

**From:** [Teresa Reinders](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B  
**Date:** Monday, January 18, 2021 3:40:51 PM

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

Members of the WI State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

On behalf of the Continuum of Care for the City & County of Racine (WI-502) and the Homelessness & Housing Alliance of Racine County, Thank you so much for your work on ensuring the vaccine rollout is efficient and equitable. *It is essential and necessary that the Phase 1B recommendation for the COVID-19 vaccine include homeless shelter congregate living facilities for both staff and residents.*

Prioritization for this critical population is imperative for the following reasons:

- People experiencing homelessness have a disproportionately high rate of chronic health conditions that put people at higher risk of severe COVID disease. This population frequently has little access to consistent quality health care, potentially being excluded unless specifically prioritized.
- People who have exhausted all other resources and are staying in a shelter do not have a way to mitigate their COVID risk. They cannot avoid interaction with other people and reliance on the organization to help meet basic needs and provide a safe place to be. Emergency shelters, including domestic violence shelters, use shared living spaces and have limited opportunities to meet the social distancing requirements.
- The homeless population is disproportionately people of color, whom we know are also at greater risk of severe COVID disease. The US Census estimated Black population of Wisconsin was [6.7% of the State's total population](#). In November 2020, [43% of the population experiencing homelessness was Black](#).
- Currently, in the homeless service system, an enormous amount of funding, time, and resources have been focused directly on COVID-19 prevention, screening, education, and mitigating the spread of the disease. Once the shelter system and residents have access to the vaccine, we can redirect staff time and resources towards securing permanent housing.
- We are seeing and will continue to see an increase in the number of people who experience homelessness in our State. The pandemic's economic burden is exacerbated by the increased number of evictions and an increased number of people unable to stay with friends and family. Limited funding and availability for motel voucher alternatives leave us with a statewide increase in people experiencing unsheltered homelessness - sleeping outside and in other places not meant for human habitation (e.g., caves, abandoned buildings, storage units, vehicles, fishing shacks). With an increased need, the risk of COVID in congregate settings, capacity reduction because of social distancing guidelines, shelters are struggling to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness. The vaccine prioritization should include the unsheltered population, as they continue to be at risk for COVID.

**Within Racine City and County**, we have had one outreach worker and one homeless services case manager hospitalized with COVID and near death. We have had positive tests with staff at our Youth Shelter and HALO, our largest shelter within the county. We have also experienced some of the clients staying at the shelters test positive. To address these situations, shelters have had to incur expenses of increased motel vouchers. [HALO anticipates a \\$148,000 deficit](#) directly due providing adequate spacing between individuals staying at the shelter. Clearly, the ability to have our outreach and shelter staff vaccinated will help lower the curve within that population and encourage those clients who are hesitant to also receive their vaccines.

The current recommendations for DHS regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b include concerns about feasibility in Appendix C. While feasibility is one domain of consideration, equity and justice should be additional considerations when working to ensure this vulnerable and at-risk population is prioritized. Due to the reasons above, it is imperative that people accessing shelters are prioritized for the vaccine. Collaboration between public health, those administering the vaccine, shelter and outreach staff will be essential to address the rollout concerns, distribution, education, and adherence to appropriate protocols. There will be a need for guidance on timelines, the second vaccine, and accurate education to address myths and misunderstandings. Across Wisconsin, homeless services providers have access to a shared database that can help us see what services people are accessing and possibly use to document vaccines. There are many options available to ensure success. Allowing unsheltered people experiencing homeless to access the vaccine through the emergency shelter system should be encouraged and supported. While challenging, open communication and creative solutions will overcome those potential feasibility issues and enhance trust between the homeless population, staff, and public health. We cannot wait for a single dose vaccine to ensure that this vulnerable population and the staff that are working so hard to keep them safe are vaccinated.

Transitional housing settings often have shared living spaces as well. It is important that residents and staff of these facilities are considered in Phase 1B rollout. Again, this could be a challenging population to reach, but with clear communication and creative strategies, this can be successful. The efficacy of only prioritizing staff for the vaccine and not including the residents is a missing opportunity to develop partnership, trust, and demonstrate what we know to be true - COVID does not discriminate. Residents and staff are equally at risk.

The COVID-19 vaccine is a critical step toward ensuring the safety and the health of this vulnerable population and will provide much needed support to those facilities and staff struggling to provide these important services.

Thank you for your work in rolling out the vaccine and advocating for all Wisconsinites.

Sincerely,

*Teresa M. Reinders*

Teresa M. Reinders  
Director, Continuum of Care for the City & County of Racine (WI-502)  
President, Homelessness & Housing Alliance of Racine County

c/o HALO  
2000 DeKoven Avenue, Unit 1  
Racine, WI 53403

**PHONE:** 262-498-9761

*“Wealth and position are a blessing when shared and used for the betterment of humanity. We often confuse privileges with blessings.” Rev. Dr. Mitzi J. Smith*

From: [Emily Zinta](#)  
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)  
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:12:38 PM

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

Hello members of the WI State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

Thank you so much for your work on ensuring the vaccine rollout is efficient and equitable. It is incredibly important and necessary that the Phase 1B recommendation for the COVID-19 vaccine include congregate living facilities for both staff and residents.

Prioritization for this critical population is imperative for the following reasons:

- People experiencing homelessness have a disproportionately high rate of chronic health conditions that put people at higher risk of severe COVID disease. This population frequently has little access to consistent quality health care which may result in being excluded unless specifically prioritized.
- People who have exhausted all other resources and are staying in a shelter do not have a way to mitigate their COVID risk. They cannot avoid the interaction with other people and reliance on the organization to help meet basic needs and provide a safe place to be. Emergency shelters, including domestic violence shelters, use shared living spaces and have limited opportunities to meet the social distancing requirements.
- The homeless population is disproportionately people of color, who we know are also at greater risk of severe COVID disease. In Wisconsin, it was estimated that [6.7% of Wisconsin's population](#) was Black in 2009. In November 2020, [43% of the population experiencing homelessness was Black](#).
- Currently in the homeless service system, an enormous amount of funding, time, and resources have been focused directly on COVID-19 prevention, screening, education, and mitigating the spread of the disease. Once the shelter system and residents have access to the vaccine, staff time and resources can be redirected to obtaining and securing permanent housing.
- We are seeing and will continue to see an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness in our State. Evictions and people no longer able to stay with friends and family, the increasing economic burden of the pandemic and the limited funding and availability for motel voucher alternatives, there has been a statewide increase in people experiencing unsheltered homelessness - sleeping outside and in other places not meant for human habitation (e.g. caves, abandoned buildings, storage units, vehicles, fishing shacks). With an increased need, the risk of COVID in congregate settings, capacity reduction because of social distancing guidelines, shelters are struggling to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness. As a result, the unsheltered population continues to be at risk for COVID and should be included in our prioritization for the vaccine.

