

From: [Dan Oberschlake](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccination for Veterinarians
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 8:44:33 AM

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

Dear Secretary Palm and SDMAC


Further thoughts on justification of including Veterinarians and staff in Phase 1b.

At the beginning of the Pandemic I and other veterinarians donated or surgical masks, and other PPE's to our local hospitals and first responders. Those practices that had them also gave their Ventilators to those human facilities that were in dire need of them.

In addition we curtailed all elective surgical procedures to further reduce the demand for PPE's. This was all done in the spirit of One Health. As veterinarians we are entrusted with not only animal health but the protection of humans from zoonotic diseases and the nation food source as well as bio- terrorism.

If the lack of unskilled people to administer vaccines is part of your bottle neck you should consider engaging the veterinary profession in your vaccination efforts. We are trained to properly handle vaccine and vaccinate patients that bite, kick, and scratch on a daily basis. I personally am also skilled handling liquid nitrogen, with my experience in Artificial insemination and embryo transfer. These skills would be of benefit with the Pfizer vaccine. A population of early vaccinated veterinarians and their staff could greatly benefit the Pandemic response team.

Respectfully

Dan Oberschlake DVM
Heritage Animal Hospital Ltd


From: [Marlene Lawton](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Fwd: Vaccine committee 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:00:10 AM

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Marlene Lawton** <malawton6@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Jan 17, 2021, 5:58 AM
Subject: Vaccine committee 1b
To: <health@publichealthmdc.com>

Please include Veterinary school of medicine at UW Madison. This is an essential group which interacts with many students and other employees within UW. The work environment there is very conducive to this virus and already had many cases within the department. They also have to work with a variety of an animals which we now know could be potential carriers.

Please consider adding these employees in this next group.

Thanks.

From: lavajava@aol.com
To: [DHS SDMAC; Lavajava@AOL.com](mailto:DHS_SDMAC; Lavajava@AOL.com)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:09:45 AM

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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 – Please include us in COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Peter Gaveras and I reside in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. I am a Veterinarian who has been practicing for 33 years and a graduate of the inaugural class at the UW- School of Veterinary Medicine. I have served on the Executive Boards of the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association, Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Foundation, as well as several other local chapters serving my profession and understand what impact we veterinarians have on our world. I am writing to urge you and your colleagues to include all veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b (or earlier) of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Our practice is a small animal clinic and we offer veterinary medical services to small animal and exotic patients. Our revenues have experienced a decrease of approximately 8% for the year 2020 due to the Coronavirus epidemic. We have been practicing “curb-side” veterinary care since February 2020 in an effort to protect our staff and be as safe as humanly possible. While this has served to be inconvenient to many of our clients it provides us the best chance of avoiding COVID exposure and remaining available to our clients.

Since COVID hit the majority of our medical care services has been for sick or injured pets. If we were to have an outbreak among our staff it would force us to close our doors for a minimum of 14 days, resulting in our being unavailable to our clients to care for these beloved family members who help them emotionally weather the pandemic. It would present significant financial burdens on our staff as well, and possibly long term adverse health-related issues.

serve in many capacities and protect the health of our public, on animals. Veterinary health care workers are essential who provide throughout the state of Wisconsin.

best served when veterinarians approach collective health issues with a “herd health” perspective, applying relevant epidemiologic principles. As veterinarians we are thought to be one of several lines of defense for our state and our nation when it comes to the recognition and reporting of zoonotic diseases. In addition to these direct services, veterinary practitioners report disease events and trends to state public health and regulatory agencies, collaborate with human medical counterparts on zoonotic diseases, and advise local health boards and commissions. These relationships would not exist if not the inseparable link between animal and human health.

“One Health” is the integrative effort of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally, and globally to attain optimal health for people, animals, and the environment. Because of their expertise, veterinarians play critical roles in the health of animals, humans, and even the environment, but these roles are often overlooked or unrecognized. Nonetheless, veterinary medicine is the only profession that routinely operates at the interface of these three components of One Health.

Many veterinarians are employed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to protect public health by investigating zoonotic diseases and other diseases affecting the health of animals and people. CDC veterinarians are involved in investigating disease outbreaks throughout the world and developing programs to prevent the spread of diseases such as malaria, Ebola and avian influenza and now COVID-19.

