

From: [Laura Lee](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1b
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 3:20:43 PM

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1/15/2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY TO DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Laura Lee, and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian working in anatomic pathology. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

As a veterinarian, we work with animals that can contract and transmit the SARS-CoV-2 virus. As an anatomic pathologist, performing postmortem examinations (autopsies) on animals is one of my primary job responsibilities. If I were to perform an autopsy on a SARS-CoV-2 positive animal, it would put my coworkers and me at a high risk of contracting the virus. Already we have had cases in which SARS-CoV-2 was considered a differential diagnosis only after the autopsy had been started. Due to the nature of my work, I cannot work remotely or from home. Further, although I do not have the job title of educator, I (as well as many other veterinarians) work closely with university students who have historically been among the biggest spreaders of the virus in Wisconsin. If I were to contract SARS-CoV-2 and transmit it to a student, the chances of it spreading in the population increases.

Thank you for considering this request.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Mara Kissinger](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: To the vaccine subcommittee regarding Phase 1b
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 3:14:13 PM

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Dear Subcommittee Members,

I am writing to urge that you consider the allocation of vaccines for the staff of veterinary clinics in Phase 1b of the Covid-19 vaccination phases.

As the pandemic and frequent lockdowns have continued, the rate of pet adoption has spiked enormously. In my own experience, connected with shelters in my area, I have seen massive turnover rates and sometimes entire shelters being cleared out. The pet care industry has seen a large growth with the pandemic, a trend that was already picking up speed, and though pet health care may be de-prioritized officially, nationally it is clearly a high priority for Americans. The significance of a pet in one's life also cannot be ignored and the significance of a sick pet on one's mental health is also key.

All of this being said, I was dismayed to not see veterinary staff included in the list of essential workers. We are exposed to many different people every day and many different pets and the numbers are only growing. We also cannot be distanced from our fellow employees as most procedures require two people working in tandem (and sometimes more) in order to restrain the pet and do whatever task is required. As a vet assistant at Banfield Pet Hospital on the west side of Madison, we are also subjected to the particles generated by the people who enter the Petsmart that we are connected to. Additionally, our clinic is quite small which is, in my experience, fairly common for veterinary clinics and makes distancing truly impossible.

In conclusion, I ask that you please cover our pet healthcare workers as part of this first phase, as the health of our four-legged family members is clearly a matter of utmost importance to all of us and though risk can be mitigated with veterinary clinics, it is still far too high. As I stated above, Americans deeply care about their animals and their mental health suffers when they are sick, but also vet clinic staff cannot possibly stay distant, and we also are exposed to a high volume of people and pets which increases our personal exposure risk. I hope you will consider my argument, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mara Kissinger
A concerned pet owner and essential pet care worker

From: [Kristin McGrane](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 3:10:53 PM

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1/15/2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Kristin Mc Grane and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a registered Sonographer and x-ray technologist teaching at UW-Madison in Veterinary Medicine. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

The majority of my day involves hands on training with fourth year veterinary students. Most exams and procedures take upwards of 45 minutes in close contact. Unfortunately, it is impossible for me to maintain 6 feet distance from my patients or my students. The students are constantly rotating through each department in our hospital and interacting with numerous owners. While more and more people are choosing or forced to work from home, they are in turn paying more attention to their animals and have been more inclined to visit our hospital. As patient workloads increase our staffing shortages has been overwhelming. A Covid outbreak within our hospital could easily shut us down forcing emergency cases to travel outside of the state for care.

Thank you for considering this request.

Kristin Mc Grane

From: [Jennifer Downey](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:42:10 PM

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1/15/21

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

My name is Jennifer Downey and I am from the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area. I work in a veterinary clinic that can work with 300-500 clients per week. I am writing to ask you to include veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

We are a small animal hospital that is currently doing a modified curbside approach. We are doing our best to socially distance, require masks, and only allow one client into an exam room at a time. A majority of our staff is over the age of 50, several with health conditions putting them at higher risk. In August we were closed for almost 2 weeks, due to a COVID positive case and a mandate from the health department. Our clients, patients, and staff members cannot sustain another COVID related closure. The entire profession has all been working hard during this pandemic to remain open; not only to continue to employ all staff members but to maintain quality health care for our client's pets, and uphold our oath to be disease sentinels for the general public. In the last few years the veterinary profession has suffered a high rate of suicide and compassion fatigue. And although this in no way compares to what our human medical counterparts are facing, it is no less significant. A vaccination would go a long way to help dissipate a small amount of the stress this profession is facing.

