B - from daycare through higher education.

Please note that the views reflected in this email are my own and are not necessarily those of my employer. Please feel free to reach out to me via email or phone if you have any questions or follow-up comments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrea M. Henle, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Biology
Carthage College
office: 262-551-6315
cell: 612-804-7817
ahenle@carthage.edu

From: ronvick@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Ronald Kvamme](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Requesting inclusion of vaccines for frontline, essential hunger-relief workers in phase 1B of the Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory vaccine subcommittee recommendation
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 2:36:44 PM

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Dear Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee Vaccine Subcommittee,

Thank you for your efforts to ensure efficient and equitable distribution of vaccines. It is incredibly important and necessary that the Phase 1B recommendation for the COVID-19 vaccine include hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers. These workers and volunteers are essential to continue the unprecedented distribution of food to those Wisconsinites experiencing hunger during the pandemic and economic crisis.

Prioritization of hunger-relief frontline workers is imperative for the following reasons:

Gentlemen My wife and I both work for the Hayward Community food Shelf. We service almost 1700 people a month. We have lost many volunteers as people are dropping out over fears of the virus. We both keep plugging along. Both are 67. I will be vaccinated as I am also a volunteer fireman. If a case comes up at the shelf we will be forced to close affecting those 1700 people. We were deemed essential when all this started and to be pushed back for vaccination I don't believe is right. We had over 100 volunteers . We are down to about the same 10-20 people week after week. We are essential workers.

- Hunger-relief workers and volunteers are the critical force behind the wellbeing of the record number of Wisconsinites facing food insecurity. One in eight Wisconsinites, including one in five Wisconsin kids, don't know where their next meal is coming from. The hunger-relief network is mobilized like never before to meet this need. Our network is serving about 60% more individuals than last year. And Wisconsin's Feeding America member food banks and partners distributed about 90 million unprecedented pounds of food to those experiencing food insecurity from March to September of 2020, that is 25 million more pounds than was distributed in all of fiscal year 2019.
- The hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers serve individuals in vulnerable health situations. People experiencing food insecurity have a disproportionately high rate of chronic health conditions that put people at higher risk of severe COVID-19 complications. This population frequently has less access to consistent quality health care and insurance. Also, 23% of households served has at least one senior and we know that age is a good indicator for risk of severe COVID-19 complications or death. People of color disproportionately experience food insecurity and are also known to be at greater risk of severe COVID-19 complications.
- It is our duty to ensure the safety of those being served. Individuals being served and in contact with hunger-relief frontline workers have few other options but to seek assistance from food pantries and meal sites do not have a way to mitigate their COVID-19 risk. They cannot avoid the interaction with staff and volunteers and rely on the organization to help meet basic needs and provide them with the meals they need to live.
- The hunger-relief network relies heavily on volunteers to fulfill the mission, many (37%) of these volunteers are seniors. An estimated 52 percent of food pantries and meal sites report having no paid staff. Among the 46 percent of agencies with paid staff, the median number of paid full-time equivalent staff members reported is four. As a result, if staff or volunteers were to test positive for COVID-19 and potentially require other staff or volunteers to quarantine, food distribution operations would be greatly impacted.

Collaboration between our hunger-relief organizations, public health, and those administering the vaccine will be essential to planning for equitable and efficient distribution, addressing concerns, educating about and adhering to appropriate protocols.

The COVID-19 vaccine is a critical step toward ensuring the safety and health of staff, volunteers, and those accessing food resources. It also ensures that food banks have the capacity to continue distributions at this unprecedented rate to feed Wisconsinites experiencing hunger. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mr. Ronald Kvamme



From: [UPINDER SINGH](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B recommendations.
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 2:06:55 PM

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Sir / Madam

I think phase 1B should include all essential workers including manufacturing, all adults with underlying conditions including asthma, cancer, BP, cholesterol, diabetes etc, all medical related staff who could not get vaccination in 1a for any reason. Thanks.

Upinder

From: [Dale & Hollie Wall](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee- Phase1B
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 1:36:05 PM

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Dear DHS,

In regard to the Phase 1B covid vaccine priority, I would like to comment. I work in a consumer products plant for a Fortune 100 company. We are essential workers, manufacturing paper products, like Charmin, Bounty, and Puffs. Since the hoarding of these products last spring, we have not been able to keep the store shelves full. Many people have been working, and attending school from home, increasing the demand for these products. Our equipment runs 24/7, 365 days of the year. We wear masks working 12 hour shifts in all conditions, sometimes heat indexes over 100 degrees. Forced overtime on our days off is normal. We try to follow the rules every day, but it is very difficult. Our covid positivity rate has trended higher than the general population. I would like to see essential manufacturing workers added to the Phase 1B for this reason.

Thank You,
Dale Wall

From: [Benjamin Ratliffe](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Madison Metro Transit workers and vaccination protocol
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 12:36:06 PM

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Dear public health rep,

I am dismayed to hear that workers at Madison Metro are not among those listed as priorities for receiving COVID vaccines, despite the obvious need as they work directly with the public every day.

The intensification of this pandemic is frightening and keeping frontline workers healthy should be top priority. Who makes these decisions and how can I contact them?

Sincerely,
Ben Ratliffe

Sent from my iPad

From: [Laurie Skow-Anderson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: lbartsch@nswi.org
Subject: vaccine subcommittee phase 18
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 11:35:42 AM

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Dear Vaccine Subcommittee,

I strongly recommend your consideration of clergy, pastors and ministers as essential workers and that they be allowed to receive the vaccine in group 1B. Clergy are public facing essential workers and offer essential in person spiritual care to the population of the state of Wisconsin during a time of a health crisis, hospitalization, death, grief counseling, and funeral services.

As bishop, I am responsible for the spiritual care of 198 Lutheran congregations with nearly 90,000 members in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Your consideration of clergy as essential workers in group 1B is vital to the holistic care and healing of many in this state.

I am certain that your work is challenging. Please know that I am holding you in prayer.

Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson
Bishop of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA
715-651-1658
lskow-anderson@nswi.org

From: [Nicole Skauge](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase 1b
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 9:52:29 AM

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Hi there! I'd like to make a recommendation on behalf of myself.

I am a hairstylist in Milwaukee and the number of people i see every day makes me feel like hairstylists or people working in a salon type environment would be important for phase 1b. We are in close contact. Typically longer than 15 minutes with each guest. Now multiply that by how many guests per day. And then now by how many guests our coworkers see. Now imagine the salons that are not taking this seriously. People are getting complacent. At home and at their jobs. Anyway. That's my recommendation. And it would be easy to track. People that hold a state license (could make license sales go up because this is a renewal year.) so it would also benefit the state in making sure people's licenses are up to date.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Steve Rutter](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccine public comment
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 7:33:52 AM

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Please consider clergy in your priority list for
The covid vaccine. I am an ELCA pastor, with many elderly and others that i need to visit and
offer spiritual care.
Thank you for your consideration

Steve Rutter
Interim pastor
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Black River Falls. WI

From: [Sara Obermeyer-Tuttle](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 6:28:54 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to submit comments for Phase 1B for the Covid-19 vaccinations. I and many others work as a lifeguard. I myself am a lifeguard at the East YMCA in Madison.

