From:	Rose VanPelt
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	vaccine subcommittee phase 1b
Date:	Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:59:46 AM

We are requesting we be allowed to receive the Moderna Covid vaccine ASAP due to our respective ages 76 and 78 Our physicians are at Froedtert Medical Cennter and we have repeatedly asked to be put on the list Our physicians there tell us they have received no guidance from persons in authority to honor our requests. We feel we should be included in this high risk 1B group to receive the vaccine as soon as possible. Earlena and Jerry Van Pelt



Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

From:	Bill Miller
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Comment on Phase 1b proposal
Date:	Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:32:39 AM

I have issue with the rationale to prioritize educators and day care workers in 1b. Part of the rationale is that one in four of the teachers are from a demographic group that is at higher risk due to underlying health conditions. Being an educator does increase the exposure and potential to contract Covid, but the risk of dying or having severe symptoms is not as high as an older non-educator with an underlying condition.

I would propose that you prioritize people with both a qualifying demographic status and an underlying health condition ahead of educators and day care workers.

My rationale is that one in four of the 160,000 educators and day care workers would still qualify. This would allow the remaining 120,000 doses to be allocated to the people who would actually be more likely to require hospitalization or die! The burden on hospitals would decrease faster, reducing the overall stress and cost on the system and actually saving more lives!!! Trying to justify prioritizing educators and day care workers because it is more convenient for the parents or economic productivity is discrimination pure and simple. To imply that a delay of vaccinating educators for a month or two is going to have a larger impact on pediatric mental health, child abuse, nutrition and obesity than it already has over the past 9+ months is bad rationale, speculative, and more like pandering to a large group of public employees. Trying to rationalize that any of those other possibilities are more important than actually saving lives and keeping high risk people from having to go through severe symptoms and hospitalization is irresponsible.

Vaccinating people first who are responsible for saving other people's lives makes a lot of sense. If saving people is the highest priority, then prioritizing vaccination to the groups with the highest potential to die should be the next priority. To do otherwise would be monetizing life and suggesting that it is more convenient to get the teachers back in school. It actually would be more convenient to give all the students vacation until the end of spring and have them go back to school in the summer. You could also phase children back to school sooner as more teachers who are in the high risk groups get vaccinated. We all want to get back to normal as soon as possible, but not at the ultimate expense of dying. Save the people with both the high risk demographic and underlying health conditions first, PLEASE!!!

Bill Miller Bayside, WI

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Judi Anderson
To:	DHS SDMAC
Cc:	Judi Anderson
Subject:	: Covid Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 11:13:58 PM

I am writing to ad you to please move people with Down Syndrome to vaccination group phase 1B as they are at an extreme risk of death at a rate of over 60%.

The State of Wisconsin is reevaluating the populations that can be vaccinated in Phase 1B \_we are in 1A now). As it stands, the can't get the vaccine until 1C with the smokers, etc.

Would you please take the time today to write to the vaccine subcommittee and ask that people with Down Syndrome please get moved up to Phase 1B due to the unusually high fatality rates for this particular population?

Thank you, Judi Anderson

From:	C. Scheihing
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccination subcommittee/Phase 1B
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 10:57:52 PM

Please concentrate on those 75 and above to start. Those over 80 suffer the highest death rate from covid, followed by age 75-80, then 70-75 and so on. You will rarely find a teacher in those age brackets, in fact you rarely find any workers in those age brackets. Concentrate on the population in the highest risk categories, and work down from there.

From:	Jim
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccine public comment
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 10:50:15 PM

I am eager to receive the vaccination as soon as possible.

I believe individuals with underlying issues should be included in phase 1b a least elderly ones maybe 50 and up. I have heard many stories of over 40 individuals with underlying issues passing.

Thank you,

Jim

Sent from Jim's Ipad

From:	<u>llah W</u>
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Phase 1B vaccine subcommittee
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 9:38:03 PM

#### Attn: Vaccine subcommittee

It seems that prioritizing the eligibility for receiving the vaccine will be simplified by using a method determined by age as this is most easily verified. The 70 and above age group will help to reduce the mortality rate as quickly as possible. If you elect to add others in the 1B group such as teachers and child care workers please include a method of verifying their eligibility. Thanks for all you are doing.

ILah Walczak

From:	Ray Walczak
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 9:16:00 PM

I want to commend you for focusing on getting the vaccine to those 70 and above as this group has the highest mortality rate from COVID-19. Also by using an aged based plan it will be much easier for pharmacies and other vaccine locations to confirm eligibility. While it is certainly understandable to include other groups (teachers, child care workers etc.) it will be more challenging to determine eligibility. For that reason, I think it wise to maintain an aged based approach as much as possible. Thanks for all you do. Raymond Walczak

From:	Mandi Redman
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Covid vaccination and Down Syndrome
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 8:32:01 PM

I am writing this to decision makers that are responsible for determining the populations that are included in specific vaccine distribution groups:

Individuals with Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21) have a death rate that is 8-10 times that of the general population, which has been documented in scientific and medical literature. This wonderful, loving, and vulnerable population has three copies of a gene on chromosome 21 (TMPRSS2) which is believed to be significantly involved in the replication of SARS-CoV-2.

Two articles that document many of the scientific explanations for this may be helpful resources: "People with Down Syndrome Face High Risk From Coronavirus" in Science, Vol 370, Issue 6523, pp. 1384-1385, dated 18 Dec 2020, and "COVID-19 and Down's Syndrome: Are We Heading For a Disaster?" in the European Journal of Human Genetics, Vol 28, pp. 1477-1478 (2020), .

I implore you to please include individuals with Down Syndrome in Vaccine Group 1B in the State of Wisconsin.

Thank you

Mandi Redman



Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From:	Janet Marvin
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 8:01:54 PM

What public comments are necessary? Get with it already. I have a whole house full of very vulnerable people waiting for you to get off the pot.

Most people we know who have been infected have no idea how they contracted it, as they were taking all of the prescribed precautions, as we are, too.

One germ in my house, and my whole family will be gone in about 3 weeks.

Stop this public comment nonsense, and start vaccinating people for heavens sake. Quit telling us to be patient. Quit prioritizing younger healthy people because of the color of their skin. Every young strong person who is vaccinated ahead of us could cost a life.

This is life or death to us.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From:	Jenny Levendoski
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B cohort
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 7:51:14 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I support including people with

disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Thank you,

Jenny Levendoski

Dear Department of Health Service's State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC),

To Whom it May Concern,

support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

Research is showing Downs' patients with Covid 19 are ten times more likely to die. Please include people with Down syndrome, who are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Earnestly, Marlene Machut

Sent from my Galaxy

From:	daniel grining
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccine public comment
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 7:46:56 PM

Age 70 or older for phase 1B. Age 70 or older with heart or other problems should be in 1a.

Sent from my iPad

From:	daniel grining
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccine public comment
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 7:35:18 PM

Anyone with pre existing conditions (heart) etc. and over the age of 70 should be prioritize with their heart doctor.

Sent from my iPad

From:	The Johnsons
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 7:32:06 PM

Hello, We support the inclusion of those with disabilities in Phase 1B to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. People with DS and other disabilities are at higher risk of serious illness or death from COVID-19.

Thank you for considering placing those with disabilities in the 1B Cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Carol and Forrest Johnson

Get Outlook for iOS

Hello,



I am writing this to decision makers that are responsible for determining the populations that are included in specific vaccine distribution groups:

Individuals with Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21) have a death rate that is 8-10 times that of the general population, which has been documented in scientific and medical literature. This wonderful, loving, and vulnerable population has three copies of a gene on chromosome 21 (TMPRSS2) which is believed to be significantly involved in the replication of SARS-CoV-2.

Two articles that document many of the scientific explanations for this may be helpful resources: "People with Down Syndrome Face High Risk From Coronavirus" in Science, Vol 370, Issue 6523, pp. 1384-1385, dated 18 Dec 2020, and "COVID-19 and Down's Syndrome: Are We Heading For a Disaster?" in the European Journal of Human Genetics, Vol 28, pp. 1477-1478 (2020), .

I implore you to please include individuals with Down Syndrome in Vaccine Group 1B in the State of Wisconsin.

Thank you for your work and please consider my request in your highest priorities.

Robert Agnew



From:	Bob Garcia
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Covid 1b
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 7:13:16 PM

I feel strongly that the 1b should also include individuals with chronic diseases that could be impacted negatively by Covid - for example People with afib or COPD.

Bob

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Patti Karras
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	COVID Subcommittee Phase 1B Recommendation
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 7:12:48 PM

I would ask that people with Down Syndrome please be moved to Phase 1B of the COVID vaccine distribution due to the high fatality rates for this population.

Thank you for your consideration, Patti Karras

Sent from my iPhone

From:	<u>B Gali</u>
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Comments next phase
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 6:34:28 PM

I have one mission and that is to get my 91 year old Mom a vaccine. Aurora has been called out for giving it to their employees who don't even work with sick people. Asencion has done that too. My Mother has been on "house arrest" since March living what little time she has left waiting for a vaccine. She can't move into a nursing home because they are not safe. I have been helping her aka a caregiver but I am her daughter. My kids go to school so I risk bringing it to her every day. She should have a vaccine by now. Wi is not in the top states that have given out their vaccines. People over 70 should get a vaccine over a prisoner. Those people incarcerated made a choice to be there and old people do not choose to be old. I should be able to get a vaccine over a murderer too! Get moving Wi. Too much politics and not enough action.

Please please get my Mom a vaccine before it's too late. Especially now the more contagious strain is here.

Becky Galica



Sue Nelson
DHS SDMAC
sne59@aol.com
Covid Subcommittee Phase B Recommendations
Saturday, January 16, 2021 6:25:33 PM

Dear Decision Makers:

I am writing on behalf of a frequently overlooked vulnerable population. Those who are born with Down Syndrome are at a 10 fold risk of death from Covid-19. I understand there are many who need this vaccine

but we agree that those with Down Syndrome should be in the front of the line. Please consider including them in group 1B. Sincerely, Sue Nelson Hayward, WI

Get Outlook for Android

From:	Mary c. Schneider
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Please Include Individuals With Down Syndrome in Vaccine Group 1B
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 5:04:26 PM

I am writing this to decision makers that are responsible for determining the populations that are included in specific vaccine distribution groups:

Individuals with Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21) have a death rate that is 8-10 times that of the general population, which has been documented in scientific and medical literature. This wonderful, loving, and vulnerable population has three copies of a gene on chromosome 21 (TMPRSS2) which is believed to be significantly involved in the replication of SARS-CoV-2.

Two articles that document many of the scientific explanations for this may be helpful resources: "People with Down Syndrome Face High Risk From Coronavirus" in Science, Vol 370, Issue 6523, pp. 1384-1385, dated 18 Dec 2020, and "COVID-19 and Down's Syndrome: Are We Heading For a Disaster?" in the European Journal of Human Genetics, Vol 28, pp. 1477-1478 (2020), .

I implore you to please include individuals with Down Syndrome in Vaccine Group 1B in the State of Wisconsin.

Thank you,

Mary C. Schneider



Sent from my iPhone

From:	Joy D. Matthews
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Comment for the Priority Group 1 B Recommendation
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 4:32:57 PM

Greetings,

Please include children (age 16+) and family members of children eligible for the Child Long Term Support Waiver (CLTS) in the Phase 1B vaccine distribution. The CLTS program is for children with developmental disabilities, severe emotional disturbances, and physical disabilities. The children on this program are some of the most vulnerable in our communities and often have comorbidities. Being sick and not knowing what is happening can be devastating for these kids with special health needs. They often require a lot of care and thrive under the routine and knowledge their families offer. By offering their families the protection of this vaccine you are ensuring that they will be able to care for these children that need more care and consistency than others children need. This population is easy to identify through the state program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Best regards,

Joy D Matthews Sun Prairie WI

I am writing this to decision makers that are responsible for determining the populations that are included in specific vaccine distribution groups:

Individuals with Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21) have a death rate that is 8-10 times that of the general population, which has been documented in scientific and medical literature. This wonderful, loving, and vulnerable population has three copies of a gene on chromosome 21 (TMPRSS2) which is believed to be significantly involved in the replication of SARS-CoV-2.

Two articles that document many of the scientific explanations for this may be helpful resources: "People with Down Syndrome Face High Risk From Coronavirus" in Science, Vol 370, Issue 6523, pp. 1384-1385, dated 18 Dec 2020, and "COVID-19 and Down's Syndrome: Are We Heading For a Disaster?" in the European Journal of Human Genetics, Vol 28, pp. 1477-1478 (2020), .

I implore you to please include individuals with Down Syndrome in Vaccine Group 1B in the State of Wisconsin.

Margaret Agnew

From:	Kate Trevey
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Please Include Individuals With Down Syndrome in Vaccine Group 1B
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 3:48:33 PM

I am writing this to decision makers that are responsible for determining the populations that are included in specific vaccine distribution groups:

Individuals with Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21) have a death rate that is 8-10 times that of the general population, which has been documented in scientific and medical literature. This wonderful, loving, and vulnerable population has three copies of a gene on chromosome 21 (TMPRSS2) which is believed to be significantly involved in the replication of SARS-CoV-2. An article titled "People with Down Syndrome Face High Risk From Coronavirus" in Science, Vol 370, Issue 6523, pp. 1384-1385, dated 18 Dec 2020 documents may of the scientific explanations for this.

