

From: [Jeff Korosec](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 6:54:08 AM

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January 18, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY TO DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov

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

RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is **Jeffrey Korosec** and I am from **Elkhorn**, 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 believe veterinary health care professionals are essential. Those who feel otherwise may have a poor understanding of our profession. The human animal bond is so important to individuals and their families especially during this pandemic. For veterinary health care professionals it is next to impossible to social distance and provide care to our patients. Like many other essential workers, we are taking risks every day coming to work. Not just risking our health but the certainty that we will have to close down if someone becomes sick with COVID or we have close contacts. Without this essential service we provide many pets would go without the needed care.

Thank you for considering this request.

Jeffrey Korosec DVM

From: LisaO@wholepetclinic.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinary Professionals - COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 6:41:48 AM

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January 18, 2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm

Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee

Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinary Professionals be included in COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b

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

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

Veterinary health care workers are essential frontline workers that provide critical care to both food/fiber animals and companion animals throughout the state and in Dane County in a clinical and house call capacity. Our clinic is currently providing medical, surgical, and urgent care curbside now with a huge demand for our services. If veterinary clinics and facilities were to close due to a COVID-19 outbreak among veterinary staff, there may not be accessible alternatives for patients. As a profession, we cannot work from home and currently, the provision of veterinary care via telehealth is not allowed under Wisconsin law. As a result, our patient care requires uninterrupted in-person/curbside visits and availability of our unique health care services.

I am disappointed to see veterinary professionals overlooked in this recommendation for the next phase of vaccine distribution. I respectfully urge you to include all Wisconsin and Dane County veterinary personnel in the COVID Phase 1b Vaccine Priority Group.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

Lisa Olson DVM

Whole Pet Veterinary Clinic

529 South Park Street

Madison WI 53715

608.270.1070

fax: 608.663.0311

www.wholepetclinic.com

[Redacted contact information]

[Redacted text block]

From: [Dawn Miksic](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:00:56 AM

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January 17, 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. Dawn Miksic and I am a veterinarian working in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask you to include veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I am saddened to see that veterinarians are not considered health care professionals when it comes to vaccination for COVID-19. We do not treat humans, but our patients come attached to a human in the form of an owner with every interaction we have. We have worked hard to mitigate our staff exposure to COVID-19 with curbside service but my staff is potentially exposed on a daily basis as they still have close contact with owners when they are crawling into client cars to retrieve a pet or when talking to clients many of whom do not respect the mask mandate. We also bring owners into the

[REDACTED] ing their pet. Often owners are distraught and sobbing and often [REDACTED] as they are kissing their pet goodbye one last time.

[REDACTED] ential worker status in March when the state was under quarantine. We happily limited our use of PPE and conserved our surgical supplies to emergency or urgent need patients so more supplies would be available for our human health care professional counterparts. But that left us with less PPE and no N95 masks available for our protection.

[REDACTED] this [REDACTED] that there is a shortage of veterinary care in our area and an overflowing number of new pets that were recently adopted. Owners are waiting hours in the emergency clinic parking lots where they used to wait minutes. They are waiting days for sick appointments when it used to be hours. And the veterinary specialists are scheduling out months before they can see a patient when often an urgent problem could be seen the same day. Our system is already taxed. I feel that we will catch up over time or we will hire additional staff and things will improve. But if any one of our staff gets COVID-19 it could shut our clinic down. We cannot social distance when we are treating animals. It requires one person holding the pet at a minimum while another examines the pet. We wear masks on a regular basis from the time we get to work to the time we leave. We remove them only to eat and drink. But as I have said we do not have N95 masks and we cannot social distance while doing our job, so if 1 staff [REDACTED] rely it will spread to more of us. If we shut down our clinic for a [REDACTED] we limit our services, then fewer pets can be treated and it over-taxes the rest of the veterinary clinics in the area and they are already overburdened.

In addition, there have been reports of veterinary patients getting sick and/or dying from Covid-19. Both dogs and cats and now ferrets and mink are at risk.