As a lifeguard, I am a first responder in situations that happen at the pool. I am at risk every single shift at the pool to come in close contact with someone if a water rescue becomes needed or if first aid must be administered.

Since a lifeguard provides care when needed, I believe lifeguards should be included in Phase 1B so we can ensure that we are protected when providing care through water rescue, cardiac emergencies and first aid.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this email and for all your hard work.

Sara Obermeyer-Tuttle

From: [Deb Oberlin](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 11:15:51 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am an in-home health aide/caregiver for clients participating in the IRIS program. They have cognitive and physical disabilities. Social distancing is virtually impossible. Both my clients and I needed to be tested and went into quarantine on 2 separate occasions because of COVID exposure. This was a hardship for all involved. Please consider the following for us to be included in phase 1b of COVID vaccine recipients.

"IRIS and Family Care Recipients: A majority of IRIS and Family Care recipients live in substitute care living facilities of some type. IRIS and Family Care recipients typically have multiple comorbidities, which may include intellectual or developmental disability. This group is easily identifiable, manageable, and reachable and comprised of individuals at increased risk for negative outcomes. This group is geographically diverse, age-diverse, ethnically and racially diverse, and poor (Appendix B – estimated Wisconsin population size 40,000-50,000). CONGREGATE LIVING: Facility staff and residents of congregate settings should be considered for high prioritization due to their inability to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 through social distancing measures. Support for the inclusion of congregate settings is provided in ACIP guidance (Appendix C – estimated Wisconsin population size – 237,902)."

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Deborah Oberlin, CPS, home health aide, and caregiver

From: [Rebecca Baltus](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: public comments on recommendations for who qualifies for the next phase of COVID-19 vaccinations, referred to as Phase 1b.
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 8:25:29 PM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Please allow truck drivers to recieve Covid 19 shots in the next round of shots. 1B. Thank you.

From: [Andrea Ducklow](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: COVID-19 phase 1b public comments
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 7:03:19 PM

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I believe that non-direct care RNs should be included in phase 1b (actually A but that isn't open for comments) because at many facilities we are the back-up plan if too many of the direct care RNs get sick or are overwhelmed and they need more nurses. Additionally, in event of the hospitals becoming overwhelmed wouldn't you want every RN possible to be vaccinated in case they were needed?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

(A 25+ year ER nurse who now moved out of direct care, but could do it again if I needed to.) - Andrea Ducklow

Sent from my iPhone

From: [gabrielsonshelley](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 6:58:37 PM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Please consider vaccinations for Civil Air Patrol members so we are mission ready for emergency services. We've been helping with covid relief efforts.

Shelley Gabrielson

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

From: [Kary Jonas](#)
To: [Maren Walz](#)
Cc: [DHS SDMAC](#); [Libby Howe](#); [Pastor Anna Sorenson](#)
Subject: Re: Phase 1B recommendations - public comment
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 5:56:20 PM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Hi Maren, Thank you for sharing your response to the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee. I have not seen the recommendations for phase 1B that you referenced.

I do find that there is no standard county by county. I discovered earlier this week that some counties like Monroe, Vernon, Bayfield, Ozaukee and Washington have included clergy (not just hospital chaplains) in their phase 1A. (There may be more WI counties that have included clergy of which I am not aware. I only learned this info informally in various clergy FB groups I am a part of.)

Anyway, I agree and appreciate your recommendation. Kary

On Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 5:31 PM Maren Walz <marenkk@gmail.com> wrote:

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee member,

Thank you for your hard work in making these recommendations. You're knocking it out of the park!

I'd like to offer one rather specific change, and that would be to **include clergy in phase 1B**.

This is likely a tiny sub-set of the population which means it shouldn't have any great impact on feasibility. But their work to help carry the emotional load of this pandemic has continuously been essential to tethering communities together. They have pastored, from the very start, those dealing with mental health issues, issues of abuse, economic instability, and through lots of anger, loss and grief. Their ability to connect with our nursing home residents needs to be restored as quickly as possible

Please recommend clergy to start getting vaccinated! Protecting that one person can buoy an entire community of people while we patiently wait for our turn.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your dedication to public service. We are indebted to you.
Maren Walz

Executive Director for Integrated Marketing and Communications, UW-La Crosse
Ettrick, WI resident
Member of French Creek Lutheran Church of Ettrick
608.797.8780

--

Pastor Kary Jonas
Living Hope Lutheran Church
PO Box 224
15630 E 4th Street
Ettrick, WI 54627

(608) 577-1665
(608) 525-3454 (church)
karyjonas@gmail.com

From: [Tory Rosenkranz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Please take into consideration
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 5:52:07 PM

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Hello,

I live in La Crosse County. I am a self-employed hairstylist in downtown La Crosse. I am asking you to please consider adding hair stylists to the list of professions to receive the vaccine sooner than the general public.

I realize that a salon is not considered "essential," but for the majority of people, feeling good about yourself with a good haircut or color is essential for mental health. The salon that I work in prides itself in taking all necessary precautions of mask wearing, sanitizing and limiting the number of people in our salon at any given time. But, we cannot do our job and social distance from our clients.

My industry does not get mentioned with most things, but we have an impact on most people. We see many people everyday and I have to trust my clients to hope that they are being responsible and respectful of my health and the health of others. If I need to miss work, I do not get paid and still have business expenses.

I do not expect to receive my vaccine along with healthcare workers, but I do think that people who work face to face and do not have the option of plexiglass as a divider or the ability to work from home should be included in the earlier groupings of people to be vaccinated.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Tory Rosenkranz

From: [Maren Walz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Libby Howe](#); [Pastor Anna Sorenson](#); [Kary Jonas](#)
Subject: Phase 1B recommendations - public comment
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 5:31:33 PM

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State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee member,

Thank you for your hard work in making these recommendations. You're knocking it out of the park!

I'd like to offer one rather specific change, and that would be to **include clergy in phase 1B**.

This is likely a tiny sub-set of the population which means it shouldn't have any great impact on feasibility. But their work to help carry the emotional load of this pandemic has continuously been essential to tethering communities together. They have pastored, from the very start, those dealing with mental health issues, issues of abuse, economic instability, and through lots of anger, loss and grief. Their ability to connect with our nursing home residents needs to be restored as quickly as possible

Please recommend clergy to start getting vaccinated! Protecting that one person can buoy an entire community of people while we patiently wait for our turn.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your dedication to public service. We are indebted to you.

Maren Walz

Executive Director for Integrated Marketing and Communications, UW-La Crosse

Etrick, WI resident

Member of French Creek Lutheran Church of Etrick

608.797.8780

From: [Valerian Ahles](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccine public comment
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 5:04:10 PM

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To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that clergy are not included in the next phase of vaccine distribution: Phase 1B. Currently only spiritual directors and chaplains can receive the vaccine during this phase. I think it is very important that clergy are immunized as soon as possible with this next phase because we are critical and necessary to the spiritual well-being of members of our congregations who are hospitalized or confined to nursing homes. I humbly request that you make it happen for clergy to get vaccinated during Phase 1B and so enable them do the work of caring for people during a time such as this pandemic has thrust upon us. Thank you for your listening hearts.

