

Lisa Nowak, CVT (she, her)

BluePearl Specialty + Emergency Pet Hospital

Milwaukee, WI Market

Port Washington | Glendale | Oak Creek

PW - 262-268-7800 | G - 414-540-6710 | OC - 414-761-8808

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Charlotte Supple](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: COVID Vaccination
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:43:45 PM
Attachments: Outlook-signature_.png

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

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

My name is Charlotte and I am from Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin. I am the Hospital Administrator at BluePearl-Milwaukee, previously known as Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

My practice provides emergency care and specialty medicine for small animals. When you issued the Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home order, on March 25, 2020, it stated that "Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals." While individual services limited their hours as they were able, we remained open to continue providing this essential service to our community. And in fact, despite the pandemic, for a number of reasons, veterinary services across the board have seen an increase in cases. Although social distancing practices have been in place including allowing only staff in the building, it is impossible to effectively social distance while restraining a small animal which is unavoidable in our field. We must also still come within 6 feet of a client in the parking lot in order to safely transfer control of the pet, even if they are on a leash. We were creative and resourceful in our use of PPE (handmade cloth face masks and face shields, washing exam gloves instead of disposal after each use, etc.) so that these resources could be funneled to human medicine professionals, even though it meant that our makeshift practices might have been less effective.

We are a unique group of individuals who have a special way of understanding one another. This is true of veterinary professionals in general, and especially true of my practice in particular. Within our group are spouses, family members and roommates who not only work together but also share a home. We have 3 locations in the greater Milwaukee area and over 200 employees, many of whom travel between locations due to the nature of service they provide. Although we have specific protocols in place regarding COVID exposures and positives, an outbreak could be devastating not only to an individual service but to the entire hospital, or maybe even all 3 hospitals. As one of the 2 largest groups providing 24/7/365 veterinary care to southeastern Wisconsin, a closure, even temporary, would also be devastating to the pet community.

I am asking that you please include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan so that we may help reduce the risk of spread of COVID while we continue to provide our essential service.

Thank you for considering this request.

Unbelievable!
Create reply with Unbelievable!

Fingers crossed!
Create reply with Fingers crossed!

Thank you!
Create reply with Thank you!

Are the suggestions above helpful?

Charlotte Supple, MBA (she/her/hers)

Hospital Administrator

BluePearl Specialty + Emergency Pet Hospital

Milwaukee, WI Market

Port Washington | Glendale | Oak Creek

414.410.2585 desk

847.404.2516 mobile

bluepearlvet.com



From: [Jake Svenson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:41:28 PM

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

Dear Secretary-Designee Palm and Vaccine Subcommittee;

I hope that this email finds you well.

I read with concern the designated groups for Phase 1b of COVID Vaccine Distribution Plan released by the DHS.

Namely, you have forgotten to include a major group of frontline healthcare workers—veterinarians, veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants.

Animal healthcare providers have been designated as essential employees and thus have been working in close proximity to others who may be infected, just like human healthcare workers.

While this alone may be enough to ensure their inclusion in phase 1B, there is a much more pressing reason. COVID-19 is a zoonotic disease, it is believed that it originally circulated in animals before jumping to humans, and as the DHS' own guidance points out, multiple outbreaks have been tied to sick animals on mink farms. In addition to risk of outbreaks, deadly new mutations that increase viral virulence or help to evade vaccines can arise within animal populations and remix to human populations.

Failing to inoculate the group that that will work with sick animals thus poses a grave biosecurity risk to the entire state and country as a potential source for transmission and a location where newly virulent viral mutations can occur.

As a future physician in training, I find this exclusion of veterinarians particularly unwise and shortsighted. However, I trust that it was an omission of error that will be rapidly corrected in the new guidance by the DHS.