So please consider including Veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], TM

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Dr. Bailee Stahl](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:13:58 PM

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

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

My name is Dr. Bailee Stahl and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am an Emergency and Critical Care Veterinarian. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I work at Madison Veterinary Specialist where we have multiple doctors and numerous staff including technicians, assistants, and support staff. We are a 24/7 facility and therefore have people here at all times. We have remained open to help as many animals as possible. However, while we try to keep distance from one another, that is impossible during patient care.

Our other services act as a curbside only practice, however on emergency we have more contact with owners. When possible, we are curbside but for euthanasia's and end of life visits, we are allowing owners to be present in small numbers.

It breaks my heart having to limit the amount of family that can be present to say goodbye to their beloved pet and it is difficult on myself and my staff to not be allowed to have clients visit when their pet is in the hospital for days at a time. While this is extremely difficult, we do it to protect our human health over the animals – which is tough as a veterinarian who has always put animal health first.

If we were able to be vaccinated, we would feel more protected as a clinic and be allowed to have clients in the building more often. This would allow owners to be able to say goodbye to their pets in their last minutes and it would allow owners to come visit and monitor progress of their pets that are severely ill and in hospital for a long time. I truly believe this would help the animals get better quicker and it would help the owners' emotional health as they hate being away from their animal.

Thank you for considering this request.

Bailee Stahl, DVM

From: [Emily Duane](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians and veterinary staff in group 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:13:41 PM

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I am responding to the document entitled "Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Recommendations for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b".

First of all, thank you all for taking on the unenviable task of organizing vaccine distribution and priority. It is likely one of the most important tasks of the decade.

I believe that veterinarians and veterinary staff should be in group 1b for COVID vaccine priority for the following reasons:

1) Coronaviruses including SARS-CoV-2 (virus causing COVID-19) are ZOO NOTIC. This means they can spread between animals and people. Veterinarians and veterinary staff are at the forefront in treating all species of animals from fish to ferrets (close relative of mink) to bats to cats to cows. We have close contact with these animals, which may include exchange of the SARS-CoV-2 virus if the human is infected. ANY passing of virus from human to animal (or animal to human) gives the virus the chance to mutate or spread (as evidenced on mink farms). Vaccinating veterinarians and staff will hopefully decrease this risk.

2) The veterinary profession has been able to respond quickly to the pandemic and we are often able to adopt "curbside" protocol to reduce traffic flow in the hospital. Even with curbside, our staff has to go to the car to retrieve the animal. Often, the owner is not wearing a mask and is up close to our staff to explain why they have arrived at our ER. There are also situations where owners have to come into the building such as for humane euthanasia. In these situations, we wear a face shield on top of a face mask but cannot avoid close contact with the grieving family and pet. Understandably, the crying family members are frequently pulling down masks to blow their nose, etc. Vaccination would help to protect veterinarians in these types of unavoidable situations.

3) We cannot socially distance from co-workers in many situations. Generally, one person restrains or distracts the animal while the veterinarian does the wound repair, examination, blood draw, etc. During these times, we have no choice but to be within 1-2 feet of each other's (masked) faces. Obviously, we try to limit these situations but most are unavoidable. Vaccination would help prevent spread in the clinic and therefore in the general population as well.

4) Veterinarians ensure the health and adequate supply of agricultural animals. There is already a serious shortage of food animal veterinarians. Sick veterinarians missing work or dying due to COVID-19 is a serious threat to our food supply. Enough said.

5) Veterinarians could assist human health care providers if the human health care industry becomes overwhelmed by COVID-19 cases. This is especially a possibility given the recent spread of the new SARS-CoV-2 variant. Obviously, veterinarians are not directly trained to take care of humans but humans are mammals just like cats and dogs. In the situation where there are not enough doctors, nurses, CNAs, EMTs, etc to care for ill people, veterinarians could step in to help out and assist healthcare professionals.

In summary, I strongly believe that veterinarians and veterinary staff should be in group 1b for vaccine priority. Regardless of the ultimate decision, thank you all for taking the time to read my letter and consider my opinion.