Sincerely,

Pr. Valerian J. Ahles

ELCA Pastor of Immanuel/Elk Creek United Lutheran Parish
& Osseo Wisconsin. .

of Strum

From: [Hoyt Purinton](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B Public Comments
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 4:44:47 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

Washington Island Ferry Line operates on a year round daily basis carrying passengers, vehicles, and freight to and from Washington Island.

Due to the high risk of potential impacts on the Washington Island community from a service interruption due to COVID-19 employee or vessel quarantine(s), **we request employees of Washington Island Ferry Line receive appropriate prioritization as Emergency Transportation Providers in tier 1A.**

-Washington Island Ferry Line is on call 24/7/365 for emergency medical transports facilitated through both Door County EMS and direct/private as need or choice dictate.

Feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Hoyt Purinton
President, WIFL

--

Hoyt Purinton

Washington Island Ferry Line, Inc.
P.O. Box 39
Washington Island, WI 54246
(920) 847-2546

From: [Garrett and Jennifer Georgeson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b of Covid Shots
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 4:17:08 PM

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Dear Health Department Representatives:

First and foremost, I want to take the time to thank you for all your hard work with Covid.

It is my understanding that you are about to roll out phase 1b for Covid vaccines. In reviewing the information, I am happy to see that the frontline essential workers are next in line for shots.

As essential workers begin to get their shots, they are going to become relaxed in how they go about handling covid. This is inevitable. It's just how humans are. They will feel protected and disregard the fact that others are still at risk because they can still transfer the virus. We've already seen so many people across this state refuse to wear a mask. What happens when people get their shots? You won't be able to stop them from resuming life as normal.

That being said, many of your frontline essential workers have stay at home spouses. Those spouses, often times are the mothers to the children in the homes. These mothers, all too often, are immunocompromised. Exactly what happens when frontline and essential workers start going about life and resume as normal and then these workers bring Covid home to all these significant others. Those immunocompromised people...will be your newest rise in numbers of infected as well as the death toll.

I am proposing that when a frontline or a frontline essential workers is able to get their vaccines, their spouse automatically are allowed access to the vaccine as well. Many of these spouses are not working so their frontline workers can. Please don't let these frontline workers with immunocompromised spouses bury their loved spouse because you didn't think to let that spouse get the shot too.

I thank you for your consideration of this idea.

Sincerely,

A concern citizen and immunocompromised spouse - Jennifer Georgeson, Chippewa County, Wisconsin

From: [Robert Orech](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 3:31:34 PM

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Hi!

I think it's important that our retail workers that have been working during the pandemic should be at the front of the line. Remember, we are the ones that have been selling you all the food, disinfectant and toilet paper. We not only risk Covid, but our safety because of people acting out over masks and other preventative tactics to limit spread as well as many of our stores were in direct line of all the protestors during the civil unrest.

Retail Workers=Frontline essential workers.

Thanks.

Bob Orech

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hicken, Bobbi](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 3:24:57 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image007.png

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In review of the committee's recommendation for Phase 1B priority group, I would like to see 911 dispatchers and emergency management personnel be removed from the generic "Public-Facing Essential Workers" and put higher in priority within this group. 911 dispatchers are as necessary as police, fire or ems. Most dispatch centers do not have the room to properly socially distance and most often have to share equipment. This is a recipe for disaster if someone comes down with COVID-19 in the center. It would only be a matter of time before it would spread to many more dispatchers. Most dispatch centers do not hire excess personnel so any loss of personnel for any amount of time is going to have a negative impact on the rest of the center and all of public safety. They need to receive the protection of the vaccination series as soon as possible.

Emergency management personnel are critical to the operations of the cities, counties and tribes and in most counties and tribes, there is not a lot of overlap or redundancies as it pertains to these personnel. Prior to COVID-19, if an emergency management director became ill or was off for an extended period of time, it would be typical for other counties and even the region director to assist the county until the director is back. With COVID-19, we are all a lot busier and don't have the time or capability to assist other counties to this extent. Providing the emergency management personnel with the vaccine would help alleviate this type of problem.

This population is not large, with the majority of dispatch centers having 30 or less dispatchers. There are also only a few emergency management personnel in each city/county/tribe, and some of them have already or will receive it next week with their dual roles. I feel the additional personnel qualifying for vaccination would not have a negative impact on the vaccination sites or supply.

I respectfully request to add 911 and emergency management personnel to the fire and law enforcement group that begins on Monday, the 18th.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bobbi Hicken
Director
Fond du Lac County Communications & Emergency Management
920-929-7647





From: [Pastor Nancy Raabe](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Pastors in Tier 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 3:07:28 PM

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Dear Ms. McCamy,

I would like to advocate for pastors to be added to Tier 1B alongside educators. Many of us must continue to meet in person with our congregations and, especially in life transition situations such as funerals in which we find ourselves with increasing frequency, we remain at high risk. Our people are under great spiritual stress with the pandemic, and the sooner that we can be equipped to attend to them without fear, the more effectively we will be able to lead the church through these difficult times. We are doing all we can to keep hope alive. You can imagine the devastating effect it would have on a congregation were their pastor to become infected - and there are no "substitute" pastors available as there might be for substitute teachers.

I am aware of clergy in other states included in Tier 1B who have already been vaccinated. Please do everything you can to hasten this process! I trust that here in Dane Co. we would be notified of vaccination opportunities through our synod, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA), 608-270-0201.

Respectfully,

Nancy Raabe

Rev. Nancy M Raabe
Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
605 Madison St., Marshall, WI 53559
608.655.4246 (office), 614.214.2639 (cell)
Office hours: M, Tu and Th 9:30 am-noon, W 11 am-2 pm, and by appointment

From: [Rudy Moore](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Election Workers as essential workers and part of 1B?
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:47:26 PM

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Hello SDMAC,

I am writing to ask if there is a way that election officials for the upcoming Spring Primaries can be declared essential workers, and hence part of group 1B for vaccinations? The Madison Clerk's office has done a great job providing us with PPE that has kept us as safe as we can be given the circumstances in all of the prior elections last year. This would be one more step that would help to ensure that we don't get sick... and also protects the voters by keeping any of us from getting them sick.

Who else should I contact that may be part of the decision making that will decide this?

Thank you!
Rudy Moore

From: [Mooney, Thomas](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Red Cross - Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1b Public Comments - State of Wisconsin
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:34:42 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image003.png

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1/15/2021

Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee – Covid-19

Public Comments – Red Cross Suggested Recommendations for the Wisconsin Department of Department of Health Services Vaccine Subcommittee for COVID-19 Priority Group Phase 1b Personnel

On behalf of the American Red Cross of Wisconsin I would like to submit comments in support of the current Phase 1b framework to include non-frontline health care personnel. The urgent need for inclusion of non-frontline HCP in the next phase and even earlier if possible includes the following Red Cross personnel whom are not able to efficiently and effectively work from home since the pandemic started to be included in the COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b.

These are all boots on the ground non-frontline health care personnel (in addition to our phase 1a Phlebotomist/Lab Technicians) needed operationally to effectively prepare for and respond when disasters strike and to make sure life-saving blood is collected, manufactured, stored, inventoried, and transported to local hospitals on a daily basis. Personnel in these roles are critical in our ability to safely respond to emergencies at a moment's notice as well as in our ability to safely collect, manufacture and transport blood. The absence of these people due to covid-19 infections/quarantines negatively impacts our organizations ability to successfully and quickly respond to disasters large and small as well as in our ability to keep our blood donor buildings/locations open, properly staffed, safe and operational on a daily basis so we can collect and manufacture lifesaving blood products for patients in need at the hospitals we supply. For the next three months of 2021 our North Central Division (which includes the State of Wisconsin) has already had 2,149 blood drives cancelled impacting over 65,000 of units of projected blood collected due to Covid-19 related safety concerns. So the safer we can make both our frontline and non-frontline personnel the better.