I implore you to please include individuals with Down Syndrome in Vaccine Group 1B in the State of Wisconsin.



From:	<u>Cassi Maki</u>
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Covid vacine public input
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 3:28:49 PM

#### Good afternoon,

I am writing to offer my thoughts in the distribution plan for covid 19 groups - specifically 1b and 1c.

I am terrified that I will somehow get covid 19 no matter how hard I try to stay safe. I have no contact with anyone outside my household, so it's me and my husband. He got a vaccine today due to his profession. I have to wait until after a 16 year old that works 4-8 hours a day at a grocery store and has all but zero chance of death, or a young agricultural worker with the same no risk of death that doesn't start working til summer to get their vacine while at my age the risk has started to greatly increase. Yup, terrified is the only word to use. Why do I have to risk death while the young guy who loaded my groceries got to chuckle about the fact that at his age he still looks to qualify for the vacine right away even though he's not concerned at all, but I have to wait likely til June or later? Why do I sit here shaking and crying knowing that I can't get at it til possibly, according to my clinic and the news, until even as late as fall?

I understand that some of these workers have done an immeasurable service for us, but I believe even stronger that my risk is too much to push me into the "healthy 16 and up" group, and continue to risk my life for who knows how many more months? And doing that to me means doing it to countless others in my same boat. Please consider changing the guidelines to follow risk to life for this instead of giving these lifesaving doses to people who fall into the zero risk categories. It's just too important to not do this.

Thank you for listening Carolyn Maki



From:	kristin.lanari@yahoo.com
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 2:39:16 PM

Dear Committee,

I am writing to give my support for having people on IRIS and Family Care as part of the next vaccine group, Phase 1B. Individuals with disabilities have numerous risk factors for hospitalization and/or death from Covid-19, and with many living in group homes it is a necessity for them to receive the vaccine as soon as possible. Several studies have shown that individuals with Down syndrome have a greatly increased risk of dying from Covid-19 or suffering very serious complications, and a vaccine would help with this risk.

Thank you for your consideration and dedication, Kristin Lanari Appleton, WI

From:	Charlie Tsamardinos
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	vaccine sub committee Phase 1B
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 2:29:21 PM

I agree the next add to phase 1B should include 70 year olds with the conditions mentioned.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

To Whom it May Concern,

of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sent from my iPhone

I implore the committee to move Down's syndrome individuals to 1A category. These individuals are at high risk and often have co morbid conditions.

Thank you.

Vicki Hughes

From:	Jayne Black
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Priority of groups for vaccinations
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 1:59:21 PM

I believe that there is a great deal of evidence that people with A and B blood are at a much greater risk of catching covid and getting sicker from it that they should be put in group 1b. It would make sense that those who are more susceptible to this virus would get put as a priority over blood type o but not if they are o and already in group 1b.

https://www.healthline.com/health-news/does-your-blood-type-increase-your-risk-forcoronavirus

https://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2020/blood-type-coronavirus/ https://www.nursingcenter.com/ncblog/october-2020/covid-19-and-blood-type

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Jayne Black President & Co-founder of Creative Kids Rock <u>www.CreativeKidsRock.org</u>

From:	John Michlig
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 1:16:09 PM

To whom it may concern:

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

Persons with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19.

We would also like to see caregivers for persons with disabilities included,

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B

Sincerely, John Michlig

From:	Norbert Woyak
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	VACCINE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR PHASE 1B
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 12:48:01 PM

# PLEASE GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS TO RECEIVE THE COVID VACCINE IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN.

From:	Pamela Zimmer
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Special needs vaccination concerns
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 12:46:35 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

we support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID 19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1b cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely, Pamela J Zimmer

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Jackie Michlig
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 12:27:47 PM

To whom it may concern:

to receive the COVID vaccine.

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible. They are also more prone to medical complexities.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B

Sincerely, Jackie Michlig

From:	andy@hillsidesprings.com
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	COVID 19 vaccine public comment
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 12:05:52 PM

To avoid exposure I do not go to public places, including needed dental care and recommended cardiac rehabilitation.

I have yet to see where people like me have been prioritized to get the vaccination. I am aware of several young and healthy staff members of the Mercy Health System who have no contact with the public, physicians or patients that have received the vaccination. It seems to me that those of us that have a higher risk of dying from the disease should be on a higher priority list to identify and receive the vaccine.

Thank you for your consideration of this comment.

Andy Walton Edgerton, WI

From:	Tiffany Glass
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Phase 1b draft comments
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 11:57:48 AM

Hello,

I hope you are doing well. This e-mail is in response to the request for public comments on the Draft Document with Tier 1b definitions for vaccine prioritization. I am writing to advocate for consideration of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, many of whom may require IRIS or Long Term Care (LTC), as well as their direct care workers and personal care workers, in prioritization for the vaccine. Risks exist for this demographic regardless of whether they live in a congregate setting. This is an exceptionally vulnerable community for whom systemic barriers already exist for accessing appropriate health care and support services.

care is often provided through multiple PCAs and direct care workers. Because of the close physical nature of the care and the high personnel turnover throughout the week, these living situations are exceptionally risky for virus transmission. These living arrangements can be unique and diverse, including inside a family home, or in shared home spaces, which may not meet the definitions of group homes or congregate living settings.

1. People with developmental disabilities are exceptionally vulnerable to disproportionate risks from the virus, even if they do not live in a nursing home or a group setting.

2. People who rely on direct care supports are at more risk for encountering the virus, and their care workers are at more risk for encountering the virus. One individual who receives care may be in close physical contact with multiple care workers a day, or multiple therapists a day, and the care workers and therapists may be in close physical contact with multiple recipients of care every day, or multiple congregate settings every day. Even if care recipients live in their own home, the care workers and therapists they are in close daily physical contact with may travel and congregate extensively as an intrinsic aspect of the work arrangements.

3. People are more likely to require contact with congregate settings (day programs, pre-vocational programs, specialized therapeutic or educational settings) even if they live in a family home, so are at further increased risk because of that.

4. People who may require long-term care as adults, are less able to follow personal safety/hygiene protocols like physical distancing and wearing a mask.

Thank you for considering these comments

Tiffany Glass Madison WI
From:	kathleensurges@yahoo.com
То:	DHS SDMAC
Cc:	Lisa Koenigs
Subject:	Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccine public comment
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 11:52:21 AM

Regarding Vaccine priority groups, it is my strong opinion that adults with Down's Syndrome be moved into the 1B category.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen G. Surges RN-BC, BSN

From:	Carli Brunner
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	vaccine subcommittee
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 11:08:58 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

e support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID 19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1b cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely,

From:	Mark Goswitz
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Covid Subcommittee Phase 1B Recommendations
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 10:51:48 AM

Please move people with Down Syndrome up to Phase 1B due to the unusually high fatality rates for this particular population.

Thank you,

Mark Goswitz Sheboygan, WI

From:	Renee Hessler
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 10:39:29 AM

Please consider to include people with cognitive disabilities and the people who support them in the next schedule of covid vaccines. I work with individuals with cognitive disabilities in the manufacturing business and we deserve to be considered essential individuals,

Thank you for your consideration.

From:	Lisa Koenigs
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Phase 1B Subcommittee
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 10:32:55 AM

Hello Friends,

Would you please add people with Down Syndrome to the Covid-19 vaccine group 1B? Wisconsinites with Down Syndrome die at astronomically high rates if they get Covid-19. It's tragic. Please help save this special community who so enrich all of our lives.

Thank you,

-Lisa Ann Koenigs

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To: Members of the Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee

This message is to express support for prioritizing disabled individuals and their caregivers in the distribution of SARS-COV-2 vaccines in Wisconsin.

First, please explicitly include all caregivers of participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs alongside other essential health workers in Phase 1A. Please indicate that "caregivers" includes unpaid family members providing an institutional level of care to disabled individuals at home.

Second, please explicitly include all participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs, along with yet-unvaccinated caregivers, in Phase 1B.

Ethical distribution of the vaccine prioritizes these individuals for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Vulnerability to Exposure - Disabled individuals are vulnerable to exposure from unavoidable contact with caregivers

- Disproportionate Severity of Impact - Disabled individuals are more severely impacted by SARS-COV-2 and at greater risk of death from its complications

- Health Worker/Caregiver Shortages - Disabled individuals face a shortage of qualified, well-trained caregivers; SARS-COV-2 outbreaks among caregivers, including unpaid family members, exacerbate this already acute shortage

- Access to Critical Health Services - Disabled individuals with complex health needs disproportionately seek care and/or have been foregoing needed care in medical facilities and other settings where SARS-COV-2 is likely to circulate

Your careful consideration of this request is appreciated.

To Whom it May Concern,

As the parents of our son who is intellectually disabled (ID), we support including ID people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID 19 and they should be placed in the 1b cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely,

Robert and Joan Ziegler Brookfield, Wisconsin

From:	Cory Morovits
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 10:09:13 AM



getting these vaccines it's a no brainer. healthcare....includes anyone that works with people ,anyone with a disability, anyone over 70 then 60 and up and or with health issues then public.

Thank you

Sue Morovits

Sent from my iPad

Dear Subcommittee Members,

I urge you to include people with disabilities in phase 1B vaccinations for Covid.

It

is very difficult to keep safe since he attends a day program and does not understand the basics of hygiene and germs.

Other disabled people have the same problems with not understanding hygiene and germs or how Covid is transmitted. Many of these people also live in group homes where germs are constantly circulated between residents, and employees are often bringing in germs from outside the home.

I know this is a difficult decision for your committee. Thank you for your understanding and thoughtful consideration.

Lisa Fusco, Resident of Waukesha

From:	Alice Graf
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	COVID vaccines
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 8:27:28 AM

Next phase: it's important to get children back in school so school workers and those over 70 with medical conditions that make them vulnerable to the disease should be considered for the next vaccine. Alice Graf, Oshkosh

Please consider including those with underlying health conditions in group 1b. This is a serious life altering concern for many of us who have children and are left isolating and home schooling due to recommendations from our doctors .

Thank you

Katie

From:	Viva language
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Phase 1B vaccine subcommittee
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 8:21:43 AM

#### To Whom it May concern,

I am extremely interested in getting the vaccine ASAP. My physicians are all in agreement that I should receive it and want me to get it sooner than later.

From what I've read there doesn't seem to be a category of individuals like myself who would qualify to get the vaccine early based on our serious pre existing medical issues. Frankly I feel I should be in line to receive the vaccine now or with the senior citizens. It's disheartening to think I may have to wait until summer or later to receive it. I have a 5th and 7th grader that are depending on their mother to be alive for a long time to come.

Please consider younger people with conditions that make them more likely to have a poor virus outcome as a group that should be vaccinated next.

Thank you for reading my comments and taking them into consideration. Christina Lindner-Dwyer

From:	Allison Miller
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee, Phase 1B
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 8:15:43 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Best,

Allison R. Miller

Please consider adding all those with heart conditions. It has been show that those individuals have a very difficult time fighting the virus and many do not survive or have a very weakened heart afterwards.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Beth Zeamer

Hello,

1b should include patients with high risk lung conditions that covid exasperates, like COPD, asthma and cancers. As a health care provider that works on the covid floors and works in lung surgery-these patients need to start receiving vaccines.

Consideration for family members of those working on the medical floors should be entertained.

Thank you, Joanna

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From:	Dolly Fellows
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Phase 1B
Date:	Saturday, January 16, 2021 3:46:57 AM

Dear vaccine subcommittee, in phrase 1B please include people with underlying conditions and obese people! We have been living infearand doing our best to follow all the CDC guidelines but it is very hard! Thanks Elizabeth Fellows Sent from my iPhone

#### To Whom it May Concern,

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of

people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

-Jodi Hubbard

From:	Brian Nighorn
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Recommendation
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 10:40:31 PM

I recommend people with conditions especially 3 or more conditions which make them more vulnerable. Like one who has Type one diabetes, coupled with Asthma, and obesity. Conditions need to play more of a factor in your decision making.

Sent from my iPad

From:	Jill Urdahl
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee and Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 10:01:45 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely, Jill Urdahl

To Whom it May Concern,

we support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID 19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1b cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely, Jennifer Beiriger

Sent from Outlook Email App for Android

From:	Julie Roberts
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 9:55:58 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely,

Julie Roberts

From:	Alexandra Haas
То:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	VACCINE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR PHASE 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 9:46:27 PM

PLEASE GIVE **HIGH PRIORITY TO PEOPLE** WITH COGNITIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES **AND THEIR CAREGIVERS TO RECEIVE THE COVID VACCINE** IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN.

From:	Mark
To:	DHS SDMAC
Cc:	Juliann Joerres
Subject:	vaccine subcommittee phase 1b
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 7:59:38 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I support including people with

disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely, Dr. Mark T. Joerres

From:	Christina Schindler
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Covid Vaccine for Special needs Adults, In-home Care
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 7:41:44 PM

Please, please, please include individuals with Special Needs (that receive IN-HOME CARE of Supportive Care and Personal Care) for the next round of the Covid Vaccine, and for their employees.

As all of us are aware - the elderly and the people with special needs have a greater chance of getting the virus of Covid-19.