Sincerely,

Dr. Emily Duane, DVM

VCA Veterinary Emergency Service and Veterinary Specialty Center in Middleton and Madison, Wisconsin

From: [Sarah Stock](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:05:33 PM

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

My name is Sarah Stock and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am 3rd year veterinary student at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Veterinarians are bitten, scratched and defecated on every day, at best. We're also overwhelmed with compassion fatigue, low income to debt ratios and frustrated clients. Our difficult job is being made harder by this pandemic as veterinarians must put their health on the line to keep their doors open. While veterinarians don't work on human patients, staff spend much of the day in close contact with each other to complete procedures and provide restraint/monitoring, preventing social distancing. Even with many veterinary clinics switching to parking lot drop-offs, there is a certain level of physical contact with the public that takes places and in some cases, such as in-home euthanasias, there is also limited ability to distance. Pet owners and meat, poultry and dairy producers cannot afford veterinary clinics to close due to COVID outbreaks. A closed clinic can mean the difference between life and death or suffering and treatment. Therefore it is imperative that veterinarians are vaccinated as soon as possible.

Furthermore, as part of our curriculum, 1st-3rd year veterinary students have hands-on learning opportunities requiring us to interact with each other in close quarters on campus. These activities range from anatomical dissections to ovariohysterectomy surgeries on live patients and CPR code practice-runs and are absolutely essential to the development of our medical abilities and understandings. Each time I attend a lab, I recognize that I am putting my health and the health of those in my household at risk. I'm also extremely aware that just one COVID-positive student showing up to class after a false-negative test could infect 20+ students (though we wear PPE, many procedures require proximity) and put a temporary hold on our learning.

In a few months, I will enter my 4th year and begin clinical rotations, where I will be in close contact with lab technicians and other doctors all day as we huddle around the patients we're trying to care for. I will also be traveling to externships as well as routinely meeting the general public at their cars to retrieve/deliver their pets and talk with them about medical histories and exam findings. Though I will may have the same exposure level as an ICU nurse, I will still be spending my day in close contact with pets, owners, and colleagues that could be COVID positive. My school is doing everything in their power to minimize risk and provide PPE, but quite frankly, social distancing can't always be maintained when a life is on the line (especially when our job requires us to crowd around a kitten for restraint and vaccines).

We're running out of time to make up clinical experiences. If I miss a lab now because I get sick, it's extremely hard to find time to make up that experience. Once I hit 4th year, our schedules are set in advance and if I'm sick for two weeks, there's nothing I can do to get those hours of experience back. I already feel like our education has been greatly compromised by this pandemic and it is crucial that everything in the state's power be done to preserve learning at the school of veterinary medicine to ensure that the next four years of DVM graduates are adequately prepared to care for the animals of Wisconsin.

[REDACTED]

request.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Carla Twardowski](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:57:42 PM

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January 17, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY TO DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Dr. Carla Twardowski, DVM, and I am from Columbus, Wisconsin. I am a Veterinarian at Columbus Countryside Veterinary Clinic, a 5 doctor veterinary practice, with over 30 employees, and currently the only veterinary clinic serving the community of Columbus, but we serve well beyond the borders of Columbus. I am writing to ask you to include veterinary health care professionals, as well as other veterinary staff, in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

As a 5 doctor, small animal veterinary practice, we are a very busy practice, and we have become only busier since the beginning of the pandemic. We have remained open, via curbside service to our clients, going out to them in the rain, heat, snow, cold, and everything in between, and bringing our patients into our practice to do what services they need. This has put a huge challenge on our staff, our clients, and has limited our ability to fully serve all of our clients and patients fully. We have had to turn away more appointments than we would like to talk about because we just don't have the time because of the way we have to do business now. In October, the worst almost happened, as over 25% of our staff contracted COVID, and more needed to stay home because of exposure and childcare concerns because of exposure. We became even more strapped and further behind in our ability to do our jobs.

From: [Mieke Baan](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B - Veterinary Professionals should be included
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:43:30 PM

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Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

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

As a small animal internist, I work at a large emergency and specialty veterinary hospital. Our team of veterinary professionals has provided essential healthcare services for our veterinary patients throughout the pandemic. As one of the few emergency clinics that provides after hours veterinary care, we have been instrumental in taking care of urgently ill pets. In addition, we provide specialty care (oncology, internal medicine, surgery) for the more complex and gravely ill patients.

During the pandemic, we have stayed open, and our hours have not changed. Pets are part of our families, and our clinic as a whole has come together to continue be able to keep those family members healthy and happy. An outbreak of COVID19 in our clinic would be devastating for a pet-patient population that needs urgent healthcare and continued care by a specialist.