1. Biomed Facility Cleaning personnel (this staff is skilled in cleaning our facilities before and after a Covid-19 exposure)

2. Biomed Facility Management/Administration/Operations personnel (this staff is highly skilled in facility & staff/volunteer management, security, utilities, HVAC, fleet, maintenance and operations)
3. Biomed IT support personnel (this staff is highly skilled in biomed networks, servers, systems and IT technology)
4. Biomed Supply/Quality Control personnel (this staff is highly skilled in biomed safety/quality standards required by the FDA, AABB etc..)
5. Biomed Blood Fleet/Transportation personnel (i.e. many of these people are over age 65) – these people are in an out of our donor rooms/buildings and hospitals daily.)
6. Biomed Mobile Blood Drive Warehouse & Staging personnel (these people are certified and skilled in loading and staging our mobile blood drives vehicles 24/7)
7. Biomed Fixed and Mobile Blood Drive Site Volunteer Screeners & Donor Ambassadors (personnel skilled in greeting, screening for Covid-19 symptoms,, and taking temperatures of blood donors daily)
8. Disaster & Service to the Armed Forces Preparedness & Response Personnel (these people are highly skilled in preparedness, response, shelters, and recovery when a disaster and/or emergency strikes)

We hope you will give these boots on the ground non-frontline health care Red Cross essential positions/personnel every consideration as you review whom to include in your list of Vaccine Priority Group 1b eligible personnel.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Thank you for your time.

Tom

Thomas Mooney
COO - Wisconsin Region
American Red Cross
4860 Sheboygan Ave.
Madison, WI 53705
608-512-3745 cell
Thomas.Mooney@redcross.org



Disaster can strike at any time. So can HOPE.



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To learn more visit redcross.org/homefires



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From: [Holly Tlachac](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: 911 Dispatchers
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:32:25 PM

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Hello,

I would like to strongly urge to make sure that 911 Dispatchers are included in phase 1B for vaccination. We play an incredibly important role with in our emergency response system with in the State of Wisconsin. This is not a position that is available to “work from home”. Outbreaks among staff in our 911 dispatch centers could be detrimental to the health & safety of the public since there are a limited number of highly skilled individuals who can fulfill that critical role. We are here to serve the public, but we deserve to be protected the same as other responders.

Holly Tlachac
Manitowoc County Joint Dispatch Center
920-683-4201

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From: dilindsay5794@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Dennis Lindsay](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Requesting inclusion of vaccines for frontline, essential hunger-relief workers in phase 1B of the Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory vaccine subcommittee recommendation
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:21:26 PM

Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee Vaccine Subcommittee,

Thank you for your efforts to ensure efficient and equitable distribution of vaccines. It is incredibly important and necessary that the Phase 1B recommendation for the COVID-19 vaccine include hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers. These workers and volunteers are essential to continue the unprecedented distribution of food to those Wisconsinites experiencing hunger during the pandemic and economic crisis.

Prioritization of hunger-relief frontline workers is imperative for the following reasons:

- Hunger-relief workers and volunteers are the critical force behind the wellbeing of the record number of Wisconsinites facing food insecurity. One in eight Wisconsinites, including one in five Wisconsin kids, don't know where their next meal is coming from. The hunger-relief network is mobilized like never before to meet this need. Our network is serving about 60% more individuals than last year. And Wisconsin's Feeding America member food banks and partners distributed about 90 million unprecedented pounds of food to those experiencing food insecurity from March to September of 2020, that is 25 million more pounds than was distributed in all of fiscal year 2019.
- The hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers serve individuals in vulnerable health situations. People experiencing food insecurity have a disproportionately high rate of chronic health conditions that put people at higher risk of severe COVID-19 complications. This population frequently has less access to consistent quality health care and insurance. Also, 23% of households served has at least one senior and we know that age is a good indicator for risk of severe COVID-19 complications or death. People of color disproportionately experience food insecurity and are also known to be at greater risk of severe COVID-19 complications.
- It is our duty to ensure the safety of those being served. Individuals being served and in contact with hunger-relief frontline workers have few other options but to seek assistance from food pantries and meal sites do not have a way to mitigate their COVID-19 risk. They cannot avoid the interaction with staff and volunteers and rely on the organization to help meet basic needs and provide them with the meals they need to live.
- The hunger-relief network relies heavily on volunteers to fulfill the mission, many (37%) of these volunteers are seniors. An estimated 52 percent of food pantries and meal sites report having no paid staff. Among the 46 percent of agencies with paid staff, the median number of paid full-time equivalent staff members reported is four. As a result, if staff or volunteers were to test positive for COVID-19 and potentially require other staff or volunteers to quarantine, food distribution operations would be greatly impacted.

Collaboration between our hunger-relief organizations, public health, and those administering the vaccine will be essential to planning for equitable and efficient distribution, addressing concerns, educating about and adhering to appropriate protocols.

The COVID-19 vaccine is a critical step toward ensuring the safety and health of staff, volunteers, and those accessing food resources. It also ensures that food banks have the capacity to continue distributions at this unprecedented rate to feed Wisconsinites experiencing hunger. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mr. Dennis Lindsay



From: [Cates, Lisa A - DHS](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: FW: Federal Front Facing Employee Vaccine (Transportation Security Administration) Screening Officers
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:16:32 PM

From: Hanson, Rhonda <rhonda.hanson@tsa.dhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 12:42 PM
To: Palm, Andrea J - DHS <andrea.palm@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Federal Front Facing Employee Vaccine (Transportation Security Administration) Screening Officers

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Good Afternoon Secretary Palm,

I'm reaching out to you in an effort to request your support in recognizing the State's Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) within the 1B categorization of recipients eligible for the COVID-19 Vaccine Program.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) categorizes its employee priority for vaccinations as follows:

- Phase 1A: Healthcare and Secret Service Protectee Detail Personnel (this is about 2% of the DHS priority vaccine population).
- Phase 1B: Mission Critical/Front Line (98% of priority population) – TSA forward facing/frontline personnel are included in this category.

This Federal categorization does not line up perfectly with the Wisconsin Phase 1A (frontline health care providers/skill nursing facility staff and residents followed by police and fire personnel).

My thought is that Transportation Security Administration (TSA) personnel would fit into the Wisconsin Phase 1A category and would be higher priority than the Wisconsin Phase 1B category that includes persons aged 75 and older and non-health care frontline essential workers.

If you can accommodate our frontline TSA personnel in your respective counties along with the police and fire personnel, that would be greatly appreciated. The Federalized airports inclusive of the State of Wisconsin are inclusive of Appleton International Airport, Central Wisconsin Airport – Mosinee, Austin Straubel International Airport – Green Bay, Chippewa Valley Regional Airport – Eau Claire, La Crosse Regional Airport, Dane County Regional Airport, General Mitchell International – Milwaukee and Rhinelander-Oneida County Airport.