The current recommendations for DHS regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b includes some concerns about feasibility in Appendix C. While feasibility is one domain of

consideration, equity and justice should be additional considerations when working to ensure this vulnerable and at risk population is prioritized. Due to the reasons above, it is imperative that people accessing shelters are prioritized for the vaccine. Collaboration between public health, those administering the vaccine, shelter and outreach staff will be essential to address the rollout concerns, distribution, education, and adherence to appropriate protocols. There will be a need for guidance on timelines, the second vaccine, and accurate education to address myths and misunderstandings. Across Wisconsin, homeless services providers have access to a shared database that can help us see what services people are accessing and possibly use to document vaccines. There are many options available to ensure success. Allowing unsheltered people experiencing homelessness to access the vaccine through the emergency shelter system should be encouraged and supported. While challenging, open communication and creative solutions will overcome those potential feasibility issues and enhance trust between the homeless population, staff, and public health. We cannot wait for a single dose vaccine to ensure that this vulnerable population and the staff that are working so hard to keep them safe are vaccinated.

Transitional housing settings often have shared living spaces as well. It is important that residents and staff of these facilities are considered in Phase 1B rollout. Again, this could be a challenging population to reach, but with clear communication and creative strategies, this can be successful. The efficacy of only prioritizing staff for the vaccine and not including the residents is a missing opportunity to develop partnership, trust, and demonstrate what we know to be true - COVID does not discriminate. Residents and staff are equally at risk.

The COVID-19 vaccine is a critical step toward ensuring the safety and the health of this vulnerable population and will provide much needed support to those facilities and staff struggling to provide these important services.

Thank you for your work in rolling out the vaccine and advocating for all Wisconsinites.

Sincerely,

Emily West, Shelter Advocate, Hebron House, 815 409 3463

**From:** [Kimberly Amidzich](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B  
**Date:** Monday, January 18, 2021 3:09:18 PM

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Dear State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

As chief administrator of the Greendale School District, I am writing to support the inclusion of K - 12 School Staff in group 1B for access to the COVID-19 vaccination program in Wisconsin. Like all school districts in the State, Greendale Schools' students and staff have experienced significant impact and disruption to learning due to the pandemic. Instructional design has been sacrificed to ensure distance as a mitigation strategy, and all student groups have been transitioned to a virtual learning environment for periods of time based on illness, quarantine, and lack of staff to maintain student learning in an in-person environment. Staff working directly with students have expressed anxiety and concern about the risks of spread of COVID-19. This trauma impacts the quality of their service to students. Access to the vaccine will reduce risk of exposure and the potential rate of illness among staff allowing our students to have increased consistency of in person instruction.

Greendale Schools continues to work closely with the Greendale Health Department on all aspects of mitigation for the spread of COVID-19. We are prepared to partner again on vaccine distribution as soon as it is made available to all school staff.

Sincerely,

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Kim Amidzich  
Superintendent  
Greendale Schools  
Phone: (414) 423-2701  
Fax: (414) 423-2723  
[kim.amidzich@greendaleschools.org](mailto:kim.amidzich@greendaleschools.org)

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"People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel." -Maya Angelou

**From:** [Linda Dostal](#) on behalf of [Jim Costanzo](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Letter requesting that the essential employees of Nordic be prioritized for early access to COVID-19 vaccine.  
**Date:** Monday, January 18, 2021 12:04:47 PM  
**Attachments:** Staffing.pdf  
Virtual Care.pdf  
4-point COVID-19 Recovery Plan.pdf  
Information Blocking.pdf

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January 18, 2021

Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
1 W. Wilson St  
Madison, WI 53703

To Whom It May Concern:

Nordic Consulting Partners, Inc. (Nordic) is a Madison-based healthcare consulting firm that provides staff augmentation and professional services to healthcare organizations across the globe. Our staff regularly travel to hospitals and health systems to aid in critical technical and operational initiatives that support delivery of patient care. During the coronavirus pandemic we work with health systems to enable their electronic health records to support testing and vaccine distribution as well as modify operations in support of necessary public health distancing requirements (see attachments). Throughout 2020, health systems intentionally asked for our services to largely be delivered remotely, however, with the promise, and now reality, of a vaccine, we are fielding requests for our staff to travel from their homes to client sites via air and public transit to work onsite, at times in clinical settings.

We are working in close partnership with our clients who have vaccines available for distribution to our staff, however, this isn't feasible in all cases for a variety of reasons. As Wisconsin prepares to move through COVID-19 vaccines in Tier 1, Nordic is urging you to include a portion of our essential employee base in the allocation to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in the upcoming Tier 1b group.

The employee base of essential workers we are advocating for occupy roles considered essential onsite at hospitals/clinical settings in order to support the upkeep of patient medical records, electronic medical record efficiencies for physicians and clinical staff and absorb project or ticketing work from hospital/clinical staff. These roles can work directly with frontline staff and executives (of multiple hospital locations) in order to keep a hospital/clinics project successfully moving forward. Failure to be onsite can mean the difference in electronic medical records not being available or outdated information appearing within a system and impacting patient care. Therefore, we feel these roles should be prioritized within **Tier 1b**.

Thank you for your consideration and the work you have done thus far for the state's immunization distribution. We are proud to work with our healthcare partners in providing healthcare systems

with a strong business focused on better patient outcomes, now more than ever this is important. I would be pleased to discuss these issues in further detail. Please reference my contact information below at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

James Costanzo  
CEO of Nordic Consulting Partners, Inc.