We are not able to work from home. We are not able to provide adequate care via tele medicine. We are essential animal healthcare workers, and we should be included in phase 1B of the vaccination plan.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Mieke Baan

From: dianepetvet@twc.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1B,Veterinary Essential Healthcare Workers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:27:51 PM

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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to request that Veterinary essential healthcare workers be included in Phase 1B. Veterinarians and their staff have constant and chronic exposure to Covid 19 through clinical and subclinical patients. Idexx and Antech labs have tested many animals with respiratory infections and have proven cats, ferrets and dogs have Covid 19 in their respiratory tracts. We have patients on a weekly basis who are suspect to have Covid 19.

Veterinarians, technicians and assistants work in close proximity. We are face to face with our patients and each other while we perform the physical exams on our patients. Many of them cough and sneeze in our face as we perform their nasal, oral and ocular examinations. The majority of our patients are held in our arms on the exam table and while being transported back and forth for treatment and lab work.

I myself have had [REDACTED]. I am waiting to be vaccinated prior to returning to work.

Please include us in the 1B Phase.

Sincerely,

Diane Doria DVM

From: [Elana Frankenthal](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:20:18 PM

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Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Elana Frankenthal and I am from Middleton, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian. 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 Sondel Family Veterinary Clinic in Madison, WI where we work to keep dogs and cats healthy. Although we have been able to practice curbside medicine and have minimal interaction with the public, we are forced to work very closely with our staff without the ability to safely socially distance and have been working exceptionally long hours since COVID-19 began. Our exam rooms do not allow for 6 feet of distance and practicing medicine on animals MUST be done with close contact with one another. Restraint, monitoring anesthesia, performing surgery, all require very close contact with one another. We all wear masks but our close contact with each other to simply do our jobs results in our entire practice needing to be shut down if one of our staff breaks with COVID-19. This would be extremely detrimental from a health standpoint to animals in our community. Our patients would need to seek veterinary care elsewhere, but other clinics in our area are practicing at capacity and booking out WEEKS to MONTHS in some cases. Our veterinary emergency hospitals are understaffed and the wait times are sometimes as long as 4-8 hours to be seen since they're working at capacity as well. Curbside medicine takes much longer and prevents veterinarians from seeing the same number of patients we typically see pushing our schedules out. Dane County residents are also adopting and purchasing

[REDACTED] since the pandemic than in years past since people are home more,
[REDACTED] pet, and want companionship. Please consider us for phase 1B.
[REDACTED] extremely hard. [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] We are all working overtime to help the general public and our risk of exposure to
COVID-19 is greater than your average person.

Thank you for considering this request.

Elana Frankenthal, DVM, MBA

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [MacKenzie Pellin](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:18:43 PM

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

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

I am an oncologist and assistant professor at the School of Veterinary Medicine/UW Veterinary Care. My job entails providing patient/client care to Wisconsin residents as well as clients who travel from across the Midwest and United States to seek care for their cats and dogs at our renowned hospital. I also teach future generations of veterinary professionals including residents, interns, and veterinary students. A Covid outbreak at our clinic would impact multitudes of people and animals, by disrupting patient care, teaching and education, and research that impacts both human and animal patients. Faculty and staff at the School of Veterinary Medicine and UW Veterinary Care have been working as essential staff since the beginning of the pandemic and we have shown remarkable flexibility, creativity, and dedication in order to do our work safely. Please allow us to be included in Phase 1b so we can best protect ourselves, our students, and our clients and continue to do our vital work.

Thank you for considering this request.

MacKenzie Pellin, DVM, DACVIM (Medical oncology), DACVR (Radiation oncology)

From: [Amy Petersen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: To Vaccine Subcommittee; Re Phase 1B Public Comments
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 8:55:20 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to implore you to include Zoo professionals in the Tier 1B COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out in the state of Wisconsin. My name is Amy Petersen and I am the Primary Carnivore 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, especially the big cats. Many of our species are as susceptible, if not more, than mink. I am at the same level of risk of exposure as mink farmers who are included in the draft of tier 1B. Due to the nature of my work, I also must work with other animal care professionals, and am also exposed to the public on a daily basis, putting me at a greater risk.