It is critical that TSA frontline employees are high priority on your vaccination plan. TSA frontline employees process thousands of travelers to and from the community every day.

Please let me know what I need to do to help you make sure our frontline employees are vaccinated as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your consideration!

Rhonda J. Hanson

Assistant Federal Security Director – Mission Support
State of Wisconsin
Transportation Security Administration
9809 S. Franklin Dr. Suite 200
Franklin, WI 53132
B: 414-409-3710
C: 414-218-5819

rhonda.hanson@tsa.dhs.gov

***“We are only as strong as we are united,
as weak as we are divided” -J.K. Rowling***

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From: [Jeff Lockhart](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee: Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 1:07:57 PM

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Comment: Due to the twin pandemic to COVID, which is the mental health and addiction crisis, please ensure that all staff at mental health clinics are prioritized. There are no “temps” if these become ill.

Thank you,
Jeff

Jeff Lockhart, Agency Director
Unified Community Services
200 West Alona Lane Lancaster, WI 53813
608 723-6357

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From: [Barbara STREIBEL](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 12:59:12 PM

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Regarding

Appendix F

Rationale for Non-Frontline Health Care Personnel to be included in COVID-19 Vaccination Phase 1b

This draft includes health care workers not involved with direct patient care but who are essential for health system infrastructure and operations. I want to be sure that employees who work at the UW Health (UW Hospital and Meriter Hospital) Access Center (basically they are the admissions dept for everyone entering or seeking entry to UW Hospital, Meriter, UW Childrens Hospital, and American Center) are included in this group if they are not already included in group 1A.

Several Access employees have tested positive for COVID recently. Until now, these employees have been working dispersed -- some working from home; some working at a UW center and some working at Meriter. Within a week, I believe, they will ALL be working in ONE 'call center' space. If COVID spreads in that center, Access to the 4 hospitals will be significantly negatively impacted. To ensure these 4 hospitals, which take COVID and other patients from all over the state, can continue to admit new patients, these employees should be vaccinated as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

From: ["PATTY MULLER"](#)
To: [McCamy, Martha L - DHS \(Synergy\)](#)
Subject: Voice Mail (32 seconds)
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 11:45:33 AM
Attachments: audio.mp3

Hi there, I am like to comment on the vaccination schedule. I would like to see personal caregivers who are not a maze or nurses that provide almost the same surface is for family members. So I was just wondering if you could prioritize those sooner than later. My name is Patty Miller and my phone number is 608-658-5995. Thank you bye bye.

You received a voice mail from ["PATTY MULLER"](#).

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

From: [Shores, Adam](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Stenger, Scott](#); [Phillips, Matt](#)
Subject: COVID-19 Vaccinations for Essential Insurance Claim Adjusters
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 10:33:06 AM
Attachments: image001.png
APCIA - CDC Letter.pdf

Good Morning, Dr. Hamedani and Members of the Committee -

My name is Adam Shores, and I am Vice President of State Government and Political Relations for the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA). APCIA is the primary national trade association for home, auto, and business insurers, and I represent our member companies in Wisconsin. Nathan Houdek from the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance may have already contacted you on my behalf, but I wanted reach out to you as well regarding an item for your consideration as the state is working through its process of COVID-19 vaccine distribution to Wisconsin residents.

As you work to implement vaccination protocols based on the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations, I would ask that insurance claim adjusters be added to the list of "critical workers" who would be included in Wisconsin's Phase 1b vaccinations. As you aware, Phase 1b, includes frontline essential workers as defined by the CDC as those who, "perform duties across critical infrastructure sectors and maintain the services and functions that U.S. residents depend on daily."

APCIA's CEO, David Sampson, recently submitted a letter to the CDC requesting that their recommendations to federal and state policymakers regarding the definition of "critical workers" include insurance claims personnel who work in the field and must conduct in-person inspections and have face-to-face contact with policyholders. I've attached a copy of that letter for your reference.

Wisconsin has designated insurance operations as essential. Because of this, and as the nature of the claim adjusting process often times requires in-person interaction with customers, we believe frontline insurance workers should be afforded the opportunity for vaccination in the 1b designation for the safety and wellbeing of those in our industry and our customers.

I'd be happy to answer any questions you have and appreciate your consideration. Thanks!

- Adam

Adam R. Shores

Vice President, State Government and Political Relations

American Property Casualty Insurance Association

8700 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 1200S

Chicago, IL 60631-3512

Office 847-553-3678

Mobile 847-323-6857

Fax 847-297-5064

adam.shores@apci.org



December 22, 2020

Dr. Robert R. Redfield
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, N.E., Mailstop H21
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Director Redfield:

The American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA) appreciates the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendation that the next phase (1b) of COVID-19 vaccinations should include teachers, factory workers, police and firefighters, grocery workers and other "critical workers" for a functioning society who are at a high risk of exposure¹. **We respectfully request that the recommendations to federal and state policymakers regarding the definition of "critical workers" include insurance claims personnel who work in the field and must conduct in-person inspections and have face-to-face contact with policyholders.**

APCIA is composed of over 1,200 member companies and 330 insurance groups and represents the broadest cross-section of home, auto, and business insurers of any national trade association. APCIA members represent insurers of all sizes, structures, and regions, which protect families, communities, and businesses in the U.S. and across the globe.

Despite the pandemic, catastrophic weather and wildfire events continue to damage homes and businesses. In recent years, insurance companies have made substantial investments in digital tools to enhance claims response times, aerial imagery such as drones to more effectively survey property damage, and virtual conferencing tools allowing adjusters to speak with homeowners to discuss the damages. However, there are still situations *where there simply is no alternative to an in-person interaction*, which increases the exposure of insurance personnel to transmission of SARS-CoV-2. It is essential that insurance claims personnel be available to respond to policyholders immediately and assist with their recovery from these losses.

It is universally agreed that insurance, in particular the assessment and payment of claims, is an essential business activity, and is critical to help victims of catastrophic weather and wildfire events recover and rebuild. Since the beginning of the pandemic, states² and the U.S. Treasury

¹ Phased Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccines, Kathleen Dooling, AICP meeting, December 20, 2020
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2020-12/slides-12-20/02-COVID-Dooling.pdf>

² A non-exhaustive list of examples include: Alaska, Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Department³, consistent with Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)⁴ guidance, have classified insurance operations as “essential” businesses, allowing insurers to continue operations, conduct inspections of damaged property, and meet with victims who have suffered losses when necessary.

For these reasons, we urge federal, state, and local officials to include insurance field personnel involved in property casualty claims handling as “essential or critical workers” in the next phase (1b) of vaccine eligibility.

Sincerely,



David A. Sampson

cc: Dr. José R. Romero, Chair
Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

Dr. Amanda Cohn, Executive Secretary
Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Members
Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Ex Officio Members

³https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USDHS/2020/03/22/file_attachments/1407892/Financial%20Services%20Sector%20Essential%20Critical%20Infrastructure%20Workers.pdf

⁴https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workforce_Version_2.0_1.pdf

From: [Norman Duesterhoeft](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: "vaccine subcommittee" and "Phase 1B"
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 10:22:33 AM

I have only 2 recommendations of the Phase 1b priority document.