As the CDC has expanded its role, scope, and influence in public health since its inception, so has the veterinary profession. Early in the history of the CDC, veterinarians in the U.S. Public Health Service and the CDC Veterinary Public Health Division helped reduce zoonotic diseases, especially rabies and foodborne illnesses. Today veterinarians serve throughout CDC in positions that address not only infectious diseases but also the entire spectrum of public health challenges such as environmental health, chronic diseases, human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, immunizations, global health, migration and quarantine, health education, and bioterrorism. Veterinarians contribute as epidemiologists, laboratory scientists, policymakers, researchers, and surveillance experts and in environmental and disease prevention and control programs both domestically and globally.

Because veterinarians work at the interface of human, animal, and environmental health, they are uniquely positioned to view this dynamic through the lens of public health impact. Because animals share human environment, food, and water, they are effective sentinels for environmental, human, and public health problems, including bioterrorism and are key components in the control

[REDACTED] and non-zoonotic communicable diseases that affect human

Veterinarians help educate the public about prevention of zoonosis; we vaccinate large numbers of pets for zoonotic diseases, such as rabies and leptospirosis, and reduce the level of ectoparasites that can transmit human diseases and intestinal worms, such as roundworms and hookworms, which can cause serious health problems.

Today's veterinarians are the only doctors educated to protect the health of both animals and people. They work hard to address the health and welfare needs of every species of animal. Veterinarians play critical roles in environmental protection, research, food safety, and public health.

Veterinarians at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS) ensure that only healthy animals enter our food supply. To prevent the introduction of foreign diseases into the United States, veterinarians are employed by state and federal regulatory agencies to quarantine and inspect animals brought into the country. They supervise international and interstate shipments of animals; test for diseases that could threaten animal and human health or our food supply; and manage campaigns to prevent and eradicate diseases, such as tuberculosis and rabies, that pose threats to animal and human health.

Veterinarians serve as epidemiologists in city, county, state, and federal agencies investigating animal and human disease outbreaks such as food-borne illnesses, influenza and rabies. They help ensure the safety of food processing plants, restaurants, and water supplies.

Veterinarians in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) also protect the health and safety of animals and people through their work in developing disease surveillance and antiterrorism procedures and protocols. Veterinarians in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps are protecting the United States against bioterrorism. They are responsible for food safety, veterinary care of government-owned animals, and biomedical research and development.

As you are aware we veterinarians serve in many critical capacities and exist as a key and invaluable component in regards to protecting our nation's health. We are proud to serve along side our colleagues in the other medical health professions to insure that we emerge from our COVID pandemic as safely and as soon as possible.

I urge you and your fellow representatives to seriously consider including us veterinarians in the early vaccine rollout for Wisconsin.

Thank you for considering my request.

Dr. Peter Gaveras DVM, MBA
th

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Melanie Goble](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 11:02:11 PM

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January 16, 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 Melanie Goble and I am from Manitowoc, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian, and 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 relief/locum veterinarian that travels to clinics that need veterinary coverage around Wisconsin and other states as well. Regardless of the clinic that I am working at, small animal veterinarians and their staff are unable to maintain physical distance within the clinic due to the size of our patients and often the physical size of the facilities. Although the risk of COVID transmission from animals is not great, cats and mink, for example have contracted COVID and mink have been shown to be able to transmit the virus back to people, as seen in the Netherlands.

People are spending more time with their pets, which are a major source of social interaction and mental health support to their families. This has resulted in more animals requiring care as owners are more likely to notice medical issues in their pets. Due to the small staff of clinics and the increased exposure to clients during the transfer of patients from owner to staff during curbside service, when one staff member is exposed or gets sick, it can cause the clinic to close resulting in animals not obtaining veterinary care. One cannot maintain a 6-foot distance from others when working on cats, dogs, and other companion animals. We are unable to work from home and due to the current laws cannot even provide telemedicine to animals for new problems or

[REDACTED] animal and federal veterinarian colleagues also maintain a safe food
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ons, I believe that veterinarians should be included in Phase 1b of the
COVID vaccination plan.

Thank you for considering this request.

Melanie Goble, DVM
Renewed Strength Veterinary Services, LLC
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

--
Dr. Melanie E. Goble
Renewed Strength Veterinary Services, LLC

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Kovac, Jennifer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B Vaccine subcommittee
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 8:21:57 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 as a zookeeper and have been coming in to work throughout all the COVID related shutdowns along with other zoo staff. In fact, zookeepers like myself never stopped coming in to work due to the numerous animals who depend on us for their care and wellbeing. 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,
Jennifer Kovac

Sent Securely via TLS from County of Dane by
Proofpoint

From: [Kristine Collins](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Add Veterinary Workers to Phase 1b for COVID-19 vaccinations
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 5:04:18 PM

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Secretary -Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

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

On behalf of 2,400+ members of the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association and all the veterinarians, veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants, I respectfully urge you to include veterinarians and clinic staff in the Phase 1b vaccination for Covid-19.