Sincerely, Jacob Svenson

From: [Andrew Linklater](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:34:22 PM
Attachments: Outlook-signature_.png
Outlook-dpfqrofk.png

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

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

My name is Dr. Andrew Linklater and I am from Grafton, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian and Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care at BluePearl-Milwaukee, previously known as Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

My practice provides emergency care and specialty medicine for small animals. When you issued the Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home order, on March 25, 2020, it stated that "Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals." While individual services limited their hours as they were able, we remained open to continue providing this essential service to our community. And in fact, despite the pandemic, for a number of reasons, veterinary services across the board have seen an increase in cases. Although social distancing practices have been in place including allowing only staff in the building, it is impossible to effectively social distance while restraining a small animal which is unavoidable in our field. We must also still come within 6 feet of a client in the parking lot in order to safely transfer control of the pet, even if they are on a leash. We were creative and resourceful in our use of PPE (handmade cloth face masks and face shields, washing exam gloves instead of disposal after each use, etc.) so that these resources could be funneled to human medicine professionals, even though it meant that our makeshift practices might have been less effective.

We are a unique group of individuals who have a special way of understanding one another. This is true of veterinary professionals in general, and especially true of my practice in particular. Within our group are spouses, family members and roommates who not only work together but also share a home. We have 3 locations in the greater Milwaukee area and over 200 employees, many of whom travel between locations due to the nature of service they provide. Although we have specific protocols in place regarding COVID exposures and positives, an outbreak could be devastating not only to an individual service but to the entire hospital, or maybe even all 3 hospitals. As one of the 2 largest groups providing 24/7/365 veterinary care to southeastern Wisconsin, a closure, even temporary, would also be devastating to the pet community.

I am asking that you please include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan so that we may help reduce the risk of spread of COVID while we continue to provide our essential service.

Thank you for considering this request.

Andrew Linklater, DVM, DACVECC (him/he)

BluePearl Specialty + Emergency Pet Hospital

2100 W Silverspring Dr., Glendale, WI 53209

414-540-6710

bluepearlvet.com



From: [Lerin Linklater](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:29:23 PM

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

My name is Dr. Lerin Rives and I am from Grafton, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian at BluePearl-Milwaukee, previously known as Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

My practice provides emergency care and specialty medicine for small animals. When you issued the Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home order, on March 25, 2020, it stated that "Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals." While individual services limited their hours as they were able, we remained open to continue providing this essential service to our community. And in fact, despite the pandemic, for a number of reasons, veterinary services across the board have seen an increase in cases. Although social distancing practices have been in place including allowing only staff in the building, it is impossible to effectively social distance while restraining a small animal which is unavoidable in our field. We must also still come within 6 feet of a client in the parking lot in order to safely transfer control of the pet, even if they are on a leash. We were creative and resourceful in our use of PPE (handmade cloth face masks and face shields, washing exam gloves instead of disposal after each use, etc.) so that these resources could be funneled to human medicine professionals, even though it meant that our makeshift practices might have been less effective.

We are a unique group of individuals who have a special way of understanding one another. This is true of veterinary professionals in general, and especially true of my practice in particular. Within our group are spouses, family members and roommates who not only work together but also share a home. We have 3 locations in the greater Milwaukee area and over 200 employees, many of whom travel between locations due to the nature of service they provide. Although we have specific protocols in place regarding COVID exposures and positives, an outbreak could be devastating not only to an individual service but to the entire hospital, or maybe even all 3 hospitals. As one of the 2 largest groups providing 24/7/365 veterinary care to southeastern Wisconsin, a closure, even temporary, would also be devastating to the pet community.

I am asking that you please include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan so that we may help reduce the risk of spread of COVID while we continue to provide our essential service.

Thank you for considering this request.

Lerin Rives, DVM, CCRT (she/her)

Physical Rehabilitation

2100 W. Silver Spring Dr. | Glendale, WI 53209

p [414-540-6710](tel:414-540-6710) | f [414-540-6720](tel:414-540-6720)

207 W Seven Hills Rd | Port Washington, WI 53074

p [262-268-7800](tel:262-268-7800) | f [262-268-7878](tel:262-268-7878)

9472 S 27th St | Oak Creek, WI 53154

p [414-761-6333](tel:414-761-6333) | f [414-761-8808](tel:414-761-8808)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Paige](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: 1b COVID-19 Vaccine Plan - Wildlife Rehabilitators
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:14:36 PM

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Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Wildlife rehabilitators – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Paige Pederson and I am from Madison, WI. I am a wildlife rehabilitator at Dane County Humane Society's Wildlife Center where we rehabilitate around 3,000 animals per year. I am writing to ask you to include wildlife rehabilitation professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Wildlife rehabilitators are a small group of licensed individuals who provide care for native wildlife in our state. Given the nature of this pandemic, research on the transmissibility of this virus to animals has been limited to date. In the interest of preventing a potential reservoir of this virus in the wild I hope this group of individuals will be included for the benefit of all the public, just as mink farmers have been.