While 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 the Tier 1B of COVID-19 roll-out is critical to public health and safety.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy

Amy Petersen

Primary Carnivore Keeper

Racine Zoo

amypetersen@uwalumni.com

apetersen@racinezoo.org

From: [Mary Frances Picone](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 8:39:53 PM

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Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Mary Frances Picone and I live in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. I am a pharmacist who works at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin and was included in the phase 1a vaccination group. [REDACTED] is a Veterinary Oncology Intern at University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals, veterinarians and veterinary technicians, in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Veterinary health care workers cannot work remotely or work from home. Currently, the provision of veterinary care via telehealth is not allowed under Wisconsin law. As a result, the provision of patient care requires uninterrupted in-person provision and availability of health care services. One method of reducing risk for staff that clinics in my area have implemented is to reduce their clinic staffing volume and keep certain groups rotating in the clinic together (eg, the same vet and technicians). Since our veterinarians have to put themselves at risk every day, it makes sense that as a clinic they should try to implement all measures possible to reduce staff risk. However, this particular approach has meant that it is very challenging to see a veterinarian on short notice for those urgent but not emergent issues that might come up, as well as make any typical preventative care appointment.

I myself own 2 dogs and have had to take them to my veterinarian several times throughout the pandemic, both for routine and urgent care. My veterinarian here in Wauwatosa has implemented a curbside practice, where owners wait in the car for the duration of the visit, but I interact with the technician several times in the course of a visit. Additionally, due to the reduced staffing, it has been incredibly challenging to make an impromptu appointment for those issues that come up and require a visit; once clinics opened back up, they were playing quite a bit of catch-up to manage their current clients and issues that had cropped up during the several months we were completely shut down. For example, in September, one of my dogs experienced an urgent issue where I tried to seek care from my typical veterinarian, but was unable to schedule a same-day appointment and had to go to a new veterinarian who did not know my dog or have any of her records. In the next month, another urgent

[redacted] my dog started experiencing very severe diarrhea. Again, I had [redacted] an appointment within a reasonable time frame for my dog [redacted] ve a prescription for medications that would treat the diarrhea. I [redacted] seek care at and [redacted] a [redacted]. At that point, my dog had been having severe diarrhea since Wednesday [redacted] (urs). This was not an issue urgent enough for the emergency veterinarian, but also needed the flexibility of same-day appointments. Had it continued for several more days with no treatment, it might have become an emergent issue.

Our veterinarians and veterinary technicians are vital to caring for pets, as well as other animals (eg, livestock), throughout the State of Wisconsin. They put themselves at risk every day to provide this care, and I think they warrant inclusion in the phase 1b group, alongside our [redacted] rs, teachers, childcare workers, people ages 70 [redacted] rs, prisoners and others who live in congregate living settings. I hope you will reconsider their location, as currently they seem to be falling into the very last vaccination group (ie, general public). I know I consider my pets to be part of my family, almost like children, so I consider my veterinarian a health care provider and essential worker. If they were able to receive the vaccine, they could benefit from the great protection it offers and possibly make modifications to current practices that might improve their abilities to provide care at the volume it is needed right now.

Thank you for considering this request.

Mary Frances Picone

--
Mary Frances Picone, PharmD, BCPS
[redacted]

From: [Emilie Schwarz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 8:19:50 PM

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January 17, 2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: DCVMA Urges Veterinary Professionals be included in COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b

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

I respectfully urge you to include veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants, and other veterinary clinic staff in the Phase 1b prioritization list to receive the COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Veterinary health care workers are essential frontline workers that provide critical care to food/fiber animals, lab animals, and companion animals throughout the state and in Dane County. Many veterinary clinics offer medical, surgical, and emergency care curbside now; along with housecall end of life visits to patients every day with a huge demand for our services. If veterinary clinics and facilities were to close due to a COVID-19 outbreak among veterinary staff, there may not be accessible alternatives for patients. As a profession, we can not work from home and currently, the provision of veterinary care via telehealth is not allowed under Wisconsin law. As a result, our patient care requires uninterrupted in-person visits and availability of our unique health care services.