**From:** [ebender2@wi.rr.com](mailto:ebender2@wi.rr.com)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** VACCINE SUBCOMMITTEE and Phase 1b  
**Date:** Monday, January 18, 2021 9:35:07 AM

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Your list + grocery store workers and public transit employees (if not included before)

**From:** [Connie Evenson](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B  
**Date:** Monday, January 18, 2021 8:28:41 AM

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Public transit .... these people keep stuff moving

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Caitlin Benedetto](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:04:13 PM

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Hello,

I am a resident of Madison who often rides the bus to get around. I am emailing the Vaccine Subcommittee to urge them to include transit workers in the groups that will be considered for Phase 1B. Transit workers provide essential services and come into daily contact with the public, so for their own safety and for the safety of the public, they should be included in Phase 1B.

Thank you,  
Caitlin Benedetto

**From:** [rowencye !!](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** "Vaccine Subcommittee" & "Phase 1B"  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:47:57 PM

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bus driver are super essential and cant work from home. also they have contact with riders everyday. please include transit workers in the next vaccine phase

**From:** [Jennifer Livingston](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Prioritize Transit Workers  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 8:00:54 AM

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Please include transit workers in phase 1B to receive a covid vaccine as soon as possible.

They are essential workers who interact with the public constantly and cannot socially distance themselves at all times. It's important that they continue to be able to work safely and provide the essential service of transportation to the public, while not being a risk to spread the virus.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Livingston  
Madison resident

**From:** [Jonathon Abram](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B  
**Date:** Saturday, January 16, 2021 7:41:17 PM

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Hello,

I'm writing to ask that transit workers be included in the Vaccine Subcommittee's groups of recommended Phase 1B vaccine recipients. I've lived in Madison for two years now and regularly use the city bus system; it's common knowledge that drivers are in close contact with hundreds of people every day and are in a "public area" their entire work day. Making sure the public transit workers have access to the vaccine will absolutely decrease the likelihood of the coronavirus spreading on their vehicles and make a high-risk job safer.

Thank you for your time,

Jonathon Abram

**From:** [Ian Jamison](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee- Phase 1B  
**Date:** Saturday, January 16, 2021 6:59:42 PM

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Hello,

I was disappointed to learn that transit drivers aren't included in Phase 1B.

These workers are doing critical work, serving people like me who ride the bus.

This phase should also include transit workers and grocery store workers! I hope you adjust your guidelines!

Ian Jamison

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kevin Meagher](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Transit workers vaccine priorities  
**Date:** Saturday, January 16, 2021 6:58:19 PM

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I am writing to express my belief that Transit workers should be classified as 1B in the states vaccine priorities. These workers serve a very important function in our society and have a lot of contact with the public. These workers deserve our respect and protection against the spread of infectious diseases.

Thank You for your consideration  
Kevin Meagher



**From:** [Cailey Jamison](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Please include transit workers in phase 1B  
**Date:** Saturday, January 16, 2021 6:52:12 PM

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Hello!

I am writing regarding the new covid vaccine guideline proposal. I urge you to include transit workers in phase 1B. They are forced by their work into exposure and may come in contact with many people per day. Especially as the contagious new variant spreads, it is very important to vaccinate these workers.

Thanks!  
Cailey Jamison  
Madison WI 53704

**From:** [stringteteer@gmail.com](mailto:stringteteer@gmail.com)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B  
**Date:** Saturday, January 16, 2021 6:38:52 PM

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Hello,

Transit workers must be included in vaccination plans ASAP! Transit workers interact daily with COVID-vulnerable populations, and are themselves vulnerable. Please include them in Phase 1B.

Thanks,  
Helen Reich



Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Tasha Gjesdahl](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B  
**Date:** Saturday, January 16, 2021 12:27:15 PM

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Hi,

I'm a resident of Madison and a bus rider. I'm emailing to urge the Vaccine Subcommittee to include transit workers in the recommended groups for inclusion in Phase 1B. Having ridden the bus during the pandemic, it's often difficult as a passenger to social distance while on the bus. Other passengers end up sitting close to the driver in an attempt to social distance from other passengers and/or as a necessity to meet disability needs.

Given that transit workers are interacting with the public on a daily basis and have little to no ability to mitigate risk, they should be included in Phase 1B. Transit is an essential service and any person without reliable transit who becomes sick may rely on their local transit service to get to and from needed healthcare services. Transit workers are essential. It is necessary to mitigate spread and it is necessary to keep transit workers safe that they be included in Phase 1B.

Thank you,

Tasha Gjesdahl



**From:** [Karl Locher](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine for transit workers  
**Date:** Saturday, January 16, 2021 12:16:30 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you as a clinical social worker in Madison, Wisconsin who has worked directly with patients in hospitals and outpatient clinics throughout the pandemic. I am writing to strongly encourage you to include transit workers in the 1B cohort for vaccine distribution. Just as I and other health workers have been in direct contact with the public, and therefore at high risk for contracting COVID-19, so have transit workers. The patients who I have been seeing over the last 10 months have been able to seek care because buses and medical transit services have been operating in spite of the incredibly high risk posed to these workers. Transit workers have less control over their environment, less access to PPE and medical resources to mitigate transmission risks, and are often in closer, high-risk contact situations than even healthcare workers.

Transit workers need to be prioritized for the next vaccine cohort, they are a crucial extension of the healthcare system and should be treated and cared for as such.

Thank you for considering my input,

Karl Locher



**From:** [mary.croy](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** vaccine priority-include transit workers  
**Date:** Saturday, January 16, 2021 9:19:12 AM

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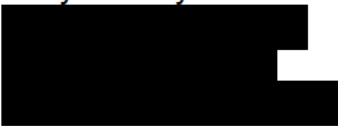
Dear Disaster Medical Advisory Committee:

I would like to ask that you include transit workers in priority 1b for the COVID-19 vaccine. As a person who uses buses to get around in Madison, I can attest to the need for drivers to get this vaccine. They deal with many members of the public every day, some of those who ride the bus are not wearing masks properly or have mental illness and won't wear the masks at all. They are very much in danger of getting the virus. Our bus drivers provide an essential service for lower income people.