Please include individuals that receive in-home Personal Care (PC) and Supportive Home Care (SHC) for the next round of the Covid Vaccine, and for their employees.

Thank you for your time, for all your hard work and most importantly, thank you for all your support.

Sincerely,

Christina Schindler Colfax, WI

Department of health services:

I was notified that you were asking for input on having individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities included in Phase 1 of the vaccine program.

I would like to advocate for adding these people in Phase I.

has both of these disabilities which includes a seizure disorder he has had since since birth. He is on several medications to keep them under control.

There seems to be some evidence that people in these categories are at higher risk for getting COVID and often with severe cases.

I urge you to please consider this population in Phase 1. and others like him are relying on us to see to their best interests and come forward to speak on their behalf.

Thank you.

Judy OGrady



To Whom it May Concern,

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely,

Ava Landmeyer

From:	<u>yor</u>
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee regarding Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 7:34:42 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to support including people in Family Care and IRIS in the next round of those who get the COVID-19 vaccines.

n our community we have way too many people ignoring safety

measures of using masks or staying out of crowded public or private spaces.

Thank you for proposing that people with disabilities be in the next group to get the vaccine. We believe every person has inherent worth and dignity and appreciate all the help we get to improve and maintain quality of life for

Sincerely, L. Joy Schroeder

From:	<u>Rmtransam</u>
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccine public comment
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 7:26:21 PM

Type 1 Diabetics NEED to be moved up in priority. Other states already have. Follow the science.

From:	Jacqueline Komperud
То:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	COVID-19 vaccine.
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 7:25:42 PM

It is my belief that no experimental vaccine should be given to the elderly or those with underlying health conditions. The COVID-19 vaccine has not been proven to be safe for them and it is still unclear if people getting the vaccine can still transmit the virus. It is still unclear if these vaccines are safe for women of childbearing age. It is still unclear if these vaccines will have a disproportionately ill effect on people of color. Considering the very low rate of hospitalizations or deaths in those people under the age of 60, it would seem safer to avoid the possible ill effects of the vaccines altogether.

Sent from my iPad

From:	Lisa Pugh
To:	DHS SDMAC
Cc:	Pugh, Lisa
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B comments from The Arc Wisconsin
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 5:56:08 PM
Attachments:	The Arc Wisconsin comments - Vaccine Phase 1B.pdf

January 15, 2021

To: Members, State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC) Vaccine Subcommittee

Re: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B

From: Lisa Pugh, The Arc Wisconsin

Thank you for considering these comments from The Arc Wisconsin, a statewide organization advocating for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The Arc Wisconsin is part of a national network of more than 600 chapters that were established in the 1950s when people with I/DD were regularly institutionalized. We strongly support the inclusion of Family Care and IRIS program participants, including people with I/DD, as a priority population in the Phase 1B vaccine group.

Our work with and connection to national experts in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities offers the following evidence and support for the prioritization of this population:

- The National Council on Disability, the federal agency charged with advising The President and Congress, indicates people with I/DD have a 15% COVID mortality rate: <u>https://ncd.gov/newsroom/2020/ncd-recommends-covid-19-vaccine-allocation-equity-individuals-idd</u>
- The nation's largest private healthcare claims database, the FAIR Health National Private Insurance Claims (FH NPIC®) repository, finds that people with "developmental disorders" were among the likeliest to die from COVID-19. People with intellectual disabilities and related conditions had the third highest risk of COVID-19 death (white paper)
- On 12/23/20 the CDC specifically added Down syndrome to the list of people at increased risk of severe illness from the virus (one of just 3 additions to their list).
- ANCOR is the largest national service provider association for providers of I/DD services. Data they collected from eight states found that "people with I/DD were twice as likely as members of the general population to die from COVID-19, despite being no likelier to contract the virus." https://www.ancor.org/newsroom/news/ancor-issues-statement-need-prioritize-

people-intellectual-developmental-disabilities

- While not all people with I/DD live in congregate settings, their daily lives and activities typically happen in congregate settings as a majority of services are delivered in facilities with multiple program participants and staff providing direct cares. The latest data from the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) Boston shows that 42.7% of people with I/DD in Wisconsin participate in facility-based work and 52.2% participate in facility-based non-work (typically called day services).
- According to the State of the States in Developmental Disabilities data, of the people with I/DD in WI who live with family caregivers, 26% of those family caregivers are over age 60.
- For a variety of reasons, people with I/DD can have great difficulty practicing social distancing and taking mask-wearing precautions. Many require personal cares and daily supports that involve hands-on care from paid and unpaid caregivers.
- The largest national survey of Direct Support Professionals (completed by the University of MN and the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals - 9,000 DSPs—conducted April 23 through May 27) indicates that approximately 40% of the people supported by DSPs have either only fair or poor social distancing practices. The survey also indicates that DSP turnover has increased due to the pandemic, which means there are new DSPs revolving regularly as the direct care staff for waiver support recipients. <u>https://publications.ici.umn.edu/communityliving/covid19-survey/results-dsp-covid-19-experiences</u>
- DHS' data from Family Care and IRIS programs shows great risk for people in these programs who all meet an institutional level of care. Data from this past week demonstrates that while Wisconsin's long-term care program enrollment is 77,432 or approximately 1.4% of the WI population, people in these programs account for nearly 1/5 (18.2%) of state COVID-19 deaths.

We appreciate the important and difficult work you are tasked with. It is essential to proceed with equitable vaccinations of vulnerable populations in Wisconsin immediately. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. We welcome the opportunity to provide further information.

Lisa Pugh | Pugh@thearc.org Executive Director, The Arc Wisconsin P.O. Box 201; Stoughton, WI 53589 T Phone # (202) 600-3494 arcwi.org | Donate | Facebook | Twitter | YouTube



# You can help build The Arc by making a secure, online contribution by visiting <u>https://arcwi.org/donate/</u>.

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Submitted via DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov

January 15, 2021

To: Members, State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC) Vaccine Subcommittee

Re: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B

From: Lisa Pugh, The Arc Wisconsin

Thank you for considering these comments from The Arc Wisconsin, a statewide organization advocating for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The Arc Wisconsin is part of a national network of more than 600 chapters that were established in the 1950s when people with I/DD were regularly institutionalized. We strongly support the inclusion of Family Care and IRIS program participants, including people with I/DD, as a priority population in the Phase 1B vaccine group.

Our work with and connection to national experts in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities offers the following evidence and support for the prioritization of this population:

- The National Council on Disability, the federal agency charged with advising The President and Congress, indicates people with I/DD have a 15% COVID mortality rate: <u>https://ncd.gov/newsroom/2020/ncd-recommends-covid-19-vaccine-allocation-equity-individuals-idd</u>
- The nation's largest private healthcare claims database, the FAIR Health National Private Insurance Claims (FH NPIC®) repository, finds that people with "developmental disorders" were among the likeliest to die from COVID-19. People with intellectual disabilities and related conditions had the third highest risk of COVID-19 death (white paper)
- On 12/23/20 the CDC specifically added Down syndrome to the list of people at increased risk of severe illness from the virus (one of just 3 additions to their list).
- ANCOR is the largest national service provider association for providers of I/DD services. Data they collected from eight states found that "people with I/DD were twice as likely as members of the general population to die from COVID-19, despite being no likelier to contract the virus." <u>https://www.ancor.org/newsroom/news/ancor-issues-statement-needprioritize-people-intellectual-developmental-disabilities</u>

## Achieve with us.

- While not all people with I/DD live in congregate settings, their daily lives and activities typically happen in congregate settings as a majority of services are delivered in facilities with multiple program participants and staff providing direct cares. The latest data from the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) Boston shows that 42.7% of people with I/DD in Wisconsin participate in facility-based work and 52.2% participate in facility-based non-work (typically called day services).
- According to the State of the States in Developmental Disabilities data, of the people with I/DD in WI who live with family caregivers, 26% of those family caregivers are over age 60.
- For a variety of reasons, people with I/DD can have great difficulty practicing social distancing and taking mask-wearing precautions. Many require personal cares and daily supports that involve hands-on care from paid and unpaid caregivers.
- The largest national survey of Direct Support Professionals (completed by the University of MN and the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals - 9,000 DSPs—conducted April 23 through May 27) indicates that approximately 40% of the people supported by DSPs have either only fair or poor social distancing practices. The survey also indicates that DSP turnover has increased due to the pandemic, which means there are new DSPs revolving regularly as the direct care staff for waiver support recipients. <u>https://publications.ici.umn.edu/community-living/covid19-survey/results-dsp-covid-19experiences</u>
- DHS' data from Family Care and IRIS programs shows great risk for people in these programs who all meet an institutional level of care. Data from this past week demonstrates that while Wisconsin's long-term care program enrollment is 77,432 or approximately 1.4% of the WI population, people in these programs account for nearly 1/5 (18.2%) of state COVID-19 deaths.

We appreciate the important and difficult work you are tasked with. It is important to proceed with equitable vaccinations of vulnerable populations in Wisconsin immediately. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. We welcome the opportunity to provide further information.
From:	Kathy Armstrong
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccination Sub-Committee, Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 5:47:02 PM

# Vaccine

Dear Committee,

Please add people with disabilities in the next Phase 1B of the COVID Vaccinations.

all people with disabilities across our great State of

Wisconsin to be added to this next Phase 1B. You may also consider the caregivers of disabled people and all those who are in contact, such as those who work at Group Homes, family members if the person lives at home with the family and those at the workplace.

Thank you. We know you will make the right decision.

Greg and Kathy Armstrong

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

 From:
 Lea Kitz

 To:
 DHS SDMAC

 Subject:
 Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1b Comments

 Date:
 Friday, January 15, 2021 5:21:29 PM

 Attachments:
 DRW Comments to SDMAC re Vaccine 1b Priorities 011521.pdf

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

Please accept the attached comments on the SDMAC's Priority Plan for Vaccine Phase 1b. Thank you, Lea Kitz

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~

Lea Kitz Executive Director disability**rights wisconsin** 131 W. Wilson St., Suite 700 Madison, Wisconsin 53703 608-267-0214, ext. 2643 800-928-8778 608-267-0368 Fax lea.kitz@drwi.org

<u>www.disabilityrightswi.org</u> If you are not the person intended to receive this email, please delete it and notify me right away. Thank you!

# disabilityrights wisconsin otection and advocacy for people with disabilities.

January 15, 2021

Jon Temte and Ann Lewandowski CoChairs, SDMAC Vaccine Subcommittee

Via Email at: dhssdmac@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Re: COVID-19 Phase 1b Vaccine Prioritization

Disability Rights Wisconsin offers its strong support for the Phase 1b vaccine prioritization that the SDMAC Vaccine Subcommittee has developed. The proposal provides a good balance between protecting highly vulnerable populations and protecting the most essential workers. As the Protection and Advocacy Agency for people with disabilities in Wisconsin, we are particularly supportive of the proposal to prioritize Family Care and IRIS recipients and people who are incarcerated.

With respect to Family Care and IRIS recipients, this group presents Wisconsin with an opportunity to vaccinate an easily identifiable group of people who have many of the comorbidities that place them at particular risk for severe outcomes if they contract COVID. Each and every person in these programs qualifies because they require a level of care that is provided in a nursing home. Thus, they are functionally equivalent to the nursing home population that has already been prioritized in phase 1a. While a number of IRIS and Family Care recipients are in phase 1a because they reside in long term care facilities, many people in these programs live in small group homes, the homes of family members or their own homes. The addition of the 70 and older age population<sup>1</sup> and the congregate settings residents proposed to be included in phase 1b will further increase the numbers covered, but even after these groups are added, a large number of Family Care and IRIS recipients would not be getting vaccinated absent specific inclusion in phase 1b.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> There appears to be a mistake in the heading related to the "70 and above" category. All references to this group refer to it as "70 years and above" except the first, where it is "People above 70 years of age." It is assumed that the Subcommittee did not mean to exclude people age 70 from this category.

131 W Wilson St	376
Suite 700	Sui
Madison WI 53703-3263	Mil
608-267-0214	414
608-267-0368 fax	414

217 W Knapp St

January 15, 2021 Jon Temte & Ann Lewandowski

The remaining IRIS and Family Care recipients are younger people with physical or intellectual/ developmental disabilities (I/DD) who live on their own or with other family members. Young people with physical disabilities have comorbidities that place them among those at highest risk of bad outcomes from COVID. Likewise, people with I/DD have a heightened risk of death regardless of age if they contract COVID. Many people with I/DD have the additional burden of being unable, because of their disabling condition, to comply with social distancing and hygiene protocols and are unable to tolerate masks. Both of these groups typically have multiple caregivers providing support who, though covered in phase 1a, are the least likely to have been vaccinated because they are not affiliated with a health care system. The sooner we get vaccine to this population the better.

With respect to people who are incarcerated, the risk is obvious and acute. This is a population that involuntarily cannot socially distance themselves. A huge percentage of this population consists of people with disabilities. Forty percent of the adult male prison population and 90% of the female prison population in Wisconsin experiences mental illness, making the prison system the largest institutional provider of mental health services in the state. In addition, the prison population consists disproportionately of people of color, a group that is also highly correlative with COVID comorbidities. It is estimated that because of poor medical care both before and after incarceration, people in prison present medically as ten years older than their biological age. As we cover those who guard this population, so should we cover the actual population. As a society we have a moral imperative not to knowingly permit this population to become victims to this disease simply because they are incarcerated.