Veterinary health care workers are essential frontline workers. Our jobs cannot be performed properly by social distancing 6 feet apart. We put ourselves at risk daily either by not having the proper animal handling or close human contact. Although we use curbside appointments when we can, I have many clients with nervous animals that can pose a danger without their owners or end-of-life situations for their beloved animals who come into my practice to be with their animals in their final moments. Thus we cannot always do curbside.

We cannot work remotely from home. We are not permitted to use Telehealth. Many of us are small business owners and illness within a clinic setting would be devastating. Veterinary Clinics are having a difficult time keeping up with demands so the thought of a closure would leave many people without care for their animals and would be devastating to the clinic.

Please reconsider adding the veterinary workers of Wisconsin to the Phase 1b.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kristine Collins, DVM
Owner, Practitioner

--

[REDACTED] DVM
[REDACTED] nic

www.saukpointvet.com

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Andrea Lanphear](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine priority group 1b
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 4:30:48 PM

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January 16, 2021

Secretary -Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

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

On behalf of 2,400+ members of the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association I respectfully urge you to include veterinarians and clinic staff in the Phase 1b vaccination for Covid-19.

Veterinary health care workers are essential frontline workers. Our jobs cannot be done properly by social distancing 6 feet apart. We put ourselves at risk daily either by not having the proper animal handling or close human contact. I have many clients with nervous animals or end of life situations for their beloved animals who come into my practice thus we cannot always do curbside.

We cannot work remotely from home. We are not permitted to use Telehealth. Many of us are small business owners and illness within a clinic setting would be devastating. Veterinary Clinics are having a difficult time keeping up with demands so the thought of a closure would leave many people without care for their animals.

Please reconsider adding the veterinary workers of Wisconsin to the Phase 1b.

Sincerely,

Andrea Lanphear, DVM, CVA, CVSMT
HarmonyVet Acupuncture & Spine Care
4502 Monona Drive
Madison, WI 53716
608-886-8930
drandrea@harmonyvet.com
www.harmonyvet.com

From: [Emily Lee](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee- Phase1B
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 3:01:19 PM

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January 16th, 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. Emily Lee and I am from Burlington Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian practicing at the Muskego and Wind Lake Animal Hospitals. I am writing to ask that you include veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

As a Veterinarian I see numerous patients in a day and although our patients are not human, they do not come to the clinic without their owners. We are not able to perform our jobs from home and work in very close proximity to our assistants and technicians as they need to aid in the restraint of our patients. We absolutely cannot maintain adequate social distance from our staff. In the case of euthanasia, we allow clients into the building since it would be heartbreaking to not allow owners to be with their beloved pet in its final moments. However, this is the most likely time transmission of COVID-19 is going to occur. Clients, although they are told to wear a mask, are often crying into the mask which saturates it along with them pulling it off to give their pets a final kiss goodbye. Almost every time I have walked into the exam room, they have their mask off while we are not in the room and quickly put it on when we walk in. This makes our risk very high for contracting a respiratory virus in this situation, since they are crying and have nasal discharge which is aerosolizing virus particles into a very small room. When performing the euthanasia, we are within a few feet of these owners. Unfortunately, we perform numerous euthanasias every week which makes our risk very high in this situation.

Veterinary health care workers are essential for animal health, which in turn affects human health. If we are shut down due to COVID, we are unable to provide preventative medicine to

[REDACTED] them when they are ill. Many diseases are zoonotic so if a pet is not [REDACTED] their owners. Again, we cannot perform our jobs from home and if we [REDACTED] will suffer. Since [REDACTED] along [REDACTED] we [REDACTED] have to close due to COVID, animals will suffer and potentially die if they cannot get the medical treatment they need. Owners mental health could also be affected if their pets cannot receive adequate patient care. The increased case load on all veterinary clinics means that if one clinic has to close, other clinics may not be able to accommodate additional patients. Currently the local emergency veterinary clinics have 3 to 5 hour wait times.