We are disappointed to see our veterinary professionals overlooked in this recommendation for the next phase of vaccine distribution. We respectfully urge you to include all Wisconsin and Dane County veterinary personnel in the COVID Phase 1b Vaccine Priority Group.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] MS, DVM

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Amber Mayne](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 8:04:01 PM

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1/17/2021

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. Amber Mayne and I am from Sun Prairie Wisconsin. I am a Veterinarian. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I am one of 4 veterinarians at Token Creek Veterinary Clinic in Sun Prairie, WI. We provide essential veterinary care to over 3600 clients and over 7000 pets. We provide everything from preventative health care, continuing medical to urgent and emergency care for our patients. We are also critical in educating our pet owners regarding pet and public health issues and concerns. Veterinarians are essential health care providers not only to pets but also to food animals and in providing public health services regarding our food supply. A COVID 19 outbreak in our clinic would result in the loss of Healthcare for pets, providing essential medications and continuing management of ill patients, and providing education and peace of mind to our clients whose pets are like family members. A COVID19 outbreak would mean a loss of wages for our personell, all of whom have families to provide for. It would mean loss of care for over 7000 pets. For veterinarians involved in the care of food animals and public health, it would mean the loss of that first line of defense we provide, making sure our food animals are healthily raised, processing plants are upholding cleanliness and proper protocols for processing food, being aware of and reporting potential devastating infectious and zoonotic disease outbreaks. For veterinarians in research an outbreak of COVID19 would mean a loss in development of vaccines similar to those that protect us from smallpox, polio and COVID 19.

We realize there are many essential personnel that are very obvious. As Veterinarians we ask you to think of us not just as people who play with puppies and kittens, but to know that we are

[REDACTED] indispensable role in educating and protecting the general public
[REDACTED] s, food safety, vaccine and medicine research and development,
[REDACTED] food supply and providing for the health and well being of food animals,
[REDACTED] which also help provide the environment for the general public.

[REDACTED] include Veterinarians and their staff in the Phase 1b of the COVID19 vaccine
administration. We are the hidden warriors for public health and animal well being that impacts us
all.

Thank you for considering this request.

Amber L. Mayne, DVM
Token Creek Veterinary Clinic
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
608.834.9700

[REDACTED]

From: [Kate Silverthorne](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1b and Veterinary Professionals
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 7:58:08 PM

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1/17/21

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

RE: Veterinarians - Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

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

At my clinic, we are doing our best to serve our clients by doing curbside service and not allowing clients in the building. We have been serving our community the best we can during the entire pandemic and if we had a covid outbreak it would be devastating to everyone. We would have to close down and we couldn't serve our clients. Our clinic is already overwhelmed and understaffed, and the same with the emergency clinics in town. If we had to close down to quarantine it would put even more pressure on other clinics going through the same problems. We are essential frontline workers and I believe we should be included in Phase 1-b of vaccine distribution.

Thank you for considering this request,
Kate Silverthorne

From: [Kristi Arnquist, DVM](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid vaccine prioritization
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 7:48:55 PM

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TO: Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Urging your consideration that Veterinary Professionals be included in COVID-19
Vaccine Priority Group 1b

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

As a Dane County veterinarian who provides mobile in-home end of life veterinary services, I ask you to include veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants, and other veterinary clinic staff in the Phase 1b prioritization list to receive the COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Veterinary health care workers are essential frontline workers that provide critical health care to both food/fiber animals and companion animals throughout the state and Dane County in a clinical and house call capacity. Many veterinary clinics offer medical, surgical, and emergency care curbside now, along with housecall end of life visits, to patients every day with a huge demand for our services. If veterinary clinics and facilities were to close due to a COVID-19 outbreak among veterinary staff, there may not be accessible alternatives for our patients and their families. As a profession, we can not work from home and currently, the provision of veterinary care via telehealth is not allowed under Wisconsin law. As a result, our patient care requires uninterrupted in-person/curbside visits and availability of our unique health care services.

We are disappointed to see our veterinary professionals overlooked in this recommendation for the next phase of vaccine distribution. We respectfully urge you to include all Wisconsin and Dane County veterinary personnel in the COVID Phase 1b Vaccine Priority Group.

Sincerely,