Thank you for considering this request.

Paige Pederson

From: [Kristi Wells](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:12:51 PM

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January 18th, 2001

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

Re: Veterinarians, CVTs, and veterinary healthcare workers

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

My name is Kristi Wells and I am from Madison, WI. I am a Certified Veterinary Technician working at Northside Animal Hospital. I am writing to ask you to include veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1B of the Wisconsin Covid-19 vaccination plan.

Northside Animal Hospital is a privately owned clinic located on Madison's north side. We provide care to animals and their families that live in the Northside community and beyond. Our clients depend on us to keep their pets healthy and happy. We provide preventative medicine, palliative care, surgical procedures, and assist our clients and their pets in end of life decisions and euthanasia.

Since March we have continued our services and adapted to the ever changing pandemic. It has been trying at times, but we work so hard on a daily basis to keep providing quality care for our clients and pets. At the same time we follow the recommended guidelines to keep ourselves and clients safe. We have provided curbside pet care in all types of weather. Personally, I've been thankful and lucky to have remained healthy thus far. However, my co-workers and I have often work short staffed due to, for instance, someone having the common cold. Now, if someone has a cold they cannot come back to work until they have a negative test or symptoms have resolved. It has been exhausting, but we are in this profession to help people and their pets.

If there were an outbreak of Covid-19 at our clinic it would mean that we would not be there for those clients and pets who depend on us. I have been considered essential since the pandemic began. I haven't missed a day of work yet. It is frustrating to think that I'm not considered "essential enough" to be included as a healthcare worker and included in Phase 1B of the vaccine distribution plan.

Thank you for listening and please consider this request,

Kristi Wells

Sent from my iPad

From: [Sophia Koehler](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:08:17 PM

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

My name is Sophia Koehler and I am from Jefferson, Wisconsin. I am a second-year veterinary student at UW-Madison 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.

As a current student, I would normally have access to the teaching hospital to shadow and learn more clinical care. Currently, the hospital is not allowing students to shadow due to Covid and overcrowding. Since our hospital is small compared to how many specialties we have, they do not want to risk having additional people present. While this is necessary, I believe it cuts into my learning time, as early clinical experience is important. Additionally, I will be working in the VCA Milwaukee Emergency Center for Animals this summer. Every day, I will be in close contact with colleagues in order to treat people's pets, which I believe is an important job and service to the public. A Covid outbreak in any of these environments would be devastating to both the employees and the clients who would not be able to get treatment for their pets. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to consider veterinarian health professionals as essential workers and include them in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sophia

From: [Amy Hudson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee- Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:04:24 PM

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January 18, 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 Dr. Amy Hudson and I am from Jefferson, Wisconsin. I am a Veterinarian and owner of Johnson Creek Veterinary Care in Johnson Creek, WI. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

At Johnson Creek Veterinary Care we are a clinic that specializes in the care of small animals. We are the only practice in our community of approximately 3,000 people. We have been performing our services via curbside since March, 2020 and have taken great strides to keep our clients, staff and community safe while still taking care of the beloved pets. We have a small staff of 2 veterinarians and 8 support staff. A Covid outbreak amongst our staff would greatly impact our ability to serve our patients causing them the need to seek care at already busy veterinary emergency clinics in Waukesha or Madison.

Thank you for considering this request.

Amy Hudson, DVM

Johnson Creek Veterinary Care

270 Wright Rd

Johnson Creek, WI 53038

(920)699-7297

From: [wesley_elford](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:49:54 PM

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I agree that ages 70 and up should be in phase 1B.