We implore you to add the veterinary professionals to the Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Downey
Front Office Supervisor

[REDACTED] nital [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Teresa Petrovic](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public Comment - COVID 19 Vaccine Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:38:46 PM

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Good afternoon - I'd like to suggest that Veterinary Professionals be included in phase 1B, as they are considered essential workers and do have a certain amount of risk associated with dealing with pet owners every day.

Thank you.

From:
To:
Cc:
Subject:
Date:

[Lisa Forrest](#)
[DHS SDMAC](#)
[Lisa Forrest](#)
WVMA Urges Veterinary Professionals be Included in COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b
Friday, January 15, 2021 2:17:20 PM

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January 15, 2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: **Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan**

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

My name is Lisa J. Forrest and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I am a veterinary radiologist and radiation oncologist who performs clinical service and teaching of students and house officers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Veterinary Medicine. My clients come from the state of Wisconsin and surrounding areas for advanced imaging and diagnostics such as computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), ultrasonography, fluoroscopy, diagnostic nuclear medicine imaging and endoscopy. I also treat many dog, cat and rabbit patients with cancers using our state-of-the-art linear accelerator.

A COVID-19 outbreak in my practice would impact patient access and continuity of patient care of the animals we diagnose and treat. The families of Wisconsin rely on our team for the care of their four-legged family members along with bovine patients from Wisconsin's Dairy Industry.

Thank you for considering this request.



[REDACTED]
College of [REDACTED] (Ka [REDACTED] gy)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], WI 53705
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Lauren Keltner](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:14:42 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to encourage you to include zoo staff in phase 1B of the COVID vaccine roll out. I work for Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison and have been coming in to work every day since the beginning of the pandemic. Our zookeepers never stopped coming in to work. Much like mink farms, we have many COVID susceptible animals at the zoo, including critically endangered species like tigers and orangutans. We also have a Zoo School program on site that has been running this whole school year. Our staff interact with the public every day. Zoos are one of the few safe outdoor spaces for families to visit during this time, and protecting our staff and animals ensures that we can continue to be a place for people to go and learn about the natural wonders of the world. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,
Lauren Keltner

From: [Lemkau, David](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Inclusion of Zoo Staff in COVID Vaccine Rollouts
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:10:29 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 am writing to encourage you to include zoo staff in phase 1B of the COVID vaccine roll out. I work for Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison and have been coming in to work every day since we reopened in June. Our zookeepers never stopped coming in to work. Much like mink farms, we have many COVID susceptible animals at the zoo, including critically endangered species like tigers and orangutans. We also have a Zoo School program on site that has been running this whole school year. Our staff interact with the public every day. Zoos are one of the few safe outdoor spaces for families to visit during this time, and protecting our staff and animals ensures that we can continue to be a place for people to go and learn about the natural wonders of the world. Thank you for considering this request.

Respectfully,
Dave Lemkau
Zookeeper Henry Vilas Zoo

Sent Securely via TLS from County of Dane by
Proofpoint

From: [Amy Jo Aurit](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine submittee- phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:07:30 PM

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Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services
State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE:Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Amy Jo Aurit and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I work at a small animal hospital, Lakeview Veterinary Clinic, with approximately 20 employees. We do not have the luxury of working from home. We also are unable to socially distance from each other, due to the nature of our job. I am unable to place an intravenous catheter without a staff member holding the animal, which places us in very close contact. This happens all day long. If one of our employees were to contract COVID-19, we would likely need to close the clinic for many days, as we would all be exposed. Hundreds of animals would be without care, including life-threatening conditions, painful conditions, and end-of-life procedures. The animal emergency clinics in town are already overwhelmed and do not have the capacity to serve all of the animals that need to be cared for - they are frequently shutting down due to a lack of staff and resources to accommodate all of the sick animals.