I ask that you move transit workers into the category of priority 1b.

thank you,

Mary E. Croy



**From:** [Tom Dieckelman](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1B  
**Date:** Friday, January 15, 2021 3:42:26 PM

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

As a longtime provider of transportation solutions in Wisconsin for over 75 years, Wisconsin Coach Lines has a proud history of serving the public. As an organization we are grateful for our employees who have worked extensively throughout the pandemic in providing needed transportation to other essential workers for other essential businesses; to those with no other means of transportation; as well as to those needing medical care. Without these essential employees, many other essential businesses would not be able to remain open and these transit customers would lose their jobs.

Our employees have stayed on the job throughout the pandemic. The needed transportation services we provide have been maintained while our employees have continuously been at considerable risk due to direct contact with the general public because of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements. Some of the partners we work with in providing transit solutions include the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (operating inter-city service between Milwaukee and Janesville, with stops at select cities in-between); Waukesha County and the City of Waukesha (operating the Waukesha County Express commuter service); and the City of Racine (operating commuter service between Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha Counties). In addition, we operate Airport Express between Waukesha, Milwaukee (including Mitchell Airport), Racine, Kenosha and O'Hare.

Transit Workers have been designated by the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (DHS/CISA) as Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers whose performance of critical functions places them at higher risk of exposure to COVID-19 infection. Not unexpectedly, across the country, several thousands of Transit Workers have tested positive for COVID-19, and hundreds of these brave workers have died, which is why many states have classified transit workers in 1B.

Wisconsin Coach Lines joins our transit industry partners from throughout the State in strongly advocating for the committee to include Transit Workers as Phase 1B recipients of the COVID-19 vaccine. Delaying vaccination to these critical frontline individuals only furthers the risk of disruption to our state's essential services, so having a healthy and vaccinated workforce is vital. Our systems are essential and critical to everyday life and we remain strong, dedicated, and essential during this pandemic and must be prioritized. In addition, we anticipate our services will be needed by many for transportation to vaccination sites over the next couple of months.

We understand the subcommittee's work on this process is a huge undertaking, so please understand your efforts are very much appreciated. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [tom.dieckelman@coachusa.com](mailto:tom.dieckelman@coachusa.com) or 262-542-8861, ext. 140.

Sincerely,

Tom

*Tom Dieckelman*

*President*

*Wisconsin Coach Lines/Coach USA*

*1520 Arcadian Ave.*

*Waukesha, WI 53186*

*(262)-542-8861, ext. 140*

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**From:** [andrew.sernatinger@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.sernatinger@gmail.com)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Inclusion of Transit Workers to Vaccine Priority  
**Date:** Friday, January 15, 2021 2:51:55 PM

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

My name is Andrew Sernatinger, I work in public transit in Madison, Wisconsin. I'm writing to implore you to include transit workers in the priority 1B for the COVID vaccination along with other public-facing essential workers.

As you may or may not know, transit operators have been working with the public in Madison without pause since the beginning of the pandemic. During the lockdown, transit operators continued to service the city. When the UW decided to start their fall semester with in person instruction, city buses serviced them. To no one's surprise, the UW then became THE transmission point for the Madison area, and all the while transit workers have been expected to shuttle them around without the ability to refuse service or even enforce that passengers wear masks as a minimal precaution.

One passenger literally spit in my coworker's face. Another was told by a passenger that they tested positive and were supposed to quarantine, but just needed to get out of the house and so were taking a bus ride. These are exceptional cases, but they prove the rule: this is a hazardous job. NBC news listed public transportation as one of the "[most dangerous jobs in the age of the coronavirus](#)"; Prospect.org highlighted the high death rates among transit workers "[with no end in sight](#)".

Transit workers deserve the basic respect of being included with other "public-facing essential workers" to receive the vaccine in priority group 1B. Please revise your recommendation.

Sincerely,

Andrew Sernatinger



**From:** [Todd Strasser](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1b  
**Date:** Friday, January 15, 2021 1:59:17 PM

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

Dear Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Todd Strasser and I am a city bus driver for the city of La Crosse. The City of La Crosse transports a million riders a year in a normal year. Yet I don't have to tell you that this is not your typical year. We service two hospitals along with their two clinical buildings. In La Crosse we have numerous neighborhood clinics as well and over a half dozen Covid testing sites. My bus route services both hospitals as well as a covid testing site. My bus is usually at 50% capacity (around 20 Passengers). Right away I can tell you that there is NO social distancing at all with that many people. Do to a federal mandate Title VI, I can not refuse any ridership whatsoever. So if I have a rider that doesn't want to wear a mask, I must let them ride, already a recipe for something bad to happen. Every time I stop at one of the hospitals, I always pick up or drop off passengers. I would say that with the clinics and hospitals along with the Covid testing sites, during my shift that would make up to 10-15% of my ridership.

As the committee can see, the likelihood of someone on my bus being positive for covid is real. You can ask anyone of our drivers and they will know of at least one if not two bus passengers that has passed away due to covid. It has been a bus that has been their means of transportation and knowing their last ride was with us. This really hits home. We have been supplied with tools to keep us safe. These might not be enough, for we are missing the most important tool and that is the vaccine.

Please protect me and protect my family. The Federal Government and the Home Land Security has deemed us Frontline and Essential Employees. PLEASE KEEP TRANSIT IN PHASE 1b.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Todd Strasser  
La Crosse MTU employee

**From:** [Carol Farrell](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccines  
**Date:** Friday, January 15, 2021 1:52:48 PM

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I see that phase 1b includes educators does it include bus drivers and other support staff? Also where are people with underlying health problem?

Thank you for your response,  
Carol Farrell

**From:** [Paul Kirk-Davidoff](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Transit Workers are Essential!  
**Date:** Friday, January 15, 2021 12:47:09 PM

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

Hi,

Transit workers are essential! Please add them to priority 1B group for vaccinations.