The veterinary profession needs to be included in front line workers also.

Wesley G. Elford DVM

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

From: [Melissa Gerum](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:46:43 PM

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

Dear DHS:

I am writing today on behalf of our Milwaukee County Zoo employees that have been eliminated from the plan to be vaccinated during Phase 1B. These critical employees serve an essential service to our community, and despite being deemed "critical infrastructure" employees, they are now having this provision taken from them.

While many recreational outlets have closed their doors during the pandemic, our Zoo continues to be open to the public, one of the few venues that County residents still feel safe visiting due to its largely outdoor nature. But with that being said, our Zoo employees are still at great risk due to the laissez-faire attitude towards mask-wearing and social distancing of many patrons, as well as the close-contact nature of their work.

The health and welfare of our Zoo employees is at stake, as well as our animals. If even one Zoo employee becomes ill and others are quarantined, who will care for our precious animals? These are highly trained specialists who are passionate about their work and the animals they care for, as well as passionate about preserving the safety of their patrons.

Please, PLEASE reconsider your decision to eliminate these essential workers from the list of those who will receive vaccinations in Phase 1B.

Respectfully,

Melissa Gerum

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kim George](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B"
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:42:52 PM

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January 18, 2021 1:00pm

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 Kim George and I am from Burlington , Wisconsin. I am a Veterinary Technician and Practice Owner along with my husband William George DVM. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I am writing on our behalf and the behalf of our profession. We were listed as health care professionals and essential workers last year by the governor for the purpose of operating under Covid restrictions. We provide essential health care to pets. There are diseases that are of zoonotic concern to the general public that we have to protect against such as rabies, leptospirosis, parasites, etc. We have a responsibility to the public to provide this care and services to their pets.

Every day our staff is at risk of contracting Covid from clients and coworkers. Because of the nature of our business, we have to work in close contact with our fellow staff members. When animals are being examined or restrained for vaccines, examination, procedures, etc, staff members are within inches of each other's faces. Masks are being worn at all times, but they are not N95 masks and therefore are no where near 100% in preventing contraction of the virus. Staff also have to speak with clients in close proximity to one another.

We have done everything we can possibly do to keep our staff safe and to stay open. We are a single doctor practice, therefore should Dr. George come down positive with Covid, we would have to close our business for 2 weeks at a minimum, that is assuming that he does not get

[REDACTED] re to happen, staff would be out of work, our clients would be without [REDACTED] and our business would be without income. In the worst case [REDACTED] were to succumb to the virus, we would no longer have a veterinarian [REDACTED] s would cause the [REDACTED] if [REDACTED] lians [REDACTED] direct. Most of us are practicing under staffed as it is and can't find Veterinarians to [REDACTED] im positions. We are an extremely busy practice and other clinics in our area would be heavily taxed with the care of all of our patients should we have to close our doors even for a short time. That is assuming also that no other clinics have the same thing happen to them, which is very possible considering that we have two other practices in our town that are single doctors.

I hope this sheds some light on the urgency to get veterinarians & their staff vaccinated in the 1B tier of the schedule. We implore you to add this extremely essential group of professionals to the 1B tier so that we [REDACTED] service our clients, as is our responsibility to the [REDACTED] on your time and consideration on this very important issue.

Respectfully,
Kim George

[REDACTED]

From: [Dr. Amanda Pike](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:36:55 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 Dr. Amanda Pike and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a mobile veterinarian for companion animals. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

The demand for in-home care has dramatically increased with COVID as people are doing their best to socially distance. My business model does not allow curbside veterinary care and part of the increased demand for housecalls has been due to curbside care not working for many companion animals who cannot be separated from owners without panic (whether animal or owner or both). Many of my clients, whether previous or new, are high risk and have been afraid to seek medical care for their companion animals because they are isolating or otherwise homebound. A large number of clients have expressed that their companion animals are their only social outlet right now. Some of my patients are certified service animals. Providing health care for those animals is, I feel, an essential service for our community and ties in closely with human health and safety.