We applaud the work done by this subcommittee and strongly recommend that the full SDMAC adopt this proposal for Phase 1b of the vaccine roll-out.

Sincerely,

Lea Kitz Executive Director

Dear Members of the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC) and Vaccine Subcommittee Members,

I hope this email finds you well. The decisions you have to make are difficult. Perhaps this will help ease your minds, whether you are employed by the state of Wisconsin or a private entity, the law, specifically 42 USC Chapter 126, prohibits the discrimination on the basis of disability. (Also known as the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2008.)

It's very admirable the efforts for ethical considerations and 'socially acceptability', thankfully there are federal laws you must abide by. And by excluding persons with disabilities from group 1B that is discrimination, which is a violation of the law.

Both disabilities and serious medical conditions are defined by federal law. Those definitions are distinct. See 42 U.S. Code § 12102 - Definition of disability and 29 U.S. Code § 2611.Definition of Serious Medical Condition

Per the ADA/ADAAA:

Public Programs:

Subject to the provisions of this subchapter, no <u>qualified individual with a</u> <u>disability</u> shall, by reason of such <u>disability</u>, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a <u>public</u> <u>entity</u>, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity.

Private entities (Places of Public Accommodation):

No individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of <u>disability</u> in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges,

advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation.

Best, Greg

From:	Bill Mcintyre
То:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	VACCINE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR PHASE 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 4:51:24 PM

PLEASE GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS TO RECEIVE THE COVID VACCINE IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN.

From:	Thomas Mucklin
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 4:43:25 PM

My name is Tom Mucklin, 78 years old. My wife is Sharon, 74 years old.

So far we have been extremely

careful to protect ourselves and have avoided contracting the virus. I feel that we are not going to be able to avoid it much longer – the odds are stacking more against us every day. We are becoming more paranoid about leaving the house for ANY reason.

The sooner we are able to receive the vaccine, the better our chances to survive this world wide tragedy. Please help and allow us to receive the vaccine as part of Phase 1B.

Tom, Sharon, Mark Mucklin



From:	Julie Reigle
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	"Vaccine subcommittee" Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 4:36:11 PM

I had the opportunity to see the latest guidelines Wisconsin is suggesting for phase 1B. Why these guidelines were not decided quite awhile ago so that things could get moving faster puzzles me.

Can you please explain why Wisconsin does not follow the national guidelines of the CDC? Why are comorbidities not addressed? Someone very close to me has comorbidities that would make it very risky to contract Covid 19. Shouldn't these people with compromised immune systems be included in Phase 1B.

Finally, why has Wisconsin been so slow in getting people vaccinated?

I know everyone believes they are trying their best but we can do better as a state!

Julie Reigle

Michael Goche
DHS SDMAC
Subcommittee Phase 1B
Friday, January 15, 2021 4:27:10 PM

Please see attached note regarding the importance of the vaccine for people with special needs. Thank you. Donna Goche

# **COVID-19 Vaccine for People with Disabilities**

To Whom it May Concern,

support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of

people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sent from my iPhone

To Whom it May Concern,

I support including people with disabilities in

the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down Syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible. Due to Down Syndrome my daughter has a reduced capacity for fighting illnesses and is also obese which is typical of many with this genetic abnormality.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Peter Van Hoven



To: Members of the Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee

This message is to express support for prioritizing at-risk individuals and their caregivers in the distribution of SARS-COV-2 vaccines in Wisconsin.

First, please explicitly include all caregivers of participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs alongside other essential health workers in Phase 1A. Please indicate that "caregivers" includes unpaid family members providing an institutional level of care to disabled individuals at home.

Second, please explicitly include all participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs, along with yet-unvaccinated caregivers, in Phase 1B.

Ethical distribution of the vaccine prioritizes these individuals for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Vulnerability to Exposure - Disabled individuals are vulnerable to exposure from unavoidable contact with caregivers

- Disproportionate Severity of Impact - Disabled individuals are more severely impacted by SARS-COV-2 and at greater risk of death from its complications

- Health Worker/Caregiver Shortages - Disabled individuals face a shortage of qualified, well-trained caregivers; SARS-COV-2 outbreaks among caregivers, including unpaid family members, exacerbate this already acute shortage

- Access to Critical Health Services - Disabled individuals with complex health needs disproportionately seek care and/or have been foregoing needed care in medical facilities and other settings where SARS-COV-2 is likely to circulate

Your careful consideration of this request is appreciated.

Thank you,

Dana Hellgren

608-770-2216

From:	Karen Franco
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee and Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 4:10:31 PM

Hello,

I believe that our special needs community and their caregivers need to be in the Phase 1B vaccination schedule. It is imperative that these individuals are among the Phase 1B distribution.

They are vulnerable to sickness and some have

other health conditions to consider.

Please add special needs individuals and their caregivers who work so hard taking care of them to the Phase 1B vaccination schedule.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Karen Franco

From:	<u>Liz</u>
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	COVID-19 Eligible populations
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 4:09:01 PM

Dear DHS,

Your forgetting about the older vulnerable population who have serious lung pre-conditions that will kill them if they get COVID-19. Surely they should be vaccinated before half of the young and healthy population do.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Lizabeth Parmer

MARGARET MILLER
DHS SDMAC
Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Friday, January 15, 2021 4:00:41 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I support including people with

disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine. People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Margi Miller

From:	Robin Kennedy
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee /Phase 1B public comment
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 3:52:42 PM
Attachments:	A-Team WI Public Comment Letter 1.15.21.pdf

A-Team Grassroots System, Inc. © <u>www.ateamUSA.net</u> ateamgrassroots@gmail.com



Dear members of the Vaccine Distribution Sub-committee of the SDMAC,

It is with great hope and promise we write to you to express our recommendation to include those with cognitive and physical disabilities, their caregivers, co-workers and state appointed guardians at home and in the workplace in schedule 1B for Covid-19 vaccine distribution. Many of our members with disabilities are at increased risk of contracting the virus as they live in group homes or with elderly parents. It's vitally important participants in day services, those who have the dignity of work in community rehabilitation programs and community integrated employment also have the best line of defense against coronavirus.

We are especially concerned with CDC findings that people living with disabilities are at higher risk for serious consequences when contracting Covid-19.

A-Team Wisconsin is a grassroots organization made up of families, friends and supporters who devote their efforts to guaranteeing people with disabilities have quality of life and dignity at home and work. An overwhelming aspect of that quality is health. The COVID-19 vaccine is paving the road to the end of this pandemic. Please consider the importance of prioritizing this essential group of Wisconsinites.

The COVID-19 vaccine and the end of the pandemic will be the only way that many of our members will have a chance to end the social isolation that has been so debilitating and disruptive to the quality of life and dignity that we so firmly aspire to achieve.

We believe this committee's decision will have a great impact on the lives of our members and should not be taken lightly.

Respectfully,

Joel Kleefisch, Government Affairs Director A-Team WI

From:	
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine subcommittee and Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 3:50:13 PM

To whom it may concern,

I support including people with

disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the Covid vaccine. People with physical and intellectual disabilities including people with Down syndrome are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from Covid19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the Covid vaccine priority group 1B. Sincerely,

Barbara J Schultz

To Whom it May Concern,

people to receive the COV D vaccine.

we support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of

People with physical and intellectual disabilities are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COV D 19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1b cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COV D vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely, Rhonette Mellinger

From:	James Carlson
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	"Vaccine Subcommittee" and "Phase 1B"
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 3:32:44 PM

#### To Whom it May Concern,

I feel that people

with Down syndrome should be placed in the 1B Cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible. Thank you for including the particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B. Sincerely, James M. Carlson

Sent from my iPad

From:	Elizabeth Filter
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 3:24:41 PM
Attachments:	image001.png image003.png image004.png image005.png
Importance:	High

# Good afternoon,

VARC, Inc. is an organization that served 850 individuals with disabilities in Wisconsin in the year 2020, through prevocational, day service, residential, supportive home care, CCS, CLTS waiver, supported employment, and other services.

The impact that COVID-19 has placed on the community of individuals with varying abilities has been devastating. From the discontinuation of services, to providers seeing unprecedented revenue loss, and participants experiencing months of isolation, the effect has been immense. Staff of organizations, including VARC, have willingly continued to provide critical services to Wisconsin residents with disabilities, and while providers have taken extreme precautions to ensure a safe service and work space, those employee have inherited ongoing risks to the health. Many consumers served have compromised immunities and health conditions that disallow them to continue receiving critical services until vaccines are available, and some attend services even with these risks present, as the repercussions of not attending are too great.

For these reasons, I urge you to consider HCBS and other disability providers, and the consumers of these services, in Phase 1A of the vaccine distribution or immediately upon rolling out Phase 1B.

With great appreciation,

Elizabeth Filter | MSP President | CEO 608-637-3934 x1305



To Whom it May Concern,

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of

people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

-Wendy Darm

Sent from my iPhone

I would like to recommend that people over the age of 40 with high blood pressure be fast tracked to get the vaccine since there is a high correction between death and the high blood pressure comorbidity.

Thanks

Roy Rietz

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

I would like to see phase 1b of the COVID vaccine include those of any age who are at high risk of hospitalization, illness, and death from COVID-19 due to health conditions.

Cindy Mueller

To Whom It May Concern,

I am in support of including people with disabilities and their caregivers in the IB cohort of people to be eligible to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities are higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and they need to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for prioritizing our most vulnerable citizens,

Kara Witthuhn

From:	<u>Marshall, Erica L</u>
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 2:52:44 PM

To whom this may concern,

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine. People with physical and intellectual disabilities are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for considering and hopefully including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely, **Erica L Marshall** Pre-Service Financial Counselor HSHS Wisconsin Division Ph 920-884-5850 Fax 920-431-3240 Respect, Care, Competence, Joy

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From:	Joy Marie Doersch
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Covid vaccine for those with disabilities
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 2:52:35 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I support including people with ID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including those with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Joy Marie Doersch

From:	Jeffery Baas
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1b
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 2:43:26 PM

I ask your committee to consider those with immune deficiency disorders for access the vaccine in group 1 b. Not only will the vaccine protect this vulnerable segment of our population, but there is evidence suggesting those with such disorders can be vectors for the COVID-19 virus to mutate due to the extended length of time it can stay in a person with a compromised immune system. Vaccinating those with immune disorders may help protect everyone from future mutations.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jeffery C. Baas, Ed.D.

I would like to see the next vaccine priority group include those over 70, or any age with diabetes, COPD, or other conditions that increase risk of severe COVID. Incarcerated individuals and those over 60 or with comorbidity in essential occupations like public transport/law enforcement/grocery stores should also be prioritized. Ian Gilson, MD

To Whom it may concern,

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID 19 and I feel they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration to include this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B

From:	Allie Dalebroux
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Recommendation for next phase of covid-19 vaccination rollout
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 2:27:42 PM

Parents/guardians of high risk children should be included as soon as possible

Covid-19 is quite frankly

a death sentence for be obviously too young to receive the vaccine any time soon and his specialists are unsure if he would be able to receive one even when that time does come due to his medical complexities. It's important to address and prioritize people and caretakers with these unique circumstances as soon as possible. I have been told by the doctors as well as my PCP that they do not know when I will be able to receive the vaccine at this time. I need to know when I can expect to receive it so that I can continue to do everything in my power to protect from covid-19. Thank you for your time.

-Alexandra Dalebroux

Sent from my iPhone

From:	MARY BROCKWAY
То:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Phase 1 B Public comment for covid 19 vaccination
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 2:24:15 PM

First, I apologize if this is not the proper method to comment, however, it was unclear on the website how the public could comment. I am strongly recommending that persons age 16-and older with pre-existing conditions that make them more at risk for serious complications of covid be prioritized in 1B along with the elderly. The issue is risk. Also, a significant number of persons ages 50 and above are often caregivers to frail elderly family members and in order to protect and ensure the safety of this family unit, they should be all vaccinated.

I realize vaccine is limited at this time, hopefully more vaccines will be approved soon and more vaccine will become available. I have concern that the committee is prioritizing business needs versus risk. I understand the need to get frontline workers vaccine, but I believe older adults with risk factors should be prioritized. Would they consider vaccinating essential workers who fall into the higher risk category versus all essential workers.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Brockway RN MS

To whom it may concern:

As a **boots** of a special needs **boots**, I feel they should be at the top of list to get the covid vaccine. They are at high risk for a fatal illness from this disease and feel that they should get the vaccine as soon as possible. They are so vulnerable.

Thank you,

Milly Wahner

From:	<u>Marygraul</u>
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Covid vaccine
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 1:51:35 PM

When will people with cancer or heart disease be able to get the vaccine?

Sent from my iPhone
From:	Don Katz
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Public comment on: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1b draft guidelines
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 1:48:04 PM

Two comments:

I strongly support inclusion of people with disabilities in group 1b, however the inclusion of only people in Family Care and IRIS is too narrow. I recommend that you include everyone who is either on Family Care or IRIS or is on Social Security Disability (SSDI). IRIS/Family Care are Medicaid programs and are means tested (with very restrictive asset and income limits), so there are many disabled people who are at severe risk from COVID who do not qualify - almost all of those people would be on SSDI.