In addition, the veterinary community has made numerous sacrifices to help the human health care field. We do [REDACTED] of PPE that human hospitals have. We currently are having a shortage of exam gloves and we are reusing our surgical masks since they have been on backorder since last spring. Studies have shown that animal including dogs, cats, and ferrets can carry COVID, yet we do not have the proper PPE to protect us from our patients if they are carrying the virus. Although we tell owners to delay appointments if they have a family member with COVID, they often times lie and still bring their pets in. I have had numerous instances where an owner told me everyone in the house has COVID after we finished examining the pet, which had now potentially exposed the entire staff. They mention it because they are worried their pet has it too. This is why vaccination of the entire veterinary staff is so important.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]
Emily Lee DVM

From: [Paul Schultz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee - phase 1B
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 1:36:35 PM

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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 Paul Schultz and I am from New Berlin, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian practicing in the city of Muskego, WI. I am writing to ask you to include veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I understand that our patients are not humans. But they come attached to humans. We're doing curbside service, but not everyone has a cell phone, so we're often out in the parking lot talking to owners, many of whom are not wearing masks. We're also letting clients in the building if they make the difficult decision to euthanize their pet. This is a time when people are wailing and sobbing and aerosolizing respiratory viruses, and almost never follow our request for them to keep a mask on. Clients with animals that are difficult for us to handle also need to accompany their pets into the building for exams, and routinely do not wear their masks properly. Finally, we work within inches of our assistants while restraining animals. Many of these assistants are not practicing social distancing in their time away from work. Multiple assistants have tested positive for COVID. Masks or not, this represents additional exposure for us according to the health department.

I would also like to point out that at the beginning of the pandemic, we respected requests to cancel all elective appointments and procedures/surgery to save supplies for human use. We're healthcare worker when it comes to re-using our surgical masks and face shields for 10 months to conserve PPE; we should also be considered healthcare

[REDACTED] to the vaccine.

[REDACTED] mber of lo [REDACTED] c [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] with COVID that they were unable to keep their doors open. We need to stay
[REDACTED] provide the healthcare that our patients desperately need.

In addition, veterinary patients ARE susceptible to COVID-19. While uncommon, there are scattered reports of dogs and cats being infected COVID.

Thank you for considering this request.

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,
Dr. Paul Schultz
Muskego Animal Hospital

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

[REDACTED]

From: [Megan Brody](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 11:34:50 AM

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

My name is Megan Brody and I am from Mequon, 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 see multiple patients every day and our staff comes in contact with clients continually. Our profession is such that we are forced to be in close contact with our co-workers due to small accommodations and the nature of the job. Our staff restrains patients as we work on them which means I am face to face with my coworkers all day. We also do not have a large staff which means if one person contracted COVID we would all be exposed and have difficulty continuing our business.

Thank you for considering this request.

Megan Brody

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S20 5G.

From: [Anne Saunders, DVM](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: annies@scadopt.org; [Lisa Marek](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 11:12:58 AM

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

My name is Dr. Annie Saunders and I am from Newton, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian at the Humane Society in Sheboygan County. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Due to the nature of our work at the animal shelter, our clinic and kennel workers are in constant contact with the public. Throughout the pandemic, we have still continued to provide adoptions, animal surrenders, and euthanasia services for the public. We are considered essential workers in the eyes of Sheboygan County. Our facility has already had two confirmed Covid outbreaks among the staff, as well as several more scares.

Thank you for considering this request.

Dr. Annie Saunders
Veterinarian
Humane Society of Sheboygan County

From: [Mary Ann Gedymin](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians- Phase 1B COVID-19 Vaccinations
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 10:21:59 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 Dr Mary Ann Gedymin and I am a veterinarian from Oconomowoc , Wisconsin. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

There have been many situations that have arisen over these past few months where we have had to allow clients with masks into the building. Examples include the euthanasia of a pet where the owner(s) rightfully need to be by their sides or times when we need to care for a large, aggressive dog who is better controlled by the owner. There are also time when I have to make house calls because the animal can't be transported or the owner is housebound.

We provide a vital service to the community by ensuring the health of companion animals and thereby, the well-being of their owner's whose pet is a part of the family and a source of comfort during these challenging times.

Thank you for considering this request.

Dr Mary Ann S Gedymin

Sent from my iPad

From: [Paulette Ewing](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 9:32:39 AM

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January 16, 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 Paulette Ewing and I am from the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area. I am a receptionist at Lakeside Animal Hospital in Glendale, Wisconsin. 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 come into contact with many clients daily. 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, (I am 74) 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.