On the other end of the spectrum, I have clients who are essential workers, some of which have tested positive. This exposure could potentially multiply very quickly. My assistants and I do our best to take precautions but have been hoping to be vaccinated as soon as possible to be protected from COVID and thereby provide both veterinary care and protection for vulnerable community members.

Thank you for considering this request.

[Redacted]

Regina Pike
[Redacted] Veterinary Services
Business Hours: M 9-5, T/Th 10-6, W/Fr 8-4
comfortsofhomevet@gmail.com
Phone: 608-622-1963
Web: www.comfortsofhomevet.net
PO Box 45594, Madison, WI 53744-5594
Fax: 608-467-1388

The above is considered [Redacted] cation of Comforts Of Home Veterinary Services
and, if referring to [Redacted] come part of the official medical record.

[Redacted]

From: [Starlight Veterinary Clinic](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:35:49 PM

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January 18, 2021

Dear Secretary-Designee Palm (Department of Health Services) and Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee:

My name is Dr. Jean Elmer and I am from Mount Horeb, 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 the owner and DVM at a mixed-animal clinic in Blue Mounds, WI. Our clinic serves Blue Mounds, Mount Horeb, Barneveld, Verona and many of the surrounding areas. I am the sole veterinarian at the clinic and have a staff of less than 10. An outbreak at our practice would shut our clinic down and cause significant financial loss and economic hardship for my staff. Not only that, I am the only large animal (horse) veterinarian in the area and our clients would be forced to try to secure care for their animals elsewhere. Our clinic has been one that is getting clients in when all other clinics in the area are scheduling months out, so this would not only affect my staff, it would affect many of our patients.

Thank you for considering this request.

Dr. Jean Elmer, DVM
Starlight Veterinary Clinic
10902 Eckel Road
Blue Mounds, WI 53517
(608) 437-8387

From: [Ista, Amanda](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee-Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:34:32 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 you today to ask you to consider adding veterinary and animal care staff, including zoo keepers and veterinary technicians in Phase 1B. Being an essential worker and classified as critical infrastructure, I feel like it is important that we are included in this phase as mink farm workers are and as many other states have already included animal care professionals in this phase. I have colleagues working in San Diego Zoo (who have recently had gorillas test positive) who have already received the vaccine. I have other colleagues in other states working in zoos who have been deemed essential to get the vaccine because they are working with big cats who also have tested positive. We feel like it is important not only for the safety of the animals but also for the safety of the public that we work with and our coworkers that we work with for us to get vaccinated as soon as possible. We continue to put ourselves at risk daily and would like to ability to protect ourselves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Amanda Ista
Zoo keeper
Milwaukee County Zoo

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From: [Rachel Yohn](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:30:25 PM

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January 18, 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 Dr. Rachel Yohn and I am from Johnson Creek, Wisconsin. I am a Veterinarian and am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

At Johnson Creek Veterinary Care we are a small animal only practice of 10 total staff members. We are the only practice in our community of approximately 3,000 people. We have been performing our services via curbside since March, 2020 and have taken great strides to keep our clients, staff and community safe while still taking care of the beloved pets. A Covid outbreak amongst our staff would greatly hinder our ability to serve our patients causing them the need to seek care at already busy veterinary emergency clinics in Waukesha or Madison.

From: [Wagner, Nathaniel R.](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:28:50 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 NEW Zoo and Adventure Park in Green Bay. 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. These species as well as all of our animals require our daily care in order to survive. Our keeper staff is vital to their existence and wellbeing. 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.

Nathaniel Wagner
Deputy Operations Section Chief
Brown County Public Health - COVID-19 Response
Temporary Reassignment

Adventure Park Supervisor
NEW Zoo & Adventure Park
4418 Reforestation Road
Green Bay, WI 54313

920-662-2148
nathaniel.wagner@browncountywi.gov

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From: [raymond.kroll](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:23:00 PM

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Please include Zoo Keepers in phase 1B. [REDACTED] works at the Milwaukee County Zoo and is considered a critical infrastructure employee. She does not have the option of not going to work and in her job capacity she has no choice but to interact with co-workers and the general public. She has the potential to not only spread the virus to people but also endangered animals. After reading about the gorilla's at another zoo who contracted covid, I became very concerned about her increased risk of contracting covid not only from people but from the animals she cares for.