Thank you for considering this request.

Amy Jo Aurit, DVM
Sent from my iPhone


From: [Tara Lee](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid vaccines for Zookeepers
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:06:13 PM

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To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing to encourage you to include zoo staff in phase 1B of the COVID vaccine roll out. I work for Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison and have been coming in to work every day since we reopened in June. Our zookeepers never stopped coming in to work. Much like mink farms, we have many COVID susceptible animals at the zoo, including critically endangered species like tigers and orangutans. We also have a Zoo School program on site that has been running this whole school year. Our staff interact with the public every day. Zoos are one of the few safe outdoor spaces for families to visit during this time, and protecting our staff and animals ensures that we can continue to be a place for people to go and learn about the natural wonders of the world. Thank you for considering this request.

Thank you,

Tara Lee
Zookeeper - Henry Vilas Zoo


From: [William Oldenhoff](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B Covid vaccination
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 1:20:24 PM

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1/15/21

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is William Oldenhoff and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I am a clinician at a specialty and emergency hospital, Madison Veterinary Specialists. We provide 24 hr emergency care for small animals. A Covid outbreak in the clinic could be catastrophic and result in the ER services, or in individual specialty services being shut down. This would clearly affect both animal and human well being in the area. It is vitally important that veterinary staff be protected from this virus.

Thank you for considering this request.

William Oldenhoff, DVM DACVD
Madison Veterinary Specialists
2704 Royal Ave, Monona WI 53713

From: [jill.Meunier](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 1:04:42 PM

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Dear Secretary-Designee Plan & Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee:

My name is Jill Meunier, and I am from Glendale, Wisconsin. I am a veterinary professional (receptionist). I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1B of the Wisconsin Covid-19 vaccination plan.

We are all about people and their pets.

We provide wellness exams, vaccinations, and exams for injured, sick, in pain, etc for pets. Our veterinarians perform various surgeries, and we also provide prescription food/meds when necessary. We are here for the families when it's the end of life for their pets (euthanasia).

The closure of veterinary clinics due to Covid-19 outbreaks among veterinary staff, poses a risk of the continuity of animal care.

Additionally, veterinary health care workers cannot work remotely, or from home.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Jill Meunier

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Schwetz, Ronda](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B request
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 12:32:37 PM
Attachments: image001.png

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To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing to encourage you to include zoo staff in phase 1B of the COVID vaccine roll out. Our staff at Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison and have been coming in to work every day since we reopened in June. Our zookeepers never stopped coming in to work. Much like mink farms, we have many COVID susceptible animals at the zoo, including critically endangered species like tigers and orangutans. Other species susceptible to COVID on grounds include our other primates and big cats, otters, badgers and skunk as well as wild mink, skunks, and bats to name a few.

We also have a Zoo School program on site that has been running this whole school year in response to the need for some of our local high needs students. Our teachers have provided a safe, nurturing and productive learning environment for these students. Our staff interact with the public every day and on average we see between 1,000 – 3,000 visitors since we reopened. Accredited Zoos across the country have also been assigned essential workers due to the nature of work and provide a safe place for our animals, staff and visitors. Zoos are one of the few safe outdoor spaces for families to visit during this time, and protecting our staff and animals ensures that we can continue to be a place for people to go and learn about the natural wonders of the world.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,
Ronda

Ronda Schwetz
Executive Zoo Director
Henry Vilas Zoo
AZA Orangutan SAFE Program Co-Leader
702 S. Randall Ave. Madison, WI 53715
(608) 266-4708
Schwetz.Ronda@HenryVilasZoo.gov



HENRY VILAS ZOO

Sent Securely via TLS from County of Dane by
Proofpoint

From: [Alexis Payette](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 12:19:22 PM

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1/15/21

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Alexis Payette and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a veterinary student working on a dairy farm. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

At my job, cows must be milked twice a day, kept clean, fed, watered, and receive medical care when necessary. In the fall, there was an outbreak of COVID among workers, and within 12 hours, this escalated into an emergency because the building had to be cleaned, workers quarantined, and yet cows must be milked and looked after, or they will die within hours. We are essential healthcare workers who keep food stocked on the shelves in the grocery store, stop potentially zoonotic outbreaks before spreading to humans, and keep animals alive and healthy. I hope you will consider veterinarians as the essential healthcare workers we already know we are.