[Redacted] ering this request.
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Receptionist
Lakeside Animal Hospital

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

From: [Dan Oberschlake](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid Vaccines for Veterinary Practices
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 8:30:25 AM

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Dear Secretary Palm and members of SDMAC

Heritage Animal Hospital Ltd of Greenville, Wisconsin near Appleton has 28 employees.

[REDACTED] and have needed to close down the practice twice and run short staffed numerous times

We maintain strict Covid protocols and have not allowed clients inside our practice since March.

All animals are brought inside the practice by our staff.

Even though we are masked we can not maintain social distancing while caring for animals, which requires one to two staff plus a Doctor to examine and treat.

Demand for veterinary care has never been as high as it is right now as companion animals have taken on a very important role

in mental health during this crisis. We have made every effort to be available to our clients and their pets even

while putting our own health at risk. I am 70 years old and have actually doubled my hours of personally seeing patients over the last 9 months. We have been deemed essential providers since the Pandemic began

I am asking that Veterinary health care professionals be included in in the Phase 1b portion of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan

Respectfully

Dan Oberschlake DVM
Heritage Animal Hospital LTD
[REDACTED]

From: [Emily Renner](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Call to Action - Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 5:47:02 AM

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January 16, 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 Emily Renner and I am writing from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I am currently a first-year resident studying to be a board certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon at the University of Wisconsin Veterinary Teaching Hospital. This means my job is essential and I have worked in hospital to treat patients AND teach future veterinarians throughout the pandemic. Every day, I come into contact with many people including work colleagues, students, and owners. While everyone is required to wear a mask in hospital, the act of social distancing is not possible. The dental suite and operating rooms are small. Very small. The number of people required to facilitate a safe surgical procedure per patient is at least three. On top of that minimal number, we are a teaching facility. There are typically at least an additional three individuals. In addition to teaching duties during clinics, I also teach student laboratories during which I am in contact with a full class (100 students).

I am thankful the UW has enforced curbside medicine. This limits my indoor contact with clients. However, there is still contact outside to discuss treatment options, plans, and discharges. Contact with patients (dogs and cats) that are from a COVID positive

[REDACTED] one at risk. As an essential employee whose job involves not only [REDACTED] including broken jaws and luxated teeth but also educating future [REDACTED] advocating for [REDACTED] g [REDACTED] nes. [REDACTED] advocating for ALL veterinarians and veterinary nurses to be included in the [REDACTED] nes. The trends towards increased pet ownership and improved/increased veterinary care has been evident during the pandemic. Our pets are vital parts of our lives and critical during this stressful period. Please consider protecting the medical health care professionals caring for our four-legged family members by adding us to Phase 1b.

[REDACTED] sider our request.
[REDACTED]

Emily Renner, DVM
Dentistry and Oral Surgery Resident
UW Veterinary Care
605-675-9297
Renne146@umn.edu

--
Emily Renner
Email: renne146@umn.edu
[REDACTED]

From: [Tessa Arendt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians need COVID-19 Vaccine
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 3:02:50 AM

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

Dear Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee:

My name is Tessa Arendt and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a veterinary student and veterinary technician. 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. Couple that with a thin staff due to quarantines or infections, veterinary staffers 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 everyone 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 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.

Best regards,
Tess Arendt

From: [Cassie Gorbette](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinary Professionals – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 8:49:26 PM

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

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

My name is Cassie Gorbette and I am a veterinary technician in Madison, Wisconsin. 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 an emergency animal hospital, VCA Veterinary Emergency Service, with approximately 100 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 coworker holding the animal, which places us in very close contact. This is just one example of the risk of exposure happening to us all day long. When one of our employees contracts COVID-19, we may 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. All of 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.

Sincerely,
Cassie Gorbette
Certified Veterinary Technician

From: [Justin Myers](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 7:22:09 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. [REDACTED] works for Henry Vilas and has continued to work throughout the pandemic. Much like mink farms, the zoo has many COVID susceptible animals at the zoo, including critically endangered species like tigers and orangutans. There is also a Zoo School program on site that has been running this whole school year. The 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,
Justin Myers

[REDACTED]

From: [Yahoo](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Attn: Vaccine Subcommittee-- Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 6:44:27 PM

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Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinary Health Professionals and Phase 1b Vaccination Plan

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

First, I would like to thank all of you for your service and commitment to the collective health of our state. I am certain the challenges that have arisen with the COVID pandemic have been much more than any of you bargained for, so please know your efforts are appreciated as you help to get the vaccine out to as many people as possible, as quickly as possible.