[REDACTED] She spends a great deal of time trying to keep to her self safe. She's fanatic about hand washing, disinfecting and very rarely goes out. She pretty much stays home all the time if she isn't working. Everything is delivered or curbside pick up. Her biggest exposure risk is at work for both herself and the general public.

The last thing I want to do is see her get ill and possibly die in spite of all her precautions.

Thank you,
Ray Kroll

From: [Neldner, Heather](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee-Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:07:33 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am a zookeeper, and I am classed as critical infrastructure with Milwaukee County and as such we have a modified quarantine if we get sick because we are critical employees. We however are not receiving hazard pay or are being considered for the 1B vaccines. We work around people all day long, members of the public visiting the zoo, coworkers and employees from other departments that frequent our workspaces for maintenance and other needs. The way our building is designed it is hard to social distance properly.

In my job, I have the potential to not only spread this this to my coworkers but also to endangered species. We already know that big cats, primates, small mammals, and bats are susceptible to this disease. We are not sure what else is vulnerable to this disease. We know mink farmers are being considered for vaccination in phase 1B. We are in many cases unable to social distance when caring for our animals especially when doing medical procedures. In the building I work in, it is incredibly hard to social distance from guests. I work in one of the few buildings at Milwaukee County Zoo where we have to access the same area as guests to do our work, we don't have behind the scenes access to service our animals. Guests frequently wear their masks inappropriately or pull them down to speak to us, they also frequently don't social distance properly. Any time a zookeeper is doing anything guests crowd around. I fear that if a whole department gets exposed or sick, we will not have the staffing to cover this, which will mean keepers working in unsafe situations.

[REDACTED]. I don't have the option to not go to work. I spend a great deal of time trying to keep myself safe. I am vigilant with handwashing, mask wearing and disinfecting. I very rarely go anywhere other than work. Everything is delivered or done curbside pickup. My biggest exposure risk is work.

Please consider zookeepers and animal care staff high risk and include us in phase 1B.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Heather Neldner

Zookeeper Milwaukee County Zoo

This message is intended for the sole use of the individual and entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended addressee, nor authorized to receive for the intended addressee, you are hereby notified that you may not use, copy, disclose or distribute to anyone the message or any information contained in the message. If you have received this message in error, please immediately advise the sender by reply email and delete the message.

From: [Katie Heinrich](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:02:54 PM

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

My name is Katherine Heinrich and I am from Cedarburg, 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.

We are a small 3 doctor practice in Glendale, WI working in a very small building. If our staff were to become infected with COVID-19 we would have to close our clinic for a period of time. If some veterinary clinics need to close, it places a huge burden on other clinics in the area, which are already struggling to meet the demands of clients with sick pets. Veterinary clinics have become extremely busy since March 2020 because many people acquired new pets since they are home more. Due to the nature of our job and current laws, we are unfortunately not able to practice telehealth or work remotely from home.

In addition, we know pets can become infected with COVID-19. We do not yet know if veterinary staff are at increased risk of contracting COVID-19 from animal patients because the focus has been on inter-person transmission. Our staff does not have the appropriate protective gear because it has been prioritized (rightly so) for human hospitals. However, we would be remiss to ignore the increased risk our staff may be at from pets infected with COVID-19, just because there has not been time to study this risk.

I am disappointed to see our veterinary professionals overlooked in this recommendation for the next phase of vaccine distribution. I respectfully urge you to include Wisconsin veterinary professionals in Phase 1b. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Katherine Heinrich, DVM
Silver Spring Animal Wellness Center
Glendale, WI 53209

From: [Sara Greenslit](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:38:39 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 Sara Greensoit and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a house call veterinarian. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Via house call and clinic appointments, with the client present, I offer care to small animals via AnShen Holistic Vet. COVID has put our two doctors at risk as we enter people's homes and have appts in person at clinics. If we were to contract COVID, we would not be able to provide our services, many animals who are seeing us for pain management and end of life care, and we offer services as a specialty service not available in regular general practice, like acupuncture and chiropractic care. Our jobs are very hands on and we are often <6 feet of owners during the treatments. Our business' owner, a small and large animal vet, enters homes and goes on barn calls, so her exposure to COVID risk is high as well.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sara Greenslit, DVM, CVA, CVSMT