Thank you for considering this request.

Alexis Payette

From: [Janet Romich](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 12:08:43 PM

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January 15, 2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Janet Romich and I am a veterinarian from New Glarus, Wisconsin writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I currently work as a relief veterinarian and travel to multiple counties throughout WI. I also work as a consultant at a hospital research facility. In my work as a veterinarian, I believe that pets have become even more important for people's health and emotional well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic. Benefits of pet ownership include promoting physical exercise, maintaining mental health, and providing emotional support in our clients. Veterinarians have seen a huge increase in pet ownership in the last year which has resulted in our daily exposure to pets and their owners. Throughout the pandemic, we have continued to provide essential services for our patients and clients. Veterinarians and support staff are at risk of contracting SARS-CoV-2 from the public and potentially animals. Despite these risks, veterinarians continue to provide emergency services and perform humane euthanasia of animals owned by people under emotional stress who don't always wear masks or socially distance from staff caring for their pet. As educated healthcare workers, veterinarians also play an essential role in assuring the safety of our food supply and protecting people from zoonotic diseases such as rabies and leptospirosis through vaccination of animals. For the many health-related functions veterinarians perform, I hope you will consider including veterinarians and their staff in the Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccination plan.

[REDACTED] ering this request.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Lorie Wynn](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase 1B public comments
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 11:51:09 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to implore you to include Zoo professionals in Tier 1B COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out in the state of Wisconsin. I am Laura Wynn, and I'm the Primary Giraffe and Zebra Keeper at the Racine Zoo. Despite closures, I have been working every day throughout the pandemic and must do so for the animals under my care. I work with a variety of species, many of whom are susceptible to COVID-19. Many of our species are as susceptible, if not more, than mink and I am at the same level of risk of exposure as mink farmers who are included in the draft of tier 1B. Due to the nature of my work, I also must work with other animal care professionals, and am also exposed to the public on a daily basis, putting me at a greater risk.

While our leadership has worked closely with other animal care professionals and we have followed every recommendation of USDA and the CDC, and have been given every protection possible, our health is still at risk every day as we come in to work. Including zoo professionals in Tier 1B of COVID-19 roll-out is critical to public health and safety.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laura Wynn

From: [Krysti](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 11:36:01 AM

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

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

I am writing you today to respectfully request that veterinary health care workers be placed in the Phase 1B prioritization for COVID 19 Vaccination distribution.

Reasons being

- * From the beginning we were considered essential & we rose to the occasion, helping sick animals while putting ourselves at risk of getting infected
- * We cannot work from home
- * We work shoulder to shoulder in small areas, daily, putting ourselves at greater risk of catching the virus
- * We work with the general public daily. We have adapted to lower our risk but we still put ourselves at risk multiple times a day
- * We do this out of love for animals. We have saved many beloved pets throughout the pandemic but cannot continue to do so if sick

Please take us into consideration. We are essential, we are health care workers and I'm very disappointed not to be treated as such. I respectfully request that you include Wisconsin veterinary workers in Phase 1b.

Sincerely,

Krysti Farnam, CVT
UW-MADISON Veterinary Care

From: [Olivia Sealy](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B Veterinary Professionals
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 11:13:57 AM

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Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services
State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE:Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Olivia Sealy and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a certified veterinary technician. I am writing to ask you to include veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I work at a small animal hospital, Lakeview Veterinary Clinic, with approximately 20 employees. We do not have the luxury of working from home. We also are unable to socially distance from each other, due to the nature of our job. I am unable to place an intravenous catheter without a staff member holding the animal, which places us in very close contact. This happens all day long. If one of our employees were to contract covid19, we would likely need to close the clinic for many days, as we would all be exposed. Hundreds of animals would be without care, including life threatening conditions, painful conditions, and end of life procedures. The animal emergency clinics in town are already overwhelmed and do not have the capacity to serve all of the animals that need to be cared for - they are frequently shutting down due to a lack of staff and resources to accommodate all of the sick animals.