My name is Sherry Billett, DVM, and I have been a practicing veterinarian in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, since 1984. I am also a USDA /APHIS accredited veterinarian, whose additional training and regularly scheduled recertification provides me with education and insights into disease transmission and prevention that may not be apparent to others in the field.

I am writing to urge to you include all veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan. My hospital is relatively small compared to some in larger cities, but the impact on my staff, clients, and patients would be devastating if my hospital had to close for a quarantine period due to exposure. We care for more than one hundred animals per week here, with a variety of ailments from the most minor to the most serious/terminal cases, and we repeatedly have people tell us that the other veterinarians in the area will not accept new patients because of COVID. If we were to close down, there would be no other veterinary facility to care for them without having to make an hour's drive which, sadly, would be too late for some to receive the help they need. In addition, our ongoing cases would have no continuity of care and suffer as a result. If you are an animal lover like I am, these consequences to quality of patient care and the resulting long-term ill effects are simply unacceptable.

Whether or not you are an animal lover, consider the *human* impact of our veterinary hospital's staff, interacting with dozens of clients every day (which automatically places us at high risk of exposure), meeting in an 8 x 10 exam room for an hour with a single COVID-positive client who may be asymptomatic but still spreading the virus. No matter how careful we are, our exposure risk cannot be dialed down by nature of the care we must provide, and we would then proceed to serve as carriers of the disease to our other clients. Elderly clients, immune-compromised clients, and many others can quickly escalate this to a horrifying scale, and we would become a super-spreader point of contact-- all because we have no choice but to stay open and working for animal health.

Veterinarians and their staff members are essential workers and cannot simply close down and stay at home. The COVID vaccination plan that I read weeks ago from the CDC understands the nature of our work and places us squarely into the Phase 1b category. I personally and on behalf of my entire staff implore you to place veterinary professionals into this category to expedite our access to protection, and ensure continuity of care for our patients and communities.

[REDACTED] gh this rather lengthy email, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your
[REDACTED] like to have further discourse, I would be more than happy to talk with you by
[REDACTED] d at the num [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Thank you again for your public service-- and for considering my request.

Best Regards,

Sherry L. Billett DVM

Peninsula Veterinary Hospital
E56654 County T
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Clinic: 920-743-7789 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Taylor Wisniewski](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: To Vaccine Subcommittee; Re Phase 1B Public Comments
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 6:25:07 PM

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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 Taylor Wisniewski, Relief 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, 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,

Taylor Wisniewski

From: [Angie Kutchery](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 5:56:04 PM

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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 Angie Sagert Animal Care Supervisor 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, 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,

Angie Sagert

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Kristin Myers](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B distribution
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 5:25:49 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 vaccine distribution plan. I work at Henry Vilas Zoo as a zookeeper, and I am considered essential personnel. Due to the nature of our work, zookeepers have continued to work as normal throughout the pandemic to care for our animals. Similar to mink farmers, which are currently included in phase 1B, we work with species that are susceptible to Covid-19, including endangered species such as Orangutans, Lemurs, Lions and Tigers. We also regularly interact with members of the public who are visiting our zoo. I would also like you to consider zoo educators to be part of this group. Our education staff works daily with students who are attending our zoo school to assist in virtual learning. It is important to the health of our animals for our staff to stay safe and healthy. For these reasons, I hope you will consider adding zoo personnel to phase 1B.

Sincerely,

Kristin Myers



From: frankandsuebrahm@aol.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 5:02:25 PM

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1/14/21

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services
<!--[if !supportLineBreakNewLine]-->
<!--[endif]-->
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 Suzanne Brahm and I am from the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area. 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.

We are a small animal hospital that is currently doing a modified curbside approach. We come into contact with many clients daily. 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 (including me), [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 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

[Redacted]
[Redacted] bringing this [Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted]

Suzanne Brahm, CVT
Lakeside Animal Hospital

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

From: Beth Heidorn
To: DHS-SDMAC
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee, Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 4:04:19 PM
Importance: High

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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 the Executive Director of the Racine Zoo, and myself and my staff are essential personnel who have been working every day through the pandemic. Regardless of closures, our animals still need care. Staff replacement is difficult as our animal care jobs are highly skilled. An outbreak leading to insufficient staff trained in working with large carnivores, for instance, could put us in a critical position.