I think that there should be 2 addition to the Phase 1b, first being our correctional officers, one of the costliest outbreaks was at our local county jail they work in a congregate setting with our inmates. Back in November we lost 30% of our correctional officers based on both contact and positive results. There was also spread into the inmate population. With limited segregation possibilities that also created many challenges.

The other group that be considered as an addition to the 1b list should be our 911 dispatch personnel. They may not be a frontline first responder however they are constantly interacting with law enforcement personnel and they are the first call and dispatch all first responders.

Thanks

Norman Duesterhoeft
Waushara County Emergency Management Director
P.O. Box 300
Wautoma, WI 54982
Phone [920-787-0468](tel:920-787-0468)
Cell [920-293-1312](tel:920-293-1312)
Fax [920-787-0425](tel:920-787-0425)
Norman.Duesterhoeft@co.waushara.wi.us
<https://www.facebook.com/WCEMNFDF>

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From: [Molly Dittmann](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:55:35 PM

I really like the prioritized groups you have planned for phase 1b. Another group to consider is clergy. I know many are struggling with how to provide things like pastoral and end of life care.

I would also like to see household family members of phase 1a and 1b be prioritized soon.

Thank you for all you're doing to help keep Wisconsin families safe.

~

Molly Dittmann, OTR/L
Occupational Therapy
schafferm@bdusd.org
715-296-0129

From: [Kristi LeFevre](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Kristin J. LeFevre](#)
Subject: Include 911 Dispatchers in 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:52:52 PM

Please include 911 Dispatch in 1B as non-EMS First Responders. We provide a critical service to citizens and Police/Fire/Rescue. Our jobs can not be filled by temps or secretaries and without us the already taxed resources would be chaotic.

Non-EMS First Responders: The Subcommittee endorses ACIP recommendation to prioritize first responders (e.g. fire, police) and recognizes the critical function that these individuals play in their community. In addition, specialized training makes these groups difficult to replace should they experience morbidity or mortality related to COVID-19. Finally, the feasibility of identifying and vaccinating these groups was identified as high by the Subcommittee (Appendix D - estimated Wisconsin population size 27,880).

From: rev.mike.nielsen@gmail.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: comment on the recommendations for Group 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:21:12 PM

Good Evening,

First off, thank you for all the work that you have been doing in public health. I can't comprehend how difficult it is to make these decisions of who should be in line first.

I am a parish pastor and we abided by the states "safer at home" order and ceased in-person public worship. We have taken proper precautions to keep the people of God safe.

It's been 10 months since I have made my visits to my shut-ins. These people have not received the proper spiritual care during this very stressful time. A phone call doesn't do it justice and for others they can't hear on the phone or even answer a phone. I have watched some of my people die from a far. This was very painful for me as their pastor as I couldn't be there at the end.

I believe that a person's health combines their physical health (the reason we are abiding by these health recommendations), their emotional/mental (which is suffering) and their spiritual health. I am one that cannot just work at home and neither are other faith leaders and parish pastors.

I noticed that school teachers and childcare workers on the list, along with the others. This is an important group since they are teaching children and taking care of the little ones so parents can go back to work. I also interact with children, not just with children but also with all ages including those in various high risk categories. For the safety of the people in the pews and to get people back to the pews which is the best way of growing in their faith, just like it is the best way for students to be in the classroom, I would highly recommend that you include faith leaders and parish pastors in group 1B.

My prayers are with you as work to make these decisions.

Rev. Michael J. Nielsen

Pastor – Salem Lutheran Church, Barron, WI

1-218-280-0999 (cell)

1-715-537-5949 (office)

1-715-537-3011 (Salem)

Rev.mike.nielsen@gmail.com

From: [Travis Waack](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: 911 Dispatch Staff
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:48:31 PM

SDMAC

Please consider including 911 dispatchers in phase 1B along with firefighters and police officers. Our 911 dispatchers are critical to public safety and they often work in small, congregate spaces due to the need to access 911 phone systems and radios that cannot be accessed remotely. Outbreaks among staff in our 911 dispatch centers could be detrimental to the health & safety of the public since there are a limited number of highly skilled individuals who can fulfill that critical role.

Sincerely,

Travis Waack, WCEM
Emergency Services Director
Emergency Services Department
Manitowoc County
1024 S 9th Street, Manitowoc WI 54220
(920) 323-4207
traviswaack@co.manitowoc.wi.us

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From: [Veronica Schommer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:46:22 PM

Please include our states agriculture workers in your 1B vaccinations. Agriculture is essential to our state as are agriculture workers. We have a shortage of trained workers and illness due to covid can be devastating to the day to day operations of our farm families and those that support them.

Thank you,

Dr. Veronica Schommer D.V.M.

Member of a dairy farm family and veterinarian for over 60 Wisconsin farms

From: [Shay Santos](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:09:28 PM

I would submit that finance (e.g., bank tellers) front line staff be moved to Phase 1b. Staff meet directly with member customers for over 30 minutes at times. This is a standard practice in the finance industry. A solid financial infrastructure is an essential economic priority. A vaccinated front line staff would go a long way to ensuring economic stability.

Sincerely,

Shay Santos
(he/him/his)
President/CEO
Dane County Credit Union
Shay.Santos@dccu.us
608-287-1803
709 Struck St, Madison, WI 53711

From: [APInvoices](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#); [John Everitt](#); [Jeff Hanson](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee: Phase 1B COVID19 Disinfectant Manufacturer Staff Supply Chain Essential Workers
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:54:31 PM

Dear Vaccine subcommittee: Phase 1B COVID19

I am contacting you to ask that you detail in Plan 1b that companies that manufacturer of disinfectant for COVID19 staff be included in Phase 1B COVID19.

Please confirm that this category of personnel is included in non-frontline health care personnel supply chain function.

Our staff has worked through the epidemic and continue to do so.

The function of manufacturing COVID19 disinfectant for hospitals, schools and correctional institutions requires all staff to work in the on-site at the plant instead of remotely.

Best regards,

Cynthia B. Everitt
Executive Vice President
Stearns Packaging Corporation
PO Box 14495
Madison Wisconsin 53708



NOTE!
ADDRESS CHANGE

cynthia.everitt@stearnspkg.com

AP/AR Desk: apinvoices@stearnspkg.com

608-246-5150

From: [Jeanne](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Educator vaccines
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:44:15 AM

I would encourage you to include catechisms and pastors with educators as essential workers in the next tier of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

Jeanne Lang, retired Newman Catholic Schools principal, Wausau

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jeremiah Shimshak](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: RE: Recommendations for Phase 1B of vaccine rollout
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:39:19 AM
Attachments: logo.png

I work as a computer repair technician.

Our employees are face-to-face with customers every day, and our technicians are handling customer's computers every day.

We do take every precaution we can regarding COVID.

We are considered "essential workers" as our customers need their computers and devices for everyday life, working from home, as well as for virtual schooling.

I would recommend our type of businesses for Phase 1B rollout.

Thank you.



JEREMIAH SHIMSHAK
Apple Certified Macintosh Technician

THE MAC GUYS - Apple Premier Partner
www.themacguys.net
608-782-1565
40 Copeland Ave - Suite 111 • La Crosse, WI 54603

From: [Keith Poulsen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Brendan Wall](#)
Subject: Advocacy for volunteer First Responders
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:20:08 AM

Hello,

Thank you for all of your efforts in this very challenging time. We greatly appreciate your work and understand that you have a very tough job working with limited resources and enormous demand.