Secondly, I strongly support the inclusion of staff and prisoners in prisons in Wisconsin in group 1B.

Don Katz

---

During COVID, I'm only processing email a couple times a week. If you need my attention more quickly, text or WhatsApp work best.

I can imagine these decisions are hard to make, one thing I would ask you to please consider is to make sure to clearly define what subgroups are eligible to receive the vaccine.

I have been frustrated with the initial rollout as I see young, work from home IT staff recieving the vaccine ahead of my grandparents who are in high risk (of dying from COVID) groups due to both age and health conditions. I think the frontline hospital worker eligibility must have not been defined correctly because I personally know many people not involved directly with covid patients (or patient care at all) who were given the vaccine.

Please, please make sure this trend doesn't continue and please give our elderly priority. They are easy to verify as drivers license and health care systems may already have date of birth.

Dividing into too many sub groups may eventually slow the spread but the time it takes to identify who belongs in what group and which group goes first is precious time wasted. Right now we are in a good situation in comparison to some southern states in regards to new cases per day but that might not stay the case. Each vaccine could be a life saved. I think we need to prioritize it based on easily identifiable/verifible risk factors.

One group I urge extreme caution on is this one: PUBLIC-FACING ESSENTIAL WORKERS I feel like this is open to a lot of interpretation and I would be careful with it. I also am not sure how we would verify this. Is a 20 year old waitress higher risk than an 85 year old with diabetes? My 23 year old sister works a job at a football stadium and can work from home most days but comes in on weekends when there are events, would she qualify under this? I don't think she should but it could be interpreted as yes.

I am extremely grateful to our essential employees but I'm not sure they should be ahead in the line before the elderly.

Another group I question is this: Non-frontline health care personnel. I do think cleaning staff should be prioritized for sure if they haven't already but admin workers and those working from home do not make sense to me just because they work in healthcare. Has Wisconsin had issues with supply chain in hospitals in these areas? There are lots of other vital businesses that have critical workers (I work in student loans and right now I am one of 4 people who can work on certain applications--but I certainly don't believe that puts me at risk of spreading or dying from COVID-19).

I appreciate you eliciting feedback from the public and I know you will do you best to make the best decision for Wisconsin. I know this kind of decision isn't black or white. I don't have all the data so these are just opinions...I appreciate you listening to them.

Thanks,

Amanda Statz

From:	Julie
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	covid vaccination
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 1:28:25 PM

It is very important that individuals eith disabilities and their caregivers be able to get the vaccination, immediately.

They should on top of the list, everyone eith disabilities. Thanks Julie Chaloupka

Please give priority to Wisconsin people with cognitive and developmental disabilities.

--Priscilla Camilli From:jgkmoersch@wi.rr.comTo:DHS SDMACSubject:"vaccine subcommittee" and "Phase 1B"Date:Friday, January 15, 2021 1:10:22 PM

cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

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

To Whom it May Concern,

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Jeff and Ginger Moerschel



Bette Bachhuber
DHS SDMAC
Bruce Bachhuber
Covid Vaccine for Down Syndrome Persons
Friday, January 15, 2021 1:09:54 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

we strongly support

including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities generally, and the second second are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness than the general population from COVID-19 and we feel strongly that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely,

Bruce and Elizabeth Bachhuber Green Bay, WI

To: Members of the Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee

This message is to express support for prioritizing disabled individuals and their caregivers in the distribution of SARS-COV-2 vaccines in Wisconsin.

First, please explicitly include all caregivers of participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs alongside other essential health workers in Phase 1A. Please indicate that "caregivers" includes unpaid family members providing an institutional level of care to disabled individuals at home.

Second, please explicitly include all participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs, along with yet-unvaccinated caregivers, in Phase 1B.

Ethical distribution of the vaccine prioritizes these individuals for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Vulnerability to Exposure - Disabled individuals are vulnerable to exposure from unavoidable contact with caregivers

- Disproportionate Severity of Impact - Disabled individuals are more severely impacted by SARS-COV-2 and at greater risk of death from its complications

- Health Worker/Caregiver Shortages - Disabled individuals face a shortage of qualified, welltrained caregivers; SARS-COV-2 outbreaks among caregivers, including unpaid family members, exacerbate this already acute shortage

- Access to Critical Health Services - Disabled individuals with complex health needs disproportionately seek care and/or have been foregoing needed care in medical facilities and other settings where SARS-COV-2 is likely to circulate

Your careful consideration of this request is appreciated.

Regards, Ryan Freund



To Whom it May Concern,

support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COV D vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COV D 19 and I feel they should be placed in the 1b cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COV D vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely, Tracy Kleppe

My name is Richard Lamal and I am 67 years old

I would like to be included in the next round of Covid vaccinations. Currently I feel like I am walking Covid magnet!

Sent from my iPad

From:	Peters, Redebra
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	vaccine subcommittee phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 12:50:45 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

us:

people to receive the COVID vaccine.

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

ASPIRO Logo Redebra Peters | Vocational Specialist/Career Specialist Direct 920.593.4313 | Main 920.498.2599 | Fax 920.498.2652 1673 Dousman Street | Green Bay, WI 54303 Email rpeters@aspiroinc.org | Web www.aspiroinc.org Connect with

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Dear Committee,

has muscular dystrophy and is ventilator-dependent. I am fully in support of including Family Care participants in group 1B.

Thank you, Lisa Coffman

Hello-

I would like to provide some feedback on the phase 1B recommendations for the rolling out of COVID-19 vaccines.

My ask is that you please include parent caregivers of of Katie Beckett Medicaid recipients.



Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter, and for valuing the lives of people of all ages with disabilities and their caregivers.

Best Regards, Kelly Hoppe

To Whom it May Concern,

I support including people with COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Best Regards,

Melissa Eriksen



From:	Steve Darm
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee on Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 12:26:28 PM

Dear Subcommittee Members,

I support including those with disabilities in the next group (1B	) to
receive the Covid vaccine.	
Thank you for taking the time to consider including my daughter's situation for inclusion in group 1B of the	
vaccination process.	

Sincerely,

Steve Darm DePere, WI.

From:	Travis Halff
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Phase 1B- An Appeal from Someone Who Is Immunocompromised
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 12:25:20 PM

Hello,

While I applaud Wisconsin's work to get vaccines for frontline workers, I must relay my disappointment that people who are in very high risk brackets (Type 1 Diabetics face some of the largest hurdles if diagnosed with COVID-19) are not also included.

Since the current issue is a distribution issue and not a production issue, I believe that including immunocompromised people in Phase 1B (as states like Texas are successful doing) would help the entire state. Hospitals will deal with fewer critically ill patients, creating capacity for others.

I appreciate your consideration and everything you all are doing. Stay safe.

Best, Travis Halff

Best, Travis

----

Travis Halff (he, him, his) Founder & Chief Strategist Y'all A DTC Branding Studio Identity matters.



Y'all 25 W Main St, FI 5 Madison, WI 53703

To Whom it May Concern,

people to receive the COV D vaccine.

, we support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of

People with physical and intellectual disabilities are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COV D 19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1b cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COV D vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely, Lisa Machkovich

From:	Linda H.
То:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1b
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 12:14:08 PM

Hello,

Everywhere on google I read that people with Down syndrome are 5x more likely to get the infection and 10x more likely to die.



Thank you Linda Havlicek Brookfield

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Linda Brunner
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 12:05:05 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

we support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID 19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1b cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely,

Robert Brunner Linda Brunner

I support including people with cognitive and physical disabilities in the Phase 1B of COVID vaccines.

Thank you in advance for including this vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine 1B priority group.

Jim Noll

To Whom it May Concern,

I support including people with disabilities in

the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and I feel they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

David Trytek

From:	chris4includes@aol.com
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccination Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 11:43:51 AM

I am writing to support the need to vaccinate all adults with disabilities, and their support team in 1B.



I hope we can give everyone the vaccination so that I can return to work and return to being out in the community with my friends.

Sincerely,

Barry Wasik Delavan, WI

From:	Ellen Trytek
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee and Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 11:39:51 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

I support including people

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Ellen

Ellen Trytek

Dear Committee:

I am writing as a parent who continues to provide 24/7 care for

various respite providers have all had to stop coming into our home to support us, because of Covid. Because of the the significant changes to daily schedule, has been struggling with severe anxiety attacks.

As the State looks to provide covid vaccinations, I ask that you not forget about the families who provide day in and day out care in their homes for the with cognitive challenges. Until the and the providers are vaccinated, we can not move forward in his ability to venture outside the home, and return to the life.

Please consider vaccinating all with disabilities and those who care for them in 1B.

Chris Wasik

From:	Bentz, Shannon
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 11:36:54 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

people to receive the COVID vaccine.

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

ASPIRO Logo Shannon Bentz | Accounting Specialist Direct 920.593.4322 | Main 920.498.2599 | Fax 920.498.2652 1673 Dousman Street | Green Bay, WI 54303 Email sbentz@aspiroinc.org | Web www.aspiroinc.org Connect with us:

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Λ

To Whom it May Concern,

the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

I support including people with disabilities in

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with PW syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible. The Comorbidity include lungs and low muscle tone

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Kevin Bresnahan

From:	Doble, Katie
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 11:27:03 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

As a provider of individuals with disabilities, I support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.



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From:	<u>Alana Sharman</u>
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine subcommittee - phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 11:25:03 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and I feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely, Alana Schneider Mother to Haley, a 15-year old girl with Down Syndrome

From:	Michele Stanley
То:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Public Comment: Vaccine Subcommittee, Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 11:13:41 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am contacting you to support designating *ALL IRIS* participants and their *CAREGIVERS* as IB vaccination eligible. Most of the these individuals are now unable to work or go to their supported workshops, day activity centers because by their very qualification for IRIS status are unable to fully protect themselves or their coworkers during the pandemic. Hospitalization and medical compliance would be the utmost nightmare for these participants as well as for the already over-run medical and hospital system. Early inoculation for them is an easy and compassionate way to forestall a whole lot of heartache as well the financial considerations of moving these individuals to a higher and more expensive level of care that would result with any increased medical need or disability.

Thank you for your consideration. Stay Safe. Be well.

Michele

Michele Stanley Pronouns: she/her/hers

To: Members of the Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee

This message is to express support for prioritizing disabled individuals and their caregivers in the distribution of SARS-COV-2 vaccines in Wisconsin.

First, please explicitly include all caregivers of participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs alongside other essential health workers in Phase 1A. Please indicate that "caregivers" includes unpaid family members providing an institutional level of care to disabled individuals at home.

Second, please explicitly include all participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs, along with yet-unvaccinated caregivers, in Phase 1B.

Ethical distribution of the vaccine prioritizes these individuals for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Vulnerability to Exposure - Disabled individuals are vulnerable to exposure from unavoidable contact with caregivers

- Disproportionate Severity of Impact - Disabled individuals are more severely impacted by SARS-COV-2 and at greater risk of death from its complications

- Health Worker/Caregiver Shortages - Disabled individuals face a shortage of qualified, well-trained caregivers; SARS-COV-2 outbreaks among caregivers, including unpaid family members, exacerbate this already acute shortage

- Access to Critical Health Services - Disabled individuals with complex health needs disproportionately seek care and/or have been foregoing needed care in medical facilities and other settings where SARS-COV-2 is likely to circulate

Your careful consideration of this request is appreciated.

Thank you,

Jennifer

From:	Mandy Clarke
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	VACCINE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR PHASE 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 11:09:21 AM

PLEASE GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS TO RECEIVE THE COVID VACCINE IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN.

Mandy Clarke | Operations Manager | Community Involvement Direct Supply | mclarke@directsupply.com | office: 414-358-7248 | mobile: 414-791-7494

Check out Direct Supply's Community Involvement video!

From:OLSEN Angie (Case IH)To:DHS SDMACSubject:Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1BDate:Friday, January 15, 2021 11:06:32 AMImportance:High

To Whom it May Concern,

I support including people with disabilities in the

1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Angie Olsen

To Whom it May Concern,

people to receive the COVID vaccine.

support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of

Many people with physical disabilities, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and I feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From:	Manlick, Jackie
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	vaccine subcommittee phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 10:49:02 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

people to receive the COVID vaccine.

support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.



This electronic mail message and any files transmitted with it may be confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which they are addressed.

From:	Sue Detienne
То:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Group 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 10:31:34 AM

I am writing to support the inclusion of people with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities in Group 1B for Covid vaccination. This population often has multiple health issues in addition to cognitive delays and are also often exposed to in home caregivers who are also at risk by virtue of their responsibilities for intimate caregiving in multiple households.

This vaccine cannot come soon enough!

Thank you! Susan Detienne Appleton WI

Sent from my iPhone
From:Tamara McAllisterTo:DHS SDMACSubject:Covid vaccineDate:Friday, January 15, 2021 10:24:29 AM

Good Day,

As I'm sure you are aware, Covid can be extremely serious for those with disabilities. I urge you to include those with disabilities in the next tier of vaccinations.

Kind Regards, Tamara McAllister To: Members of the Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee

This message is to express support for prioritizing disabled individuals and their caregivers in the distribution of SARS-COV-2 vaccines in Wisconsin.