Best,  
Paul Kirk-Davidoff

**From:** [mike milde](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 1b Recommendations  
**Date:** Friday, January 15, 2021 12:15:35 PM

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

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm,

In reviewing Wisconsin's implementation of phase 1b vaccination eligibility, it appears that veterinarians would be expressly included as agricultural workers as well as practicing in close contact with with their (human) clients. CDC recommendations are as follows:

ACIP used CISA guidance to define frontline essential workers as the subset of essential workers likely at highest risk for work-related exposure to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, because their **work-related duties must be performed on-site and involve being in close proximity (<6 feet) to the public or to coworkers.** ACIP has classified the following non-health care essential workers as frontline workers: first responders (e.g., firefighters and police officers), corrections officers, food and **agricultural workers**, U.S. Postal Service workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and those who work in the education sector (teachers and support staff members) as well as child care workers.

I'm sure this was just an oversight, as the recommendations have been otherwise modified to include prisoners (excluded from the CDC 1b list) as well as mink husbandry workers, but apparently not the veterinary health workers caring for those animals. I would like to see this oversight rectified in the final recommendation for phase 1b.

Respectfully,

Michael W. Milde M.D.



**From:** [Kayla Hanson](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Vaccine  
**Date:** Friday, January 15, 2021 10:33:19 AM

---

Hello members of the WI State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

Thank you so much for your work on ensuring the vaccine rollout is efficient and equitable. It is incredibly important and necessary that the Phase 1B recommendation for the COVID-19 vaccine include congregate living facilities for both staff and residents.

Prioritization for this critical population is imperative for the following reasons:

- People experiencing homelessness have a disproportionately high rate of chronic health conditions that put people at higher risk of severe COVID disease. This population frequently has little access to consistent quality health care which may result in being excluded unless specifically prioritized.
- People who have exhausted all other resources and are staying in a shelter do not have a way to mitigate their COVID risk. They cannot avoid the interaction with other people and reliance on the organization to help meet basic needs and provide a safe place to be. Emergency shelters, including domestic violence shelters, use shared living spaces and have limited opportunities to meet the social distancing requirements.
- The homeless population is disproportionately people of color, who we know are also at greater risk of severe COVID disease. In Wisconsin, it was estimated that [6.7% of Wisconsin's population](#) was Black in 2009. In November 2020, [43% of the population experiencing homelessness was Black](#).
- Currently in the homeless service system, an enormous amount of funding, time, and resources have been focused directly on COVID-19 prevention, screening, education, and mitigating the spread of the disease. Once the shelter system and residents have access to the vaccine, staff time and resources can be redirected to obtaining and securing permanent housing.
- We are seeing and will continue to see an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness in our State. Evictions and people no longer able to stay with friends and family, the increasing economic burden of the pandemic and the limited funding and availability for motel voucher alternatives, there has been a statewide increase in people experiencing unsheltered homelessness - sleeping outside and in other places not meant for human habitation (e.g. caves, abandoned buildings, storage units, vehicles, fishing shacks). With an increased need, the risk of COVID in congregate settings, capacity reduction because of social distancing guidelines, shelters are struggling to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness. As a result, the unsheltered population continues to be at risk for COVID and should be included in our prioritization for the vaccine.

With our transitions program, we reach out to multiple people within our community that are homeless and are currently living in poverty. The vaccine would incredibly benefit the population here in Rock County for these people who are living at or below the poverty level.

The current recommendations for DHS regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b includes some concerns about feasibility in Appendix C. While feasibility is one domain of consideration, equity and justice should be additional considerations when working to ensure this vulnerable and at-risk population is prioritized. Due to the reasons above, it is imperative that people accessing shelters are prioritized for the vaccine. Collaboration between public health, those administering the vaccine, shelter and outreach staff will be essential to address the rollout concerns, distribution, education, and adherence to appropriate protocols. There will be a need for guidance on timelines, the second vaccine, and accurate education to address myths and misunderstandings. Across Wisconsin, homeless services providers have access to a shared database that can help us see what services people are accessing and possibly use to document vaccines. There are many options available to ensure success. Allowing unsheltered people experiencing homelessness to access the vaccine through the emergency shelter system should be encouraged and supported. While challenging, open communication and creative solutions will overcome those potential feasibility issues and enhance trust between the homeless population, staff, and public health. We cannot wait for a single dose vaccine to ensure that this vulnerable population and the staff that are working so hard to keep them safe are vaccinated.

Transitional housing settings often have shared living spaces as well. It is important that residents and staff of these facilities are considered in Phase 1B rollout. Again, this could be a challenging population to reach, but with clear communication and creative strategies, this can be successful. The efficacy of only prioritizing staff for the vaccine and not including the residents is a missing opportunity to develop partnership, trust, and demonstrate what we know to be true - COVID does not discriminate. Residents and staff are equally at risk.

The COVID-19 vaccine is a critical step toward ensuring the safety and the health of this vulnerable population and will provide much needed support to those facilities and staff struggling to provide these important services.

Thank you for your work in rolling out the vaccine and advocating for all Wisconsinites.

Sincerely,

Kayla Hanson, Program Director of Transitional Housing for the YWCA Rock County, 608-752-5445 ext. 248

*Kayla Hanson*

Program Director for Transitional Housing

318 Dodge Street #6

Janesville, WI 53548

608-752-5445 x248

**Pronouns: She/Her/Hers**

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**From:** [Dan Boehm](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Cc:** [Donna Brown- Martin](#)  
**Subject:** DHSSDMAC Vaccine subcommittee -- Phase 1B comment  
**Date:** Friday, January 15, 2021 9:04:24 AM  
**Attachments:** MCTS letter regarding 1B 2021 Transit workers.pdf

---

**DATE:** January 15, 2021

**TO:** WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES,  
STATE DISASTER MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**FROM:** Daniel Boehm, President and Managing Director – Milwaukee County Transit System

**SUBJECT:** Comment on Phase 1B Allocation Guidance for COVID-19 vaccine

Transit Workers have been designated by the Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (DHS/CISA) as Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers whose performance of critical functions places them at higher risk of exposure to COVID-19. In addition, the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) used CISA guidance to define frontline essential workers as the subset of essential workers likely at highest risk for work-related exposure. **The Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) strongly urges the committee to include Transit Workers as Phase 1B recipients of the COVID-19 vaccine.**

Transit Workers are a small but indispensable segment of critical infrastructure employees.