Thank you for considering this request.

Olivia Sealy, CVT

From: [Hayley Pooler](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 11:03:27 AM

January 14, 2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services
State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Hayley Pooler and I am from Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. I am a Certified Veterinary Technician. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I work at the University of Wisconsin Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Madison, WI. I work specifically in the ER. The hospital is very large with doctors, veterinary technicians, assistants, students, pharmacists, radiologists, etc. I work in an area of the hospital that is very busy and sees most departments. It is hard for me to be isolated and still take care of my patients. When I work in the ER department, I have close contact with the public. This is by clients bringing their pets in for emergency care and we as a hospital are continuing to do curbside appointments. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Due to our altered quarantine policy because we are considered essential workers, I am required to continue coming to work even after being exposed. The individuals who I was exposed to last week were at work because of the altered quarantine policy, when they would have been quarantined at home if they were not essential employees. So we just continue to expose each other to the virus because we are essential. Please consider all Veterinary Professionals to be included in the 1b phase of the vaccination plan.

Thank you for considering this request.

Hayley Pooler

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Brooke Milde](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 11:03:16 AM

I am a co-owner of Four Paws Veterinary Clinic in Sauk City. I am writing to request that veterinary staff be included in group 1B of essential workers. There has been no clear guidance on this but the need to include veterinary staff in group 1B is clear.

1. Veterinarians provide essential services and have continued to do so throughout the pandemic. Many veterinarians assure the safety of our food supply, and small animal veterinarians provide essential services for pets such as rabies vaccines, emergency surgery, and much more.

2. Pets have become even more important for people's health and well-being throughout the pandemic. Pets promote exercise, mental health, and provide emotional support. We have seen a huge increase in pet ownership in the last year.

3. Veterinarians and support staff are at risk from the public and potentially animals. There is some indication that domestic cats and dogs can harbor the virus, and could pose a risk if their owners are infected. Pet ferrets pose a risk. In addition, during an emergency or euthanasia people are under emotional stress and don't always wear masks or socially distance from staff caring for their pet. Veterinarians have continued to provide vital emergency and euthanasia services throughout the pandemic.

4. Veterinarians and staff are trusted members of the health care community and are uniquely able to educate clients and promote vaccine acceptance. Staff will be much more able to do this if they, themselves, are vaccinated.

Thank you,

Brooke Milde, DVM

--

Note new email address: [REDACTED]

From: [Sara](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 10:32:04 AM

January 15, 2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services
State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Sara Cockroft and I am from Monroe, Wisconsin. I am a Certified Veterinary Technician. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I work at the University of Wisconsin Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Madison, WI. I work specifically in the ER and Critical Care Units. Our department has been open the entire time COVID-19 has been around and we are unable to be 6ft apart from one another most of the time. The hospital is very large and I work in an area of the hospital that is very busy and it is hard for me to be isolated and still take care of my patients. When I work in the ER department, I have close contact with the public. This is because clients are bringing their pets in for emergency care and we as a hospital are continuing to do curbside appointments. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There have also been numerous cases in other departments who frequent the area that I work in. Please consider all Veterinary Professionals to be included in the 1b phase of the vaccination plan.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sara Cockroft

From: [Peg Stelzner](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 10:01:34 AM
Attachments: Outlook-hhai5ale.png

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

My name is Peg Stelzner and I am from Thiensville, Wisconsin. I am a Hospital Manager at a Veterinary Clinic. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

We have a large practice with 7 doctors, and we see many patients. Our practice has been extremely busy over the past year, and it has been very hard on us as we have a small building; therefore, we have not let any clients in the building since April 1, 2020. This has been hard on everyone. We are desperately trying to stay safe so we can continue to care for the pets, but we need your help! We need to be vaccinated. If one person contracts Covid here, we will all get it as we work in very close proximity to each other. Then the pets are in jeopardy - who is going to care for them if we are closed?

Thank you for considering this request.