First, please explicitly include all caregivers of participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs alongside other essential health workers in Phase 1A. Please indicate that "caregivers" includes unpaid family members providing an institutional level of care to disabled individuals at home.

Second, please explicitly include all participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs, along with yet-unvaccinated caregivers, in Phase 1B.

Ethical distribution of the vaccine prioritizes these individuals for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Vulnerability to Exposure - Disabled individuals are vulnerable to exposure from unavoidable contact with caregivers

- Disproportionate Severity of Impact - Disabled individuals are more severely impacted by SARS-COV-2 and at greater risk of death from its complications

- Health Worker/Caregiver Shortages - Disabled individuals face a shortage of qualified, well-trained caregivers; SARS-COV-2 outbreaks among caregivers, including unpaid family members, exacerbate this already acute shortage

- Access to Critical Health Services - Disabled individuals with complex health needs disproportionately seek care and/or have been foregoing needed care in medical facilities and other settings where SARS-COV-2 is likely to circulate

Your careful consideration of this request is appreciated.

Sincerely

**Billie Wagner** 

Mom to terminally ill and disabled son.

From:Kelly AntonsonTo:DHS SDMACSubject:Down syndrome community in Group 1BDate:Friday, January 15, 2021 10:23:14 AMAttachments:image001.png

To Whom it May Concern,

cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely, Kelly Antonson

Kelly Antonson Site Manager GiGi's Playhouse Madison 4104 Monona Drive Madison, WI 53716 (608) 709-1411 www.gigisplayhouse.org/madison

GiGiGis PlayHouse<sup>TM</sup> Down Syndrome Achievement Centers educate. inspire. believe

Madison, WI

From:	Martin, Robert/MKE
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B Considerations
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 10:21:27 AM

#### To Whom it May Concern,

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine. People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible. Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

#### Robert Martin, PE Jacobs Tunnel Engineer / Technologist | BIAF 414.847.0425 office 414.379.0808 cell Robert.Martin18@jacobs.com

1610 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 201 Milwaukee, WI 53212 USA <u>www.jacobs.com</u>

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From:	Bridget Rolek
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	COVID vaccine public comment
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 10:15:01 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am asking you to consider vaccinating parents/guardians of children with severe medical conditions in the next cohort, 1B.

While it is not yet fully proven that vaccines prevent transmission, early data is promising. An article published in the Salt Lake Tribune from January 14, 2021, summarized results from several studies and information from sources including The Lancet and the FDA. It states, *it would be reasonable to estimate that vaccines reduce transmission from anywhere from 30% to 90%* – *a huge range, to be sure, but it depends on* 

the vaccine used and the accuracy of these studies with limited sample sizes.

https://www.sltrib.com/news/2021/01/14/can-vaccinated-people/

I believe early data justifies vaccination of parents/guardians of medically compromised children. We are medical workers, although we are not recognized as such or paid. I perform five complex respiratory therapy sessions a day, which can include using up to four different machines/devices. I monitor my son's SPo2 and administer oxygen and/or deep suctioning when needed. I am also responsible for the ventilator he needs when he sleeps. I tube fed, catheterize and closely monitor him for frequent hypothermia and daily seizures. In essence I provide hospital level care that borders on the level of care provided in an ICU. His nurses already qualify for vaccination, and they spend far fewer hours than I do providing medical care requiring close contact with a medically compromised individual.

Feasibility of administering vaccines to this group is high, as DHS already has the names and contact information of children who receive care via Katie Beckett or WI State Adoption Assistance Program, Children's Long Term Care Support Waivers, and Private Duty Nursing funded by MA. Many parents of children in this group are highly motivated to receive the vaccine.

Contrary to what some may think due to his complex medical condition, **beyon** does have good quality of life. **Solution life is worth saving, and COVID is very much a danger to it.** I fully understand that vaccination would in no way be a substitute for the very strict social distancing our family is already practicing, but **based on available data it would significantly reduce the risk of his death.** Please help us properly care for our children by allowing us to become vaccinated.

Sincerely, Bridget Rolek

# 

From:	Nancy
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Category 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 10:08:26 AM

This message is to express support for prioritizing disabled individuals and their caregivers in the distribution of SARS-COV-2 vaccines in Wisconsin.

First, please explicitly include all caregivers of participants in the IRIS, Family Care, Medicaid, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs alongside other essential health workers in Phase 1A. Please indicate that "caregivers" includes unpaid family members providing an institutional level of care to disabled individuals at home.

Second, please explicitly include all participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs, along with yet-unvaccinated caregivers, in Phase 1B. Also, it would be great if that specifically included kids, as my daughter is 8 yo.

Ethical distribution of the vaccine prioritizes these individuals for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Vulnerability to Exposure - Disabled individuals are vulnerable to exposure from unavoidable contact with caregivers

- Disproportionate Severity of Impact - Disabled individuals are more severely impacted by SARS-COV-2 and at greater risk of death from its complications

- Health Worker/Caregiver Shortages - Disabled individuals face a shortage of qualified, welltrained caregivers; SARS-COV-2 outbreaks among caregivers, including unpaid family members, exacerbate this already acute shortage

- Access to Critical Health Services - Disabled individuals with complex health needs disproportionately seek care and/or have been foregoing needed care in medical facilities and other settings where SARS-COV-2 is likely to circulate

Your careful consideration of this request is appreciated

Sincerely,

Nancy Sands

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From:	cndlandeau@charter.net
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	vaccine subcommittee phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 10:08:19 AM

please include adults with health conditions putting them at higher risk for severe covid.

Or perhaps, those with health issues that need to work w	with the public.

Many older people want the vaccine so they can see their grandchildren and return to normal living but could stay home. Inseed to go out and be in public while having more risk for severe covid than someone older and healthy, who could choose to stay home!

Also, prisoners should not be allowed to get the vaccine before the general public.

To Whom it May Concern,

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Best, Carmela Kustner

From:	Manlick, Jackie
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Covid vaccine
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 9:58:57 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

people to receive the COVID vaccine.

I support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1B cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.



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Hello,

I'm writing to express my strong support for early COVID vaccinations for family care and Iris participants. As a care giver I cannot relay strong enough the importance of early vaccinations for myself and my disabled clients. This pandemic has had an enormous effect on so many and I believe some of the people affected the hardest are the disabled. I've seen the devastation first hand. Their worlds have been turned upside down and for many, their ability to cope is beyond d difficult. It's heartbreaking. They need their caregivers and their lives to return to some sort of normalcy sooner than later. Please consider the importance of their well being. Please consider their inclusion in phase 1b.

Thank you,

Nancy Peandro

Sent from my iPad

Hello.

I am a caregiver for people with disabilities. I support the inclusion of people with disabilities in phase 1b of the vaccine roll out.

Thank you Alisa Morrison Wauwatosa WI

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

<u>Mary Kay Logemann</u>
DHS SDMAC
Vaccine subcommittee and 1B
Friday, January 15, 2021 9:40:06 AM

Emphasis on people of all ages with active Cancer should be higher priority. This disease is already very life threatening and adding COVID increases life risk substantially.

From:	Cauble Dianne
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 9:35:52 AM

requires 24 hour a day care under the family care program. Six caregivers currently provide this care **severely** disabled and has a rare chromosomal abnormality. Due to **severely** intellectual disability **severely** disabled and has a rare chromosomal all her caregivers. Incidentally we live in Waukesha County and cannot find a vaccine provider for our workers who should qualify for a vaccine **severely** also does not understand and would not comply with social distancing. We have taken her out of her day program and keep her from all activities. However a vaccine is the only way to protect **severely** caregivers and their families. Thank you for considering the inclusion of this very vulnerable population.

Dianne Cauble



 
 From:
 Lisa Johnson

 To:
 DHS SDMAC

 Subject:
 Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1B

 Date:
 Friday, January 15, 2021 9:18:20 AM

 Attachments:
 image001.png BioForward SDMAC Comments on Draft Phase 1b - Jan 15 2021.pdf

Please see the attached request to include biohealth frontline workers in SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Phase 1b.

Sincerely, Lisa Johnson

Lisa Johnson CEO



BioForward, Inc. 214 N Hamilton Street Suite 202 Madison, WI 53703 <u>ljohnson@bioforward.org</u> 608-236-4753



# VIA EMAIL ONLY TO DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov

January 15, 2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

# RE: Request to Include Biohealth Frontline Workers in SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b

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

We write on behalf of our members biohealth, medical device and biotechnology companies to respectfully request that you amend your proposed Phase 1b draft COVID-19 vaccine distribution prioritization to expand Phase 1b to **include biohealth frontline workers**.

Our biohealth workforce in the State of Wisconsin includes frontline workers who are:

- Researching SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19) in order to better understand its effects on human health and to identify therapies to treat patients suffering from the virus;
- Manufacturing COVID-19 testing kits, testing supplies and PPE; and
- Developing, testing and producing COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics.

These workers are the biomanufacturing and research infrastructure in this state that is providing our citizens with testing and treatments for COVID-19 across Wisconsin. As such, we urge you to prioritize their access to the vaccine in the next phase of vaccine distribution in order to preserve their ability to maintain this critical work moving forward as we strive to effectively combat this pandemic.

The biohealth workforce has been included in Phase 1b in multiple other states as part of their "manufacturing" designation because maintenance of these workers' ability to continue working is critical to bringing an end to the devastating effects that this pandemic has had on our state.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely, Lisa Johnson, CEO, BioForward – (608) 445-2405

From:	Wendy Heyn
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	vaccine subcommittee phase 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 8:15:51 AM

To: Members of the Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee

This message is to express support for prioritizing disabled individuals and their caregivers in the distribution of SARS-COV-2 vaccines in Wisconsin.

First, please explicitly include all caregivers of participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs alongside other essential health workers in Phase 1A. Please indicate that "caregivers" includes unpaid family members providing an institutional level of care to disabled individuals at home.

Second, please explicitly include all participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs, along with yet-unvaccinated caregivers, in Phase 1B.

Ethical distribution of the vaccine prioritizes these individuals for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Vulnerability to Exposure - Disabled individuals are vulnerable to exposure from unavoidable contact with caregivers

- Disproportionate Severity of Impact - Disabled individuals are more severely impacted by SARS-COV-2 and at greater risk of death from its complications

- Health Worker/Caregiver Shortages - Disabled individuals face a shortage of qualified, well-trained caregivers; SARS-COV-2 outbreaks among caregivers, including unpaid family members, exacerbate this already acute shortage

- Access to Critical Health Services - Disabled individuals with complex health needs disproportionately seek care and/or have been foregoing needed care in medical facilities and other settings where SARS-COV-2 is likely to circulate

WI DHS has defined Phase 1a in the document linked here:

https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02858.pdf

The document reads "The Subcommittee agreed to define health care personnel (HCP) eligible for vaccination in Phase 1a as: 'individuals who provide direct patient service (compensated and uncompensated) or engage in healthcare services that place them into contact with patients who are able to transmit SARS-CoV-2, and/or infectious material containing SARS-CoV-2 virus.' The CDC/ACIP guidance for prioritization within this group is: 'frontline HCPs in hospitals, nursing homes, home care who i) work where transmission is high or ii) at increased risk of transmitting to

patients at high risk of severe morbidity and mortality. The HCP category includes clinicians; environmental services; nursing assistants; staff in assisted living, long term care and group care; and home caregivers if meet 1a risk criteria5."



Prioritizing vaccinations of CLTS families is extremely important because we cannot be replaced as our children's main caregivers. If one of our family members contracts COVID, our whole family would be guarantined. My Liam's staff of 10+ people at school and his home PCWs will stop being a part of his care team. That means that every drink Liam takes, every bite he eats, every diaper, every bath, every safety measure, every transfer...must be done by my husband or me. If both of us get the virus, who will take care of Liam? He is 5'5", 115 lbs. He is non-ambulatory and his needs are total. His care is overwhelming when we are well and have a team to help us. Who will do this if we are sick? And if we are dead? Then what? Does DHS have people who can step in to help out? We can't think of even ONE person in our lives who could. We have lots of family and friends who could step in for our daughters. Our girls can do a lot for themselves and could fit into another family if the worst happened. We have ZERO help for our Liam. Does social services have foster homes ready and prepared for an adult sized child with total care needs if the worst should happen to his parents (God forbid) or are they ready to send help into the home?? No, I suppose they do not. Can the school staff step in to help? No. They cannot. The best option is to keep the parents/unpaid home caregivers healthy by vaccinating us.

Your careful consideration of this request is appreciated.

Wendy Heyn

Terri Hart-Ellis
DHS SDMAC
People with Disabilities in group 1B
Friday, January 15, 2021 7:52:35 AM



People with disabilities depend upon communities of care and close contact. They are also at greater risk from this virus.

PWD should be prioritized in an early vaccine group, along with other frail, high risk people. As should we, the caregivers. While I realize there is much contention about who "deserves" to go first, people with disabilities are almost always last. For everything. And also stand to lose the most. And is seems their deaths are treated as just expected collateral damage.

Please don't let our kids, (brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, friends, neighbors...) just die.

Please take this into consideration as you determine who is next up for vaccines.