We do not want to put any of our staff or animals at risk, and we do not want Wisconsin to be the next in the news for another zoonotic outbreak. While we are utilizing every PPE and preventative measure available, recent news out of San Diego Zoo, arguably the top zoo in the nation, of an outbreak among their gorillas shows zoos to be just as high risk of spreading as mink farms – perhaps greater, as we also interact with the public on a regular basis. We have worked closely with other zoos and the USDA to try to reduce risks. But with nearly 1,000 animals at the Racine Zoo, many of them, including great apes, big cats, mustelids (mink relatives) and more proven to be susceptible to COVID-19, vaccination is essential for our staff and a critical step for public health.

Throughout the summer and fall of 2020 and into today, our Zoo also has worked directly with children in both education and childcare. Our camps – Zoo Camp in the summer, and Zoo School during the school year – provide not only educational benefits, but are critical child care for parents. While we have followed all CDC recommendations, and additional restrictions recommended by the American Camp Association, vaccination of our education staff is crucial and should be included alongside all other childcare professionals.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security understands these points, and as such, lists, “Workers performing services to animals in human care, including zoos and aquariums” as critical infrastructure workers in, “Advisory Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response”.
(https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_3.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_3.pdf)

While we understand the need to prioritize receipt of limited vaccinations, including all zoo professionals in Wisconsin, defined as those working in institutions with live animals maintained primarily for public exhibition, would be a miniscule number compared to other groups included in Tier 1B. Please make the right decision and include zoo professionals in Tier 1B of COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out.

Sincerely,

Beth Heidorn

Beth Heidorn
Executive Director
Racine Zoo
200 Goold Street
Racine, WI 53402
262.636.9291



<https://www.racinezoo.org>

From: [Sally Harper](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: COVID vaccine for veterinarians
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 4:01:39 PM

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Secretary Andrea Palm
DHS

I am writing to ask you to include veterinarians, veterinary technicians, assistants and other staff in the Phase 1b prioritization list for COVID-19 vaccine distribution in Wisconsin. My staff and I are essential frontline workers who provide critical care to food animals and companion animals. We have been working throughout the pandemic to keep our farm clients in business and our companion patients safe and healthy.

I was disappointed to see that veterinary professionals were not included in the next phase of vaccinations. We need to be protected in order to continue protecting public and animal health in our community.

Sincerely,
Sally Harper, DVM

--

Sally D. Harper
Lancaster Veterinary Clinic
Lancaster, WI 53813
608-723-6366

From: [Jerry Gaska](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 3:27:16 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

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

My name is Jerome Gaska and I live in Columbus, Wisconsin. I am a production animal veterinarian. I am writing to ask you to include veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

My practice is entirely devoted to serving dairy and beef clients who produce essential food. In my solo practice, I provide health and management services to clients who own over 50,000 head of cattle. Because my client's animals are in several states, I am actively involved in the regulatory medical health of these herds. This involves monitoring the herds for zoonotic diseases such as tuberculosis, brucellosis, listeriosis and salmonellosis. Testing, inspecting, and investigating possible outbreaks of disease are all essential services that I provide to assure a safe food supply chain. There is no substitute for being physically present while performing these duties. Not being able to travel and visit these herds due to sickness could have devastating effects to these client's cattle herds, their employees, and the general population.

As an example, tuberculosis testing needs to be completed for interstate movement of cattle. The injection and reading of this test are 72 hours apart and are required, by state and federal regulations, to be done by the SAME accredited veterinarian. Not being present to read the test would delay the retesting and movement of these animals by at least 60 days and fail to identify potentially infected cattle that could transmit this disease to humans.

Additionally, food animal veterinarians are very actively involved in the development and delivery of comprehensive vaccination programs for our client's animals. These clients and the public value and respect our opinions regarding vaccines. I have had many discussions about the development, safety, and necessity of the COVID-19 vaccine. Being able to share that I have received the vaccine would serve as a powerful signal that immunization is a necessary step to control this pandemic.

Please allow veterinarians such as me to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in the Phase 1b of distribution.

Thank you for considering this request.

Jerome M. Gaska, DVM

[Redacted]
[Redacted] Services, S.C.
[Redacted] Road [Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted] 70-623-2656

[Redacted]
Email: drjerry@dairyhealthservices.com

[Redacted]
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[Redacted]
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