I represent the Cascade Ski Patrol with our Director, Brendan Wall, and am advocating for assistance to get our patrollers vaccinated for COVID19. We are first responders, trained and certified in outdoor emergency care and health care CPR, and are very busy with accidents and injuries as I write this message. Cascade has very good risk mitigation in place and we are very cognizant of how to protect ourselves to the best of our abilities, but we recognize that we still have direct contact for patient care to safely get them off the hill and treated and/or transported to a hospital emergency room. As first responders, we are requesting vaccination eligibility for our active members in Tier 1a.

We were able to get this accomplished for any patroller living or patrolling in Dane County as Tier 1a status. However, Cascade Mountain is in Columbia County and many of our patrollers do not live in Dane County. We are requesting assistance to be able to provide the same care across our organization so that we can provide emergency assistance at a lower risk for our first responder members.

Please feel free to contact me at any time regarding this request. Again, thank you for work and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Charlie Wendlandt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b of Covid Vaccinations
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:09:26 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to advocate for including accountants and other financial professionals who are involved in the payroll and tax reporting process to be included in the Phase 1b rollout of the Covid vaccinations. I believe these individuals should be included as they are essential in order to keep many of the other essential operations and their employees operating. For example if healthcare facilities are unable to access funds to pay their workers, there could be a breakdown in the system when, in worst case scenarios, workers decide to no longer work. In addition, in order to process payroll reports and tax returns in a timely manner, it is imperative that tax professionals are kept as healthy as possible during tax season. Failure to do this will slow tax refunds to hurting individuals along with slowing the funding made available to the state from those that need to pay in. Please take these items in consideration and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Wendlandt, CPA



From: david.cartwright.spacecoastpal.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:48:10 AM

Regarding the definition of front line essential workers and first responders, there are categories of workers that are emergency first responders but not public agencies such as fire or police. Our category example is locksmith field techs who respond to assist the general public and businesses with lockouts and life/safety physical security issues. They do so in a variety of uncontrolled environments including high density urban apartment buildings where there is no way for the technician to control social distancing from the general public.

There are several other categories of emergency response technicians that are providing similar services to ours such as emergency services electricians, plumbers, etc.

Thank you for your consideration of inclusion of these vital trades providing skilled emergency response at risk to their own health and safety.

David Cartwright
Pop-A-Lock of Milwaukee WI, Charleston SC, Brevard FL

David.Cartwright@Popalock.com



From: [Randall G. Bobholz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: public comment
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:43:29 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png

Public comment on Phase 1B, I feel that Financial employees such as Bankers should be in the 1B Phase similar to what Governor Evers had when the safer at home act was implemented. The financial industry, as proven, is vital to our State and the communities they serve. Each and every day, we are face to face with our customers to help them in their financial situation. Recently, we have even had more contact with our customers with their concern on the stimulus payments, PPP loans, economic concerns, and many other issues. Banks, especially community banks, are relied on by the communities we serve to be a “place of comfort” and “place of safety”.

I feel that the financial industry should be in Phase 1B (of course after all health care staff) as it was in the Safer at Home Act. In a normal day, our staff have many clients come in to transact business along with hearing comforting words. Most banks cannot afford having a few staff members out due to COIVD and still have enough staff available to assist our communities.

Therefore I respectfully request that Financial employees be moved ahead into Phase 1B to continue helping the communities we serve as financial is a part of ALL people. I could go on and on of the importance of financial however you already have enough on your plate and I respect that.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Randall Bobholz

President & CEO
NMLS ID #466033



Farmers & Merchants Union Bank

159 W James Street

PO Box 226

Columbus, WI 53925

920-623-4000 Office

920-623-7105 Direct

920-623-4010 Fax

To email sensitive information - [click here](#)

Rgb@fmub.bank - www.fmub.bank



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From: [harold drees](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Group 1b
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:30:54 AM

I feel Wisconsin residents working in manufacturing should be included in group 1b as we are considered essential workers

Thanks
Harold Drees

From: ngwiggles@gmail.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: COVID vaccine
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:39:37 AM

I'm seeing a lot of new rounds of vaccines going to this group and that group. I would like to ask when the people who are working behind enemy line will be getting a chance to be vaccinated. The auto repair industry has been left behind in all of this I feel. We were all considered essential workers from the beginning, and we are asked to risk our health just to do our job, I am getting into strangers vehicles that could be positive or could be a carrier. The fact that we are getting into someone's personal space that in most cases are dirtier than a toilet and carry more bacteria on the touch points than on a door handle. And I don't have a choice, because it's all required of me to complete the task at hand. Why are we giving mink farmers and security event staff shots well the auto industry is left in the dark.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cathy Christman](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Clergy as front line?
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 5:50:16 AM

Hello,

Just wanted to reach out and see where clergy are in the line up for the vaccine? Some states included them early on.

Thank you,
Rev. Cathy Christman
Stoughton UMC

From: [Brian Katz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:50:24 PM

Hi,

In my work(woodwind repair), I am dealing with customers who have aerosols and saliva. I'm wondering what my chances are of getting on a list to get vaccinated

Thank you so much!

Brian

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B - Include Poll Workers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:28:04 PM

Greetings Vaccine Subcommittee Members,

As an election inspector for the Town of Fairfield in Sauk County, Wisconsin, I implore you to add **poll workers** to the list of those who are eligible for Phase 1B COVID-19 vaccination.

It is hard enough to find qualified poll workers without the added threat of contracting COVID-19. If poll workers (who are mostly age 60 or older) could be vaccinated before the February 16 primary (and definitely before the April 6 election) that would be most helpful in ensuring we have enough poll workers without having to call up the National Guard or risking the lives of these dedicated workers.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.


Carol Olson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Donielle Kirchner](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid 19 vaccine
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:05:11 PM

I think the people that need the vaccine are being over looked. The service industry and retail workers are face to face with the public every single day. If the economy is such a high priority for us in the US we should put these people first. Many people in these industries have been overlooked throughout this pandemic and it seems like the least that could be offered is an opportunity to keep themselves and their families safe.

Thank you for your time
Donielle Kirchner


From: [Holly Bartz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee" and "Phase 1B"
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 7:47:36 PM

I am writing to please have you consider adding United States Postal Employees into this next phase. 7 days a week Postal carriers deliver mail and packages to hundreds of customers. Look around, every address; residential and business. We are there EVERY day. We are in office buildings, apartment complexes WE ARE EVERYWHERE. Before we are even in the general public we are in the office with many co-workers. When someone has Covid-19 their route still goes out. That means the remaining people carry their route and then parts of another one. Many many hours with understaffed offices that has been exacerbated by this virus. Being we have to go through federal background checks and all the training we do not have the ability to have 'temporary' help.

Please help us.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: kohlbldr@tds.net
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: coronavirus@publichealthmdc.com
Subject: COVID Vaccine for Self-Employee Frontline Workers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 6:40:16 PM

Hello,

I read an article that indicated you are accepting comments & recommendations regarding who should be included in the next wave of COVID vaccines (Phase 1b). I noticed that many self-employed frontline workers have not been identified and included in any vaccination communication..... For example, Licensed Massage Therapist, General Contractor/Building Industry.