MCTS employs 750 bus operators and 140 mechanics that keep buses rolling 365 days out of the year. Our frontline workers make sure that essential workers get to the jobs that keep our economy moving. While many have had the ability to telework, bus operators and mechanics have not. Instead, their work-related duties must be performed on-site and involve being in close proximity to the public or co-workers. They are central to keeping our economy moving forward. Delaying vaccination to these workers only furthers the risk of disruption to our state’s essential services.

The continuous operation of MCTS is critical to everyday life in the State’s most populous County. During the pandemic, MCTS workers have stayed on the job to keep Milwaukee moving. We serve some of Wisconsin’s most underserved, marginalized, and hardest hit communities and neighborhoods. Our employees

wear masks  
on buses, and we safely dispense masks to passengers that board buses without one. We also limit  
ridership to  
no more than 15 passengers to afford space for social distancing.

A focus placed on vaccinating schoolteachers in Wisconsin is understandable given the sense of  
normalcy  
derived from re-opening schools but let us not overlook the fact that transit operators will be called  
upon to  
transport students to school. Prioritizing vaccines for these frontline workers will ensure that the  
virus is not  
spread from students to bus operators, or from bus operators to students. This understanding  
informs why the  
CDC's Evidence Table for COVID-19 Vaccines Allocation in Phases 1b of the Vaccination Program  
includes both  
public transit workers, and those who work in the education sector (teachers and support staff  
members).

Thank you for consideration of this request to **include public transit workers in Phase IB of  
Wisconsin's  
vaccination allocation**. If you have questions, please contact me at 414-937-3272 or  
[dboehm@mcts.org](mailto:dboehm@mcts.org)

**Daniel A. Boehm**

President & Managing Director  
(414) 937-3272 | [Dboehm@mcts.org](mailto:Dboehm@mcts.org)  
[Milwaukee County Transit System](#)  
1942 N 17th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53205  
Check us out on [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#)



## Milwaukee County Transit System

1942 North 17th Street • Milwaukee, Wisconsin • 53205-1697

(414) 344-4550 • RideMCTS.com

**DATE:** January 15, 2021

**TO:** WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES,  
STATE DISASTER MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**FROM:** Daniel Boehm, President and Managing Director

**SUBJECT:** Comment on Phase 1B Allocation Guidance for COVID-19 vaccine

Transit Workers have been designated by the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (DHS/CISA) as Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers whose performance of critical functions places them at higher risk of exposure to COVID-19. In addition, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) used CISA guidance to define frontline essential workers as the subset of essential workers likely at highest risk for work-related exposure. **The Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) strongly urges the committee to include Transit Workers as Phase 1B recipients of the COVID-19 vaccine.**

Transit Workers are a small but indispensable segment of critical infrastructure employees. MCTS employs 750 bus operators and 140 mechanics that keep buses rolling 365 days out of the year. Our frontline workers make sure that essential workers get to the jobs that keep our economy moving. While many have had the ability to telework, bus operators and mechanics have not. Instead, their work-related duties must be performed on-site and involve being in close proximity to the public or co-workers. They are central to keeping our economy moving forward. Delaying vaccination to these workers only furthers the risk of disruption to our state's essential services.

The continuous operation of MCTS is critical to everyday life in the State's most populous County. During the pandemic, MCTS workers have stayed on the job to keep Milwaukee moving. We serve some of Wisconsin's most underserved, marginalized, and hardest hit communities and neighborhoods. Our employees wear masks on buses, and we safely dispense masks to passengers that board buses without one. We also limit ridership to no more than 15 passengers to afford space for social distancing.

A focus placed on vaccinating schoolteachers in Wisconsin is understandable given the sense of normalcy derived from re-opening schools but let us not overlook the fact that transit operators will be called upon to transport students to school. Prioritizing vaccines for these frontline workers will ensure that the virus is not spread from students to bus operators, or from bus operators to students. This understanding informs why the **CDC's Evidence Table for COVID-19 Vaccines Allocation in Phases 1b of the Vaccination Program includes both public transit workers, and those who work in the education sector (teachers and support staff members).**

Thank you for consideration of this request to include public transit workers in Phase 1B of Wisconsin's vaccination allocation. If you have questions, please contact me at 414-937-3272 or [dboehm@mcts.org](mailto:dboehm@mcts.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Boehm".

Daniel Boehm  
President and Managing Director, MCTS

**From:** [Katie White](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Phase 1B Guidance--Public Transit (WIPTA Request)--Vaccine Subcommittee  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 5:06:05 PM  
**Attachments:** WIPTA Phase 1B SDMAC Letter.pdf  
PastedGraphic-3.png

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Good afternoon:

Attached is a slightly updated memo from the Wisconsin Public Transportation Association (WIPTA) reiterating its request for Transit Workers to be included in Phase 1B. Since our original comments last week, we are now hearing systems around the state are being asked to help get people to vaccinating sites. Transit Workers, who are a small but important segment of the employment population, play a vital role in communities around the state ensuring essential workers get to essential businesses and are now being relied on as a solution to get residents to vaccinators. It's even more critical these essential front-line workers are prioritized.

We thank the Subcommittee for all its work, and we sincerely hope our request can be considered.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Katie White

On Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 11:32 AM Katie White <[kwhite@hwz-gov.com](mailto:kwhite@hwz-gov.com)> wrote:

Good afternoon:

I am reaching out on behalf of the Wisconsin Public Transportation Association (WIPTA) in advance of tomorrow's continued discussion on Phase 1B guidance. Attached is our request for Transit Workers to be included in Phase 1B allocation. Transit Workers, who are on the frontlines in a high risk environment providing a vital service for essential workers and essential businesses, must be prioritized.

We are hopeful when the Subcommittee meets tomorrow our request can be considered. We appreciate all your work on this matter.