From: [Jessica Schmitt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: RE: Wisconsin Vaccination Roll-Out
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:03:22 PM

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Dear SDMAC Committee members,

I am writing to express my concern about the current population members being considered for Phase 1b of the vaccine rollout. I am deeply concerned that this committee has failed to use the guidelines provided by the CDC. As a state, we must acknowledge the importance of essential workers who cannot do their job virtually. I am a teacher. While not ideal, I can do my job virtually. Farmers, veterinary staff, and food safety lab workers cannot. These individuals MUST be at the front of the vaccine line. They have continued to work throughout the pandemic risking contracting the virus for the benefits of others. Each of these jobs requires a specific set of skills that cannot be substituted by others. If an entire farm, clinic, or lab has to be closed, there will be no one to do this work, which will lead to needless suffering affecting communities, the food supply, and animals.

Please consider the consequences of leaving these essential workers out of group 1b.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and re-consider your positions,
Jessica Schmitt

From: [Laura Bonofiglio](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee- Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:57:40 AM

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January 18, 2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

Re: Veterinary Professionals Inclusion in COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Group 1b

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

We respectfully request that you include veterinarians and their staff in the Phase 1b prioritization list for COVID-19 vaccination distribution for the following reasons:

1) Most veterinary clinics are small businesses with a small number of staff. If one person in the clinic is COVID positive, it is likely that most or all of the staff have been exposed to that person, which can force closure of the clinic so that staff can quarantine properly.

We are both associate veterinarians at Forest Home Animal Clinic in Franklin, WI. Our clinic had to close for a nine day period in November due to a positive staff member, and subsequent exposure to others in our clinic, which resulted in at least one other positive staff member.

Closures like these are detrimental to continuity of animal care, as well as the financial wellbeing of these small businesses.

2) In the veterinary clinic setting, staff members are working in close proximity to one another to care for our patients. We are within a few feet, sometimes a few inches, of one another during many parts of our day, so aerosol spread of COVID is likely if someone is unknowingly COVID positive.

Veterinary professionals cannot work remotely or from home. In fact, telemedicine in veterinary care is prohibited under Wisconsin law.

3) Many areas of the state of Wisconsin have limited geographic availability of veterinary

clinics due to COVID in rural parts of Wisconsin can preclude people from
y medical care for their companion and food/fiber animals.

g. For
many people, pets are members of their family, and often their most reliable friend. Our
ical teams are vital to keeping these precious creatures healthy and safe.

For these reasons, we urge you to include Wisconsin veterinarians and their staff in COVID-19
vaccination Phase 1b.

Thank you,

Laura M. Bonofiglio DVM
Chris Denton DVM

Forest Home Animal Clinic
11222 W. Forest Home Ave.
Franklin, WI 53132
414-425-2340

From: [Diane Tyk](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:55:06 AM

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Zookeepers are classed as critical infrastructure employees in Milwaukee county but are not on the list to be vaccinated in phase 1B. How can they be classed as critical and not included in the first round of vaccinations?

They are needed to keep the animals, their co-workers and the public safe.

Please include zookeepers in the 1b phase of vaccinations!

Thank you.

From: [Schmitt, Fay](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinary Staff-Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:46:41 AM

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1/17/21

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinary Staff – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Fay Schmitt and I am from Middleton, 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 Middleton Veterinary Hospital in Middleton, WI. We are a small animal clinic, caring for companion animals, primarily dogs and cats. Our clinic has been extremely busy during this pandemic. Clients look to us to provide care for their pets as we try to navigate through this difficult time. If our clinic would be forced to close due to an outbreak of Covid, our service to our clients, patients, and community would be stopped.

Thank you for considering this request.

Fay Schmitt, CVT
Middleton Veterinary Hospital