I personally work under the Hospital umbrella (Administration, not direct patient care) in Madison & have received my 1st vaccine dose. I'm truly thankful that I was given the vaccine already. However, I please consider including the following professionals in Phase 1b or sooner:

Licensed Massage Therapists, Construction/Builders, Teachers, Retail Workers, Fire, EMT & Police workers.

Thank you for your consideration - Susie

From: [Sally Dischler](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Essential workers-Credit Unions/Financial Institutions
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 6:30:17 PM

Financial institutions have remained open during the pandemic. Staff have been serving consumers daily. The financial institutions incurred significant risk to our staff during this time. As staff were quarantined due to illness, we have had to reduce and adjust hours of service at our branches due to staff shortages and incurred significant costs for PPE. We have also taken on additional risk by providing consumers with needed financial relief in the form of loan deferments, emergency loans, and waiver of fees. It is important that we remain open to provide financial services to consumers. Consumers expect to have access to their money and be able to conduct financial business, paying bills, depositing paychecks, access to their stimulus payments, ability to obtain loans and access to safe deposit boxes: It has been extremely challenging the past 10 months navigating our business during the pandemic. Please consider financial institutions as essential workers with the vaccination rollout. Thank you.

Sally Dischler
President/CEO
Heartland Credit Union
Madison Wi
Sent from my iPad

From: [Crystal Cook](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Alicia Stevenson](#); [Mike Molnar](#); [Dennis Kocken](#); [Owners](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Vaccination Priority
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 5:37:52 PM

Good evening,

I respectfully request that DHS give consideration to administering the vaccine to private sector employees whose job requires frequent interaction with priority individuals.

For example, employees of my business, REDI Transports, work with law enforcement agencies and healthcare facilities to transport detainees to and from secure facilities. We use minivans for this work and we follow the CDC recommendations to the extent possible during our transports. We've also taken additional measures to provide PPE for employees and detainees, always mindful of the safety of our drivers and the practicality of recommendations related to the work we do. Furthermore, we have enhanced our cleaning/sanitization procedures, added UV air purification devices to the vehicles, and included additional barriers when 6 ft of space is not achievable inside the vehicles.

In order to ensure that we can continue to provide services that law enforcement and behavioral health agencies depend on, we must maintain a strong and healthy workforce. We've taken all the measures we can and now we need your support to get the vaccine to our employees.

Thank you for your consideration. Please message me for more information or if you have questions regarding my request. You can also review our website at http://secure-web.cisco.com/11qX1bKgldUeQj2tqS65Gr-0Dj20vhS7yJ5DUktKOGSfeUhCla-NC6ZVQoIKZKwr_dGiWnu4mWb0OjdCZRtpFxnSROgiADspfn1WcVN8qMj_T1mk4CncqvsP9ro8KMZjNYSMgFwQbC5xec5wzsqg4-HxtxgigAcG-B5oOoXrJS7AwSFLOjx7579dZ1lqc5DbG76oVvWx6Vctf-WbFHBESS3MqeM0gzRcFmRkXG-4y9DaBYzo-3Lvcs1txUGgpzVsw5Q1Ww_THiukFQNVye8aoMeHgxAhAtSlsY9Aja4zvMEKetPcG2dgYAcZk9JJwCJ8/http%3A%2F%2Fwww.redi-transport.com for mor information about our business. Be safe and be well.

Thank you,
Crystal M.H. Cook, President
REDI Transports

From: [Catherine Dunn](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 3:17:30 PM

Spouses of front line works. Working in nursing homes .

From: [Z](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine recommendations
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 2:47:15 PM

Hello- I believe all janitorial/cleaning staff serving essential business should be vaccinated this time around.

Thanks,
Chad Z

From: [Dave Mouchon](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid vaccinations recommendations for essential and higher risk workers.
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 12:21:31 PM

Hello Martha,

I'm reaching out to you in order to contribute to the vaccination recommendations as I understand the DHS is looking for input from the community and employers regarding front line and essential workers involving the distribution of the next round of vaccinations.

I strongly advocate for front line and essential workers to receive the vaccine as I'm also concerned for my health as I primarily work at the Madison UW and Children's Hospitals off 600 Highland Ave. as the Mechanic In Charge of all of their passenger and freight elevator systems. I also have a rare immune disorder, and am taking immunine suppressants as part of my long term treatment to battle HSP which makes me more vulnerable for contracting illnesses and having serious complications. I've also reached out to my employer who has stated their expectations of us as field staff who are essential workers in our trade.

Thank you for your help and advocacy in this matter.

Stay Safe.

Sincerely,

David Mouchon

ThyssenKrupp Elevator

dmouchon@braun-corp.com

608-209-0389

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From: [Amy Frohwirth Horgan](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid vaccine phase 1b
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:47:28 AM

Dear Sir/Madam,

This email is in response to the public's ability to weigh in on the next phase of the Covid-19 vaccine.

I believe essential workers who have worked throughout the year should be next on the list. I am especially requesting that restaurant workers and food delivery drivers be added to the next list. These people have worked throughout the pandemic and have dealt with the public on a daily basis. Even now, restaurants and bars are one of the leading locations for Covid outbreaks. It is imperative that these workers be protected.

Another group to be considered are court personnel. These employees also deal with the public on a daily basis.

Finally, while I believe prison employees should be on the list, I do not believe the prisoners should be included in the next group. There are far more groups in the public setting that should be in line long before the prison system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Horgan

From: [Alyssa Tessaro](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Retail/Convenience Store Workers
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 9:09:22 PM

Good Evening,

I am writing as I feel that convenience store/retail workers should be part of 1B. I was actually very surprised to not see them part of this group. They have been open thru the pandemic and have worked in an environment where customers tend to not wear masks. There have been times when I have been in a convenience store and I have seen very few masks being worn by customers. The best protection for them will be when they have opportunity to get the vaccine. Thanks for your consideration.

Do you know what group they will be considered in?

Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Smartphone

From: [Kurt Kotenberg - NOAA Federal](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Group 1B question...
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 3:36:38 PM

Greetings SDMAC,

First and foremost thank you for all that you do in your efforts to roll this vaccine distribution out to the folks of Wisconsin as safely and efficiently as possible. Obviously the scope and magnitude of what you all are tasked to accomplish is immense, and I applaud you all.

I did have one question for you as it pertains to group 1B, in particular "Public-Facing Essential Workers"...

As employees for the National Weather Service (Federal Govt), most of us are officially deemed at the Federal Level as "emergency essential" employees. (We are staffed 24/7/365, continue working through Govt. shutdowns, and have the literal public mission to "protect life and property")

I am guessing there may be other Federal Agencies that have Wisconsin-based staff deemed as "emergency essential" at the Federal level as well, such as the FBI?

I have not seen any chatter on the specifics as it pertains to our type of Agency and was looking for clarification as to whether or not the National Weather Service (at least the "emergency essential" staff) would qualify to be included in group 1B under "Public-Facing Essential Workers"?

Thank you so much for your time,
Kurt Kotenberg

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Kurt Kotenberg
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
[NWS Green Bay, WI](#)
Office: 920-494-5845, Ext. 726



"Give me six hours to chop down a tree, and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe." - Abraham Lincoln