Cheers, Terri Hart-Ellis To: Members of the Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee

This message is to express support for prioritizing disabled individuals and their caregivers in the distribution of SARS-COV-2 vaccines in Wisconsin.

First, please explicitly include all caregivers of participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs alongside other essential health workers in Phase 1A. Please indicate that "caregivers" includes unpaid family members providing an institutional level of care to disabled individuals at home.

Second, please explicitly include all participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs, along with yet-unvaccinated caregivers, in Phase 1B.

Ethical distribution of the vaccine prioritizes these individuals for reasons including, but not limited to: - Vulnerability to Exposure - Disabled individuals are vulnerable to exposure from unavoidable contact with caregivers

- Disproportionate Severity of Impact - Disabled individuals are more severely impacted by SARS-COV-2 and at greater risk of death from its complications

- Health Worker/Caregiver Shortages - Disabled individuals face a shortage of qualified, well-trained caregivers; SARS-COV-2 outbreaks among caregivers, including unpaid family members, exacerbate this already acute shortage

- Access to Critical Health Services - Disabled individuals with complex health needs disproportionately seek care and/or have been foregoing needed care in medical facilities and other settings where SARS-COV-2 is likely to circulate

Your careful consideration of this request is appreciated.

From:	Kristy Keller smith
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	SARS-COVID-2 Phase 2 distribution
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 7:10:53 AM

To: Members of the Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee

This message is to express support for prioritizing disabled individuals and their caregivers in the distribution of SARS-COV-2 vaccines in Wisconsin.

First, please explicitly include all caregivers of participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs alongside other essential health workers in Phase 1A. Please indicate that "caregivers" includes unpaid family members providing an institutional level of care to disabled individuals at home.

Second, please explicitly include all participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs, along with yet-unvaccinated caregivers, in Phase 1B.

Ethical distribution of the vaccine prioritizes these individuals for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Vulnerability to Exposure - Disabled individuals are vulnerable to exposure from unavoidable contact with caregivers

- Disproportionate Severity of Impact - Disabled individuals are more severely impacted by SARS-COV-2 and at greater risk of death from its complications

- Health Worker/Caregiver Shortages - Disabled individuals face a shortage of qualified, welltrained caregivers; SARS-COV-2 outbreaks among caregivers, including unpaid family members, exacerbate this already acute shortage

- Access to Critical Health Services - Disabled individuals with complex health needs disproportionately seek care and/or have been foregoing needed care in medical facilities and other settings where SARS-COV-2 is likely to circulate

Your careful consideration of this request is appreciated.

Good morning,

Vaccine distribution should include all age groups the vaccine is approved for and prioritize disabled individuals due to highest risk. COVID vaccine is approved for age 16+ and Wisconsin is set up to discriminate against disabled 16-18 year olds by not including them in early phases of distribution.

Vaccine purpose is to eliminate death. Patients at highest risk of death are disabled and should be prioritized in vaccine distribution starting at the age vaccine is approved for. If a vaccine were approved for all ages, disabled people of all ages should be highest priority in vaccine distribution.

Caregivers of highest risk patients should also be included in vaccine distribution to eliminate risk of transmission to highest risk patients. Caregivers include anyone living or caring for disabled.

Julie Kowalske

Sent from my iPhone

From: To: Subject: Date: Emily DHS SDMAC Vaccine Subcommittee for Phase 1B Friday, January 15, 2021 5:36:17 AM

# PLEASE GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS TO RECEIVE THE COVID VACCINE IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

Emily Moore





Hello,

I love that you're including family caregivers for high risk individuals. I know IRIS was mentioned, can recipients of Katie Beckett Waiver Program also be mentioned by name? I'm assuming by the term family care, along with IRIS, Katie Beckett recipients would be included.

Thanks for all hour hard work! It is very appreciated by us!

Amber Medina

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Alice Wycklendt
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Prioritization of Disabled Individuals in Vaccine Distribution
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 12:32:33 AM

To: Members of the Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee

This message is to express support for prioritizing disabled individuals and their caregivers in the distribution of SARS-COV-2 vaccines in Wisconsin.

First, please explicitly include all caregivers of participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs alongside other essential health workers in Phase 1A. Please indicate that "caregivers" includes unpaid family members providing an institutional level of care to disabled individuals at home.

Second, please explicitly include all participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs, along with yet unvaccinated caregivers, in Phase 1B.

Ethical distribution of the vaccine prioritizes these individuals for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Vulnerability to Exposure - Disabled individuals are vulnerable to exposure from unavoidable contact with caregivers

- Disproportionate Severity of Impact - Disabled individuals are more severely impacted by SARS-COV-2 and at greater risk of death from its complications

- Healthworker/Caregiver Shortages - Disabled individuals face a shortage of qualified, welltrained caregivers; SARS-COV-2 outbreaks among caregivers, including unpaid family members, exacerbate this already acute shortage

- Access to Critical Health Services - Disabled individuals with complex health needs disproportionately seek care and/or have been foregoing needed care in medical facilities and other settings where SARS-COV-2 is likely to circulate

479

Your careful consideration of this request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Alice Wycklendt

From:	Katie Kasper
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Prioritization of Disabled Individuals in Vaccine Distribution
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 12:15:54 AM

To: Members of the Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee

This message is to express support for prioritizing disabled individuals and their caregivers in the distribution of SARS-COV-2 vaccines in Wisconsin.

First, please explicitly include all caregivers of participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs alongside other essential health workers in Phase 1A. Please indicate that "caregivers" includes unpaid family members providing an institutional level of care to disabled individuals at home.

Second, please explicitly include all participants in the IRIS, Family Care, CLTS, and Katie Beckett programs, along with yet unvaccinated caregivers, in Phase 1B.

Ethical distribution of the vaccine prioritizes these individuals for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Vulnerability to Exposure - Disabled individuals are vulnerable to exposure from unavoidable contact with caregivers

- Disproportionate Severity of Impact - Disabled individuals are more severely impacted by SARS-COV-2 and at greater risk of death from its complications

- Healthworker/Caregiver Shortages - Disabled individuals face a shortage of qualified, welltrained caregivers; SARS-COV-2 outbreaks among caregivers, including unpaid family members, exacerbate this already acute shortage

- Access to Critical Health Services - Disabled individuals with complex health needs disproportionately seek care and/or have been foregoing needed care in medical facilities and other settings where SARS-COV-2 is likely to circulate

Your careful consideration of this request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Katherine Kasper



From:	<u>Ceri</u>
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Priority 1B
Date:	Friday, January 15, 2021 12:08:19 AM

Please, please consider adding working adults with chronic conditions in the 1B category.

can't hire people to help care for our three kids because of the risk to his health. And both of us are only able to work part time at home in our jobs as we have full time care responsibilities. We won't be able to send our kids to school when it opens until my husband is vaccinated.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Matthew Johnson
То:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Inclusion of Adults (And Caregivers Of Those) With Down Syndrome or Autism
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:52:41 PM

I am writing to ask that the Wisconsin DHS strongly considers including adults (and caregivers for those) with learning disabilities such as Down Syndrome and autism are included in group 1B for the coronavirus vaccine distribution. There are numerous studies showing those with learning disabilities are twice as likely to die if infected by COVID-19, which is particularly frightening to me as the father of two boys diagnosed on the spectrum. A few key articles to refer to:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2021/01/13/disabled-coronavirus-vaccine-states/ https://www.wsj.com/articles/covid-is-deadlier-for-people-with-autism-down-syndrome-nowfamilies-are-pushing-hard-for-vaccines-11608729816 https://www.bbc.com/news/health-54924121

While group 1B appears to include teachers and special education staff, we cannot safely assume that we can send either of my boys back to in-person instruction without additional protections for the adults taking care of them let alone teaching them. As noted in the current group 1B notes, vaccinations for children are still quite some time in the offing, but every effort should be made to help protect them as much as possible until our children can be directly protected by vaccination.

Please seriously consider adding these additional groups to 1B. Thank you for your time.

### -Matthew Johnson



Virus-free. <u>www.avast.com</u>

From:	Lori Schelble
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Re: vaccine subcommittee phase 1B
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:27:05 PM

Please give high priority to people with cognitive and developmental disabilities and their caregivers to receive the covid vaccine in the state of wisconsin.

 From:
 Maria Myers

 To:
 DHS SDMAC

 Subject:
 Vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B - Include Family Care and IRIS Participants in Phase 1B

 Date:
 Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:21:36 PM

To whom it may concern:

Appendix B.

I

wholeheartedly second the comments made in

The material contained in Appendix B "Rationale for Inclusion of All Family Care and IRIS Members in COVID-19 Vaccination Phase 1B" is **SPOT ON**. I commend the team that came up with all the points and compelling data raised in Appendix B. Frankly, I am amazed to see such a thorough understanding and description of the types of living circumstances in which Family Care and IRIS participants find themselves, circumstances that increase the risk of COVID snowballing through their homes. **IT IS AN UNBELIEVABLY ACCURATE AND INSIGHTFUL ANALYSIS**.

We all have been hoping that at-risk status would be given meaningful consideration. Appendix B does just that. Please include Family Care and IRIS participants in Phase 1B.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Maria and Trent Myers



From:	<u>Nikki Kozak</u>
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	"vaccine subcommittee" and "Phase 1B"
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:56:25 PM

I am advocating for the COVID-19 vaccine to be distributed to individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities as a top priority, many of these individuals lives have literally been haulted for the past 10 months. They have not been able to leave their home, to attend work worship or the grocery store. There has been no face to face contact with family or friends if they live in a group home. I understand that there have been zoom calls but that is not the same. They crave and need physical interaction. For most of them they dont fully understand the virus. However they do know the feeling that they have been abandoned by the people they love the most.

Please bring back some normalcy to their lives by making it a priority to get them vaccinated!

Nikki Burow

From:	TD Kornetzke
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Public Input
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:21:31 PM

Thanks for the opportunity to provide input about who should be considered for next phases of COVID vaccine.

I urge you to consider parents and caregivers of very vulnerable children, like those with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a rare disease. These families live in fear of even a typical flu.

These families deserve help.

If you need info about SMA, connect with the SMA team at UW Madison American Family Children's hospital.

Sent from my iPad

I support giving the COVID vaccine to people in Family Care and IRIS. This group should be in phase 1b of the vaccine roll-out.

l agree with the Appendix B - Rationale for inclusion of All Family Care and IRIS Members in COVID-19 Vaccination Phase 1b

Please create a distribution plan that will get to the group very soon.

Stacey Belleau

From:	Rich Lynch
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Next Phase / 1B
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:13:08 PM

....I do not understand why extremely vulnerable and highly compromised Wisconsin healthcare patients being treated for cancer with chemotherapy and other highly toxic drugs are not in this next phase..???...

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

#### Disclaimer

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This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived.

To whom it concerns,

I am glad to see that individuals with severe conditions are included in this group.

I have been wearing my mask, washing my hands till they are dry; and, social distancing but I know if I contract this disease, it will kill me. Considering most individuals that have passed are the elderly and individuals with severe conditions. God rest their souls! Please take this into consideration.

Thanks for your time and asking for our opinions.

Bonnie

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Dawn Karlon
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	IrIS Oarticipants and xaregivers
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:06:26 PM

I support that this group (Wisc IRIS and Family Care) be prioritized as next to recieve the Coronavirus vaccines

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android
From:	Rosemarie Feiza-Lenz
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	People with Down syndrome and IRIS/ Family Care participants need 1B status
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:06:11 PM

Rosemarie Feiza-Lenz



January 14, 2021

Dear DHS,

Based on a medical research study in the Annals of Internal Medicine on 8 million adults, people with Down syndrome are 10 times more likely to be hospitalized and 4 times more like to have complications according to this study (see reference below).

This puts every person with Down syndrome at extremely high risk for death or complications.

like many others with intellectual disabilities on IRIS/Family Care is working on the front lines as a grocery store and restaurant worker even while they are more challenged with mask wearing and social distancing. It is making his contribution to keeping society running. If and peers in IRIS in turn need protection now. Please put all participants in the 1B status

Thank you for thoughtful consideration,

Rosemarie Feiza-Lenz

Study:

COVID-19 Mortality Risk in Down Syndrome: Results From a Cohort Study Of 8 Million Adults

Annals of Internal Medicine acpjournals.org October 21, 2020

Ashley Kieran Clift, MA, MBBS, Carol A.C. Coupland, PhD, Ruth H. Keogh, DPh

From:	Tammie Stahl
То:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Public Input on Next Phase Vaccine Eligibility
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:48:34 PM

Thanks for the opportunity to provide input about who should be considered for next phases of COVID vaccine.

I urge you to consider parents and caregivers of very vulnerable children, like those with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a rare disease. These families live in fear of even a typical flu.

These families deserve help.

If you need info about SMA, connect with the SMA team at UW Madison American Family Children's hospital.

From:	Tammy Radosevich
То:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	COVID Vaccine Group 1B Feedback
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:24:35 PM

Hello,

I am writing in regard to the subcommittee that will decide who receives the vaccine in group 1B. I believe you need to prioritize the high risk population, such as those with chronic lung disease. By drawing a line in the sand based solely on age, you are completely neglecting the population that is also more likely to be hospitalized or die based on pre-existing conditions. Those with poor health also need regular medical care, so it is not possible to completely avoid exposure to COVID-19. I think you need to reconsider that younger age groups in some of the essential workers should not receive the vaccine before someone that it would be life or death for.