Peg Stelzner

[Peg Stelzner](#)
Associate Manager Regional Operations - Midwest &
Hospital Manager - Thiensville Mequon Small Animal Clinic #229
cell: 262-366-1602

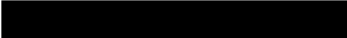


From: [Julie Walker](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 9:43:36 AM

Secretary-Designee Palm and the Vaccine Subcommittee:

As a veterinarian who provides emergency care for animals, I am disheartened that we are not included in the Vaccine Subcommittee 1B. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there has been no room for our services to "shut down" - my colleagues and I have been providing care 24/7 since the coronavirus pandemic began. There is a huge and important demand for our services to maintain the health of pets in our community. The importance of providing health care for animals extends beyond purely "taking care of someone's pet" - by watching for zoonotic disease in veterinary patients and providing prompt care, we can decrease the spread of zoonotic disease to their human owners. I ask you and your collaborators to please re-consider including veterinarians and veterinary technicians in phase 1B so that we can continue providing care to all animals.

Sincerely,
Julie Walker, DVM, DACVECC



From: [Melody Hiton](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 9:33:01 AM
Attachments: image002.png

1/15/2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Melody Hiton and I am from Kenosha Wisconsin. I am a Hospital Manager for a very busy Veterinary Clinic. [REDACTED]

I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.


Our practice is very busy one. So busy we have to sometimes turn clients away. For the most part we have been doing curbside for patients, but please understand that a lot of things cannot be done curbside. Owners want to be with their furbaby when they're scared and being treated by a Veterinarian. Euthanasia's is a good example. Owners want to be with their pets at the end of their life.

I hope you keep Veterinary staff in mind when you make your decision. I sometimes feel we get lost in the shuffle or forgotten about.

67% percent of U.S. households, or about 85 million families, own a pet, according to the 2019-2020

Thank you for considering my request.

Kind regards,

 Melody Hiton - Hospital Manager
Regner Veterinary Clinic www.regnervet.com
South: (262) 694-3100|North: (262) 551-9100 C-847-445-8270

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Kathy smith](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Group 1b Veterinary Professionals
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 9:24:13 AM
Attachments: image.png



www.wvma.org

DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov

1. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the proposed changes to the Wisconsin Veterinary Practice Act, specifically the changes to the requirements for the licensure of veterinary assistants and veterinary technicians.

2. The meeting will be held on Friday, January 15, 2021, at 9:24:13 AM.

3. The meeting will be held via Zoom. The Zoom link is provided below.

4. The meeting is open to all interested parties, including veterinarians, veterinary assistants, veterinary technicians, and the public.

5. The meeting will be held in a virtual format. Participants will be able to view and hear the presentation and ask questions.

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1. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the proposed changes to the Wisconsin Veterinary Practice Act, specifically the changes to the requirements for the licensure of veterinary assistants and veterinary technicians.

From: [Douglas D. Kratt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B" in the email subject line
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 9:16:29 AM
Attachments: Central-Animal-Hospital-300_28b5b36d-34b8-47c5-84e9-5701acc31425.png
ACC_trB_4_CAH-150-right_8a4b45f5-56c7-4e8e-a71a-aa7d39a9194e.png

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Dr. Douglas Kratt, and I am from La Crosse, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian and a small business owner. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I presently serve as the President of the AVMA and have served as the President of the Wisconsin VMA. Early on, veterinarians were determined to be essential health care workers due to our work in the food supply, public health, and food safety. The AVMA has advocated successfully at the federal level for veterinary personnel to be considered a priority group for vaccination. Based on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it appears that much veterinary personnel could be accommodated in Phase 1-b of the CDC's recommended three-phase plan.

Vaccination is critical in the fight against COVID-19. As veterinary teams continue to provide needed healthcare services for our patients, all team members need to get vaccinated as early as possible. Vaccination is the best way for us to protect human health – of both team members and clients – as we continue to see patients and work within our communities.