Thank you very much for the consideration and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

--

**Katie White**

106 East Doty Street, Suite 210

Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Office: 608-255-0566

Mobile: 608-217-0870

[www.hwz-gov.com](http://www.hwz-gov.com)



--

**Katie White**

106 East Doty Street, Suite 210  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
Office: 608-255-0566  
Mobile: 608-217-0870  
[www.hwz-gov.com](http://www.hwz-gov.com)





**TO: WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES,  
STATE DISASTER MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**FROM: WISCONSIN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION (WIPTA)**

**DATE: JANUARY 14, 2021**

**RE: COMMENT ON PHASE 1B ALLOCATION GUIDANCE FOR COVID-19 VACCINE**

*VIA EMAIL to DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov*

The Wisconsin Public Transportation Association (WIPTA) represents 28 urban and rural bus systems, 43 shared ride taxi systems, 24 associate and affiliate members, and more than 2,900 transit operations workers statewide. Transit Workers are a small but incredibly important segment of the employment population in the state; and in Wisconsin, prior to the pandemic, they provided 33 million rides to work (55%); 8.4 million education related trips (14%); 12 million rides for shopping, tourism, and recreation (20%); and 6.6 million trips for healthcare purposes (11%).

Transit Workers have been designated by the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (DHS/CISA) as Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers whose performance of critical functions places them at higher risk of exposure to COVID-19 infection. Not unexpectedly, across the country, several thousands of Transit Workers have tested positive for COVID-19, and hundreds of these brave workers have died.

During the pandemic, transit systems and Transit Workers across the state have worked tirelessly to provide vital transportation to essential workers for essential businesses. While suffering disruptions from staffing shortages due to infection and quarantine and the shortage of PPE and supplies, Transit Workers have stayed on the job through nearly the entire pandemic. Desperately needed transportation options for our communities have been maintained while our Transit Workers have continuously been at considerable risk due to direct contact with the general public because of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements.

The pandemic has reduced optional ridership significantly and many of those who rely on public transportation have no other options. Many of these riders are essential health care workers in assisted living facilities, nursing homes, clinics, and local hospitals. Additionally, Transit Workers

are providing trips for everyday needs such as medical appointments, dialysis, and prescription refills for those who have no other form of transportation. Furthermore, community leaders have already begun reaching out to our systems to make sure qualifying residents can even have the ability to get to vaccinators. The most desperately needed service is in the state's underserved, marginalized, and hardest hit communities and neighborhoods, including both rural and urban settings.

Further, grocery stores, retail stores, and other businesses open to serve the community for essential needs rely on public transportation to ensure employees - whose only option is public transit - are able to get to these jobs. Without these employees, many essential businesses would not be able to remain open and these transit customers would lose their jobs.

In sum, not only do Transit Workers require prioritization given their own perilous work, but without healthy Transit Workers our citizens who rely on public transportation as their only form of mobility lose basic transportation for food and medical needs; essential employers lose essential workers; and those in the most difficult situations lose their ability to work and provide for themselves and their families.

WIPTA strongly urges the committee to include Transit Workers as Phase 1B recipients of the COVID-19 vaccine. Transit Workers are a small, easily identifiable, indispensable segment of employees on which communities are relying to get individuals to vaccinators. Delaying vaccination to these critical frontline individuals only furthers the risk of disruption to our state's essential services, so having a healthy and vaccinated workforce is vital. Public transit now more than ever is the bridge from here to there; the difference between able and unable; and the difference between independent and dependent. Our systems are essential and critical to everyday life and we remain strong, dedicated, and essential during this pandemic and must be prioritized.

We thank the subcommittee for its thoughtful work during these difficult times and for the consideration of our request. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Tom Wagener, WIPTA President; [tom.wagener@eauclairwi.gov](mailto:tom.wagener@eauclairwi.gov); 715-839-5111 or Patty Kiewiz, WIPTA Legislative Chair; [Patricia.Kiewiz@greenbaywi.gov](mailto:Patricia.Kiewiz@greenbaywi.gov); 920-448-3455.

**From:** [Jamie Clausius](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** 1b Vaccination Question  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:23:41 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I have a question about who qualifies under the 1b recommendation in regards to public-facing essential workers. I am a rideshare driver for Uber and Lyft and come in contact with the public on a daily basis, do I qualify for this classification for the vaccine?

Thank you!

Jamie Clausius

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Brummond, Brad](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine subcommittee Tier 1B - Public Transportation  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:12:54 PM

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Committee Members,

I feel that Public transportation workers have been overlooked as essential workers that should be included in the first rounds of COVID-19 vaccination. The reasons are as follows:

- 1) They provide transportation to other essential workers so that services can remain available to the public
- 2) They provide transportation for public to and from Medical appointments (WDHS has listed this as a tier 1A level), not knowing if someone is going to the medical facility for a COVID test as they may be experiencing signs or symptoms.
- 3) The number of contacts public transportation operators have is far greater than that of Firefighters or even EMT's or paramedics or even law enforcement in a given day putting them at a much higher risk.

As you can see from these reasons alone Public Transportation Operators are extremely overlooked as some of the most at risk essential workers other than the health care professionals themselves.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Brad Brummond**  
**Transit Administrator**  
**Merrill Transit System**  
**1004 E. First Street**  
**Merrill, WI 54452**  
**715-536-7112**

**From:** [Lorentz, Adam](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:18:10 AM

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To:  
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES,  
STATE DISASTER MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## TRANSIT EMPLOYEES – ESSENTIAL WORKERS WHO FACE MORE PEOPLE OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON A DAILY BASIS THAN ANY OTHER GROUP

I understand that the task that is in front of this committee is one of the most difficult decisions each of you will ever have to make. How do you prioritize one life over another? With that being said, if you follow the federal guidelines and the reasonings set forth by this committee on who gets categorized into phases, Transit Employees fit the description of PHASE 1B. I am having trouble, along with many, trying to understand the reasoning why they would not be? Transit employees are essential workers who are tasked with the responsibility to our citizens to provide them safe and reliable transportation. We have done this throughout the pandemic all while dealing with many struggles on staffing, health emergencies and ever changing policies. Transit agencies are required by law to allow all people to board the bus – we cannot enforce our own restrictions to help protect our employees and other passengers.

I ask that **TRANSIT** front line employees be placed back into PHASE 1B.

Respectfully,

*Adam Lorentz*

Adam Lorentz  
Director of MTU  
Tranist Manager  
City of La Crosse  
La Crosse MTU  
608-789-7350

**From:** [Tom Wagener](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B Recommendations  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:51:57 AM  
**Attachments:** image002.png

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Please consider including Public Transit workers in the Phase 1b distribution of the vaccine.