We are a primary care facility for companion animals with no local access to emergency care. Because of the pandemic, there have been delays in routine care for all animals in our care, prioritizing the most critical. Although we still are working with clients on preventive care via numerous methods, we are also tasked with assisting with the control of various zoonotic diseases. Of addition note, we provide care for many K9 officers, including the Wisconsin State Patrol, La Crosse County, Cities of Onalaska and Tomah, Village of Holmen, and Town of Campbell.

I understand your task is monumental, but I respectfully request that veterinary teams are placed in Phase 1-b.

Thank you for considering this request.

Dr. Douglas Kratt

Dr. Douglas Kratt

Veterinarian



840 2nd Avenue S

Onalaska, WI 54650

608.783.6606

www.centralanimal.com



From: [Carli Boston-Denton](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee- Phase 1b
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 9:14:26 AM

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

I am writing today to respectfully urge you to include veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants, and other veterinary clinic staff in the Phase 1b prioritization list for COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

Veterinary health care workers are essential frontline workers who provide critical care to both food/fiber animals and companion animals throughout the State of Wisconsin. We have been on the frontlines, saving animal lives through this entire pandemic.

The closure of veterinary clinics and facilities due to COVID-19 outbreaks among veterinary staff poses a unique risk to the continuity of animal care. In many areas of the state, there is limited availability of veterinary care. As a result, if a clinic or practice is forced to close due to COVID-19 exposure, there may not be any geographically accessible alternative for patients.

In addition, veterinary health care workers cannot work remotely or work from home. Currently, the provision of veterinary care via telehealth is not allowed under Wisconsin law. As a result, the provision of patient care requires uninterrupted in-person provision and availability of health care services.

I have worked throughout the entire pandemic as an emergency surgical technician in a large animal hospital. I have seen how COVID-19 has brought fatigue on everyone I work with due to staff shortages from individuals needing to quarantine or stay home sick. We are exhausted and if we do not receive the much needed vaccinations soon, I am afraid more emergency clinics will be shut down, causing more unnecessary loss of animal lives. I have been on the frontlines throughout the entire pandemic and I have not had the luxury of staying home.

As such, I respectfully urge you to include Wisconsin veterinary workers in Phase 1b.

Sincerely,

Carli Boston-Denton

Surgical Technician; UW-Madison SVM Large Animal Hospital

UW-Madison SVM c/o 2023

From: [Jordan Genovese](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 9:01:37 AM

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

My name is Jordan Genovese and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a veterinary student at UW-Madison's School of Veterinary Medicine. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

When I am not in school, I work as a technician at a walk-in clinic that serves upwards of 80 pet owners, a large population of whom are low-income, per day. Since we are a walk-in clinic, over the course of the pandemic, we have absorbed hundreds of clients who are otherwise unable to make appointments at their family veterinarian for both routine and emergency procedures due to staffing constraints and COVID-19-related pressures.

The need for veterinary care has not disappeared. Folks are lining up on multiple-month wait lists to get their pets the most basic, routine care. In fact, the demand has *increased* during the pandemic due to the amount of families who have welcomed new pets into their homes over the last 10 months. Veterinary clinics across Wisconsin are at capacity and running on fumes—I speak from experience. Whether it is a pet emergency or a simple, “it’s just a Rabies vaccine, Fido needs it as it required by law,” these requests, either big or small, add up to many additional hours of work each day. This, coupled with a thin staff due to quarantines or infections, veterinary health workers are burning out. However, improving these conditions is something within your power.

Adding veterinary professionals to 1b would not place an undue burden on the general demand for vaccine compared to the supply (~2,400 vaccine series, if every Wisconsin veterinary health worker were to sign up). There are many in this field (I’m sure you are hearing from them) that would get the vaccine today if they could. It’s also my understanding that there will be incentives to states that administer more vaccines (i.e., they will receive even more doses). If you know you have a guaranteed population of individuals who will get this vaccine, why not open the door for them to do so?

That said, perhaps most importantly, veterinary professionals possess the instrumental skills needed to administer vaccinations. Vaccinating veterinarians will increase the amount of individuals able to physically administer vaccines to the public—only further increasing the capacity to deliver this public health intervention Wisconsin, and the country, so desperately requires.

Thank you for considering this request.