As transit manager for the City of Eau Claire, I have had to put extreme contingencies (cross training of other municipal employees for example) in place to ensure that we can provide our essential service to our community so that vulnerable users can continue to access: medical care, employment, nutrition and other essential services. A disruption to our service would have a significant impact to our community, especially those who are disadvantaged.

Public Transit workers across the state have worked to maintain this vital service, even though Federal Requirements make it impossible to follow the disease prevention guidelines of maintaining 6 feet of separation and avoiding physical contact with users who need assistance.

25% of our workforce has lost time due to the virus, resulting in the implementation of the extreme contingencies. Our workers are being asked to work despite CDC guidelines that recognizes that the activities they are required to perform put them at risk.

Often times, drivers are transporting individuals known to have contracted the virus to medical facilities, increasing the risk to them even more.

This sector is easily identifiable and administering the vaccine to them would be accomplished quite easily through local governments. This would help to alleviate some of the concerns these essential workers have due to the level of risk they are required to face every day.

Thank you.

Thomas Wagener  
City of Eau Claire  
Transit Manager

715-839-5111



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**From:** [Sanon, Reuben A](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC; AZITA HAMEDANI](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Letter of support 1B expansion to Metro - Mayor of Madison  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:58:11 AM  
**Attachments:** Letter to Vaccination Committee for 1B expansion.pdf

---

Apologies. Attached is the correct version of the letter.

Thank you.

RS

-----  
Reuben Sanon (He, Him, His)  
Deputy Mayor City of Madison  
Room 403, City-County Building  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
Desk Phone: 608-261-9837

---

**From:** Sanon, Reuben A  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:17 AM  
**To:** 'dhssdmac@dhs.wisconsin.gov' <dhssdmac@dhs.wisconsin.gov>; 'agh@medicine.wisc.edu' <agh@medicine.wisc.edu>  
**Subject:** Letter of support 1B expansion to Metro - Mayor of Madison

Dear Chair Azita Hamedani and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Please find attached letter from the Mayor of Madison asking to expand phase 1B vaccinations to include metro staff.

Thank you,  
RS

-----  
Reuben Sanon (He, Him, His)  
Deputy Mayor City of Madison  
Room 403, City-County Building  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
Desk Phone: 608-261-9837



## Office of the Mayor

Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor

City-County Building, Room 403  
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Phone: (608) 266-4611

Fax: (608) 267-8671

[mayor@cityofmadison.com](mailto:mayor@cityofmadison.com)

[www.cityofmadison.com](http://www.cityofmadison.com)

January 14, 2021

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
1 West Wilson St.  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Chair Azita Hamedani and Honorable Members of the Committee,

First, I want to thank you for your work to advance the COVID-19 vaccine and protect the residents of our state. Thank you also for including our police and fire employees in category 1B as essential frontline workers who have a significant amount of public contact. I am writing to request that the scope of 1B vaccinations be expanded to include transit operators.

Transit workers in Wisconsin never blinked and never paused in providing an essential service during this pandemic. Their workstation is an enclosed air space shared with many passengers every day. Even with ridership down due to the pandemic, Madison Metro is transporting over ten thousand people every single day. Not only does that expose our staff, it also allows our staff to expose passengers. Moreover the sedentary nature of the work often exacerbates underlying health conditions, which may further put them at more significant risks for health concerns.

Transit provides much needed transport to other essential workers, including many grocery store workers and health care professionals, who often have no other options. Madison Metro worked hard to provide the buses at the times they were needed to hospital and health care staff all through the pandemic.

Finally, transit is and will continue to be an essential part of rebuilding our economy, especially once traffic and parking congestion returns to threatening economic activity unless other safe travel options are provided. It is imperative the people feel safe using transit and that our employees feel safe in providing it. That's why we ask that transit workers be included in phase 1B.

Thank you for your service to the state of Wisconsin in this difficult time, and thank you for considering this request.

Yours,

January 14, 2021  
Page 2

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SRConway', written in a cursive style.

Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor  
City of Madison

**From:** [Sanon, Reuben A](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC; AZITA HAMEDANI](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of support 1B expansion to Metro - Mayor of Madison  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:17:01 AM  
**Attachments:** Letter to Vaccination Committee for 1B expansion.docx

---

Dear Chair Azita Hamedani and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Please find attached letter from the Mayor of Madison asking to expand phase 1B vaccinations to include metro staff.

Thank you,  
RS

-----  
Reuben Sanon (He, Him, His)  
Deputy Mayor City of Madison  
Room 403, City-County Building  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
Desk Phone: 608-261-9837



**From:** [Nick Braxton](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:40:21 PM

---

I am writing this email to inform whomever it may concern that I think transit workers should be included into phase 1B. We transit operators are essential and come into close proximity of the general public daily. The fact that I need to write this email doesn't make sense to me. People who are making this decision from their home office about People who come across much of the public for a job should really think this over.

**From:** [Melissa](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 5:34:27 PM

---

Why are you putting teachers out front to get shots. When transit bus drivers and post office carriers should be before them. We have been working with public this whole time. Transit should get first having to haul all the homeless drunks and people that cannot stay home.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Collins, Jim](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 7:53:35 AM  
**Attachments:** image003.png

---

Good Morning,

I am writing to officially request public transit workers be included in phase 1b of the vaccination plan. Transit Operators and transit service have been identified as essential workers and essential service by the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency as well by Governor Evers. As such, our transit service has not been suspended and we have asked our employees to continue to work and accept the high risk of exposure to COVID-19 infection in order to provide this critical service. Our transit workers have worked tirelessly to provide vital transportation to essential workers for essential businesses.

Therefore, transit workers require prioritization given the perils of their work. Additionally, if they are unable to work due to infection or quarantine citizens will not be able to get to school, work, grocery stores or medical appointments.

I strongly encourage the committee to include transit workers in Phase 1b. Transit workers are a small essential group of employees on which communities will also rely on to get individuals to vaccinators.

Thank you for your work and consideration during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Jim Collins  
Transportation Director  
City of Oshkosh  
920.232.5342  
Follow us: [Web](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