Thank you for your time, Tammy Radosevich

Sent from my iPhone

Dear subcommittee,

I would like to recommend that your phase 1b considers not only those who are at risk, but those who are at risk but have the best chance of living long healthy lives. I see no reason that a young mother of 3 battling cancer should be less of a priority than 70+ year old who have already lived a long and healthy lives.

I know these are tough conversations to have, but they must be had.

Also you should remove the "active" from cancer in your list of conditions. Consult any oncologist. There are cancer survivors who are immunocompromised from cancer treatment even years after achieving remission. Leave it up to their physicians to make that call, don't limit them to your wording.

Thank you for your consideration, and for allowing us to be a part of this conversation.

From:	Victor Molzberger
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Covid 19 vaccine
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:19:14 PM

Why is the State acting as if this new directive from the Federal Government does not exist?

.

Thank you,

Captain Molzberger

Sent from my iPhone

To Whom it May Concern:

I am formally requesting that Autistic adults be added to the 1B Vaccination schedule.

Individuals with Autism and developmental disabilities have a four time greater risk of dying from Covid than any other group.

I have enclosed an article for your review.

Sincerely Nicki Vander Meulen

https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.wsj.com/amp/articles/covid-is-deadlier-for-people-withautism-down-syndrome-now-families-are-pushing-hard-for-vaccines-11608729816

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Ray Petersen
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Comments on 1b
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:59:07 PM

Please same approach recently communicated by the federal government and even the incoming administration, as well as that being followed by many states.

1b should include those with 2 or more pre-existing conditions regardless of age.

Thanks Ray

From:	<u>McLanahans</u>
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccinations
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:55:50 PM

Hi,

I just wanted to ask if those who have blood clotting disorders, such as Factor Five Leiden, could be included in the medical conditions list. Seeing as Covid causes even normal people to have clots, those with blood clotting disorders have even more of a risk of developing clots.

Thank you, Kirsten

From:	Nick Reit
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1b
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:55:40 PM

#### Hello,

I strongly support prioritizing people in Family Care and IRIS for the COVID-19 vaccine. I also strongly support prioritizing people who are incarcerated for the vaccine. Both of these communities have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, and many people who are in Family Care and IRIS have a higher chance of severe COVID symptoms, hospitalization, and death. (According to the Washington Post, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are two to three times more likely to die of COVID-19. Disability Scoop reported that people with Down syndrome are 10 times more likely to die.) Both of these groups should be in phase 1b of the vaccine rollout.

Thanks, Nick Reit Dear members of DHS,

Thank you for providing the draft of potential recipients for the Covid vaccine for Phase 1B for public review. I believe people with cancer, both active and a history of cancer, should receive priority and be included in this phases explicitly. Having a history of cancer puts this population at a risk for Covid and a higher risk than the general population for more extreme symptoms and higher rates of hospitalizations.

Thank you for considering my suggestion. Please continue to be safe and well. Kindest regards, Kathryn Walker

From:	Sandra Krause
То:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	yes to IRIS recipients getting vaccine
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:49:59 PM

an IRIS recipient with autism and a seizure disorder. is high risk for covid complications. Yes, these folks should be in the next round to receive vaccinations.

"Transition begins with an end, and ends with a new beginning." Reverend Mari

Sandy Krause Wisconsin Aspergers Empowerment

From:	Jennifer Vejvoda
То:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:45:25 PM

I would like to see immediate caregivers (including parents) of autistic children & children with Down syndrome.

Public Health England has reported these groups have a 30 time higher death rate from Covid.

For me, it is especially scary to have a solution of the second s

Here is one of many articles on the topic: <u>https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.wsj.com/amp/articles/covid-is-deadlier-for-people-with-autism-down-syndrome-now-families-are-pushing-hard-for-vaccines-11608729816</u>

Thank you for your consideration.

Jen Johnson

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Jennifer Vejvoda
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:38:04 PM

I would like to see immediate caregivers (including parents) of autistic children & children with Down syndrome.

Public Health England has reported these groups have a 30 time higher death rate from Covid.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jen Johnson

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Tim Hiles
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Recommendations for COVID vaccination - transplant patients and caregivers
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:21:00 PM

Hello,

Please consider expediting the delivery of the COVID vaccination to transplant patients and their caregivers. A and I have been following strict at-home quarantine since this began and I would like to be able to go back to working on site (currently working from home). We would also like to be able to see family and friends in-person again and having the Covid vaccination would better allow us to do this.

On behalf of all immunocompromised patients,, thank you for your consideration. Sheryl and Tim Hiles

508

From:	Karen Weber
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Prioritize IRIS participants for Covid Vaccinr
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 5:30:34 PM

To whom it may concern Please work to ensure that participants in IRIS receive a higher priority to obtain the Covid vaccine

All of these participants are a vulnerable population and studies have shown that this population is more likely to be hospitalized and die when infected

Vaccination for this population should be a priority due to their dependence on others for support as well as their underlying conditions Thank you for your consideration Karen Weber

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Mary Dunnam
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccine public comment
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 5:10:18 PM

Please include those with high risk medical conditions / underlying health conditions in phase 1B along with their spouse/partner.

Sent from my iPhone

 From:
 Marcus Conigliaro

 To:
 DHS SDMAC

 Subject:
 VACCINE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR PHASE 1B

 Date:
 Thursday, January 14, 2021 5:09:27 PM

# PLEASE GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS TO RECEIVE THE COVID VACCINE IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

#### To Whom it May Concern,

, we support including people with disabilities in the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID 19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1b cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely, Wendy and Chuck Hirsch Dear Committee,

I strongly agree with the recommendation that all people in IRIS and Family Care be considered for 1B status, even if they do not live in group or congregate settings.

thousands of other Wisconsinites who receive long-term care, rely on outside providers for support. Those providers, like the one travel to different homes, putting them at increased risk of getting and spreading COVID-19.

In late December the CDC updated its list of conditions that carry an "increased risk of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19" to include Down syndrome. In fact, all people with developmental disabilities are at an increased risk for serious complications from COVID.

Lastly, people in long-term care are less able to follow personal safety protocols like physical distancing or wearing a mask.

Please understand that all people with disabilities need to be vaccinated as soon as possible. Thank you for your important work on this matter.



From:	Barbara Arndt
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccine public comment
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 4:06:24 PM

My husband and I are 70 and 72. We would like to be included in group 1b, please.

We have followed all safety protocols, wearing masks, social distancing and washing hands. We have not gone out to eat or sat in bars. We have basically stayed home since last March! We would like to enjoy our retirement after both of us working for 35 years at Dean Clinic (me) and UPS (husband). We would also like to visit with our grandchildren instead of just phone calls and FaceTime. Many states are including age 70 and over in group 1b. Please include us and all 70 year olds in WI.

Thank you, Barbara and Ronald Arndt

Sent from my iPad

From:Mike KlugTo:DHS SDMACSubject:Vaccine for people with disabilities and their caregiversDate:Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:40:06 PM

Dear Committee,



We ask that and other people on IRIS, Family Care, and participants and staff of Community Based programs be considered in highest priority Covid vaccination protocol. Their susceptibility with multiple settings/contacts is high with additional lack of understanding of safe protocols, and have health issues more sensitive, and more costly care to treat.

In essence they are super spreader events waiting to happen by their need for increased support staff and and support settings, they qualify for nursing care, and deserve same priority vaccination for their safety, front line worker safety, and the communities they live.

By nature **and a loving and very touchy person and it has been very stressful keeping** safe and away from others. With this vaccine we can add additional safety protocol others deserve.

Thank you for your consideration. Mike and Kevin Klug

Mike Klug

To Whom It May Concern,

I fully and wholeheartedly support including individuals with disabilities in the Covid 19 vaccine priority group 1B. These individuals are medically and socially vulnerable; many have medical comorbidities and often face barriers to timely medical care. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support including this cohort of patients as outlined in WI State Department Medical Advisory Committee 1B recommendations. Thank you!!

Sincerely, Elizabeth Arkowski spent the past 10 months essentially locked in their home to not compromise her as any infection of this virus would lead to severe complications.

I ask that you take into account people like when assigning Phase 1b. People who if they got the virus would have a high likelihood of major issues should be receiving this as soon as anyone.

Hello,

I would like this committee to strongly consider diabetics as a high priority group 1b for the COVID vaccine. Diabetes is one of the top categories for deaths related to COVID. This would make diabetics one of most at risk groups. If you are protecting the most at risk I ask you to put Type 1 diabetics in the 1b group.

I thank you for your time and efforts.

Tom Cyganek

From:Brennan, Patrick W.To:DHS SDMACSubject:Vaccine Subcommittee for Phase BDate:Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:22:30 PM

Please give high priority to people with disabilities and their caregivers to receive the COVID vaccine. Thanks.

Pat

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Patrick W. Brennan | Attorney ABOTA CRIVELLO CARLSON, S.C. 710 N. Plankinton Avenue, Suite 500 Milwaukee, WI 53203 (414) 271-7722 Main (414) 271-7722 Main (414) 271-4438 Fax (414) 290-7581 Direct Email: PBrennan@crivellocarlson.com www.crivellocarlson.com

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From:	Cates, Lisa A - DHS
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	FW: COVID vaccine prioritization (diabetes)
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:19:44 PM
Attachments:	ADA COVID vaccine prioritization WI-011421.pdf image001.png

From: Gary Dougherty <GDougherty@diabetes.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:29 PM
To: Gau, Maggie M - GOV <maggie.gau@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Palm, Andrea J - DHS <andrea.palm@dhs.wisconsin.gov>; Kuhn, Jamie S - GOV
<jamie.kuhn@wisconsin.gov>; Williams, TR - GOV <tr.williams@wisconsin.gov>; Roberts, Noah - GOV
<noah.roberts@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: COVID vaccine prioritization (diabetes)

Maggie:

Attached, please find a letter addressed to Governor Evers in which, on behalf of the American Diabetes Association, I urge Wisconsin to **not** differentiate between Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes in the state's prioritization of access for vaccines.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I may be of further assistance.

Thank you.



Gary Dougherty

Director State Government Affairs

Phone: +1 (800) 676-4065 x4832 | Mobile: +1 (614) 726-0801 diabetes.org 1-800-DIABETES (800-342-2383)



Are you at risk for Type 2 Diabetes? Take the Test

David B. Edlbeck
DHS SDMAC
David B. Edlbeck
Comments - Covid-19 Vaccine Comment
Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:09:19 PM

My wife and I have patiently remained at home since March 15, 2021 as we are both in our 70's and at risk for serious illness for Covid-19 — we are in the highest risk group. Because of the risk we feel we should be vaccinated as soon as possible — at a minimum be included in Group 1b.

From: To: Subject: Date: Stefanie Dugan DHS SDMAC VACCINE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR PHASE 1B Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:06:54 PM

PLEASE GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS TO RECEIVE THE COVID VACCINE IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN.

Stefanie Dugan



From:	Karen Neveau
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Candidates for phase 1b for COVID vaccine
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:02:26 PM

Please consider the people over 70 with co- mobitities. We have been, I believe at very high risk & if intelligent, have been home bound more than most of the general public because of the risk of not surviving this virus if contracted. As an example:

I'm sure there is a group of people in this as well as other

states that are a part of this category. Thank you for your consideration, Mrs. Karen Neveau Green Bay, WI

Sent from my iPad

From:	Sharon
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	VACCINE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR PHASE 1B
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:55:02 PM

PLEASE GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS TO RECEIVE THE COVID VACCINE IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

From:	Rachel Reit
То:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:46:30 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I support including people with disabilities in

the 1B cohort of people to receive the COVID vaccine.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities, including people with Down syndrome, are at higher risk for serious or fatal illness from COVID-19 and feel that they should be placed in the 1b cohort to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for including this particularly vulnerable population in the COVID vaccine priority group 1B.

Sincerely, Rachel Reit

### **Rachel Reit**

Marketing & Development Manager **Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin** 11709 W Cleveland Ave, Suite 2 West Allis, WI 53227 Phone: (414) 327-3729 ext. 104 rachel@dsaw.org | dsaw.org From:Scott LuberTo:DHS SDMACSubject:Phase 1bDate:Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:42:15 PM

I am writing in support of IRIS and Family Care recipients having been added to the 1b list.

Thank you Scott Luber From:Nate KochTo:DHS SDMACSubject:VACCINE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR PHASE 1BDate:Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:27:10 PM

Please give high priority to people with cognitive and developmental disabilities and their caregivers to receive the COVID vaccine in the state of Wisconsin.

## NATE KOCH

he / him / his

To whom it may concern:

Please add high risk medical conditions including immunosuppressive disorders to phase 1B. They are at very high risk and should be protected as soon as possible.

thank you, Suzanne Sanders

From:	Kris Walter
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	for subcommittee on vaccine
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:14:41 PM

I feel a group that has been forgotten are the

with pre-existing conditions.

grandparents that are taking care of their grandchildren,

We have our 5 year old when not in actual school wearing a mask all day at our house. This has been going on since last March. Our 22 month old has yet to leave his mask on. Their parents are in high risk areas of work. I feel despite not being in a childcare setting we are at great risk as well, due to having these children with us several days a week. I do not feel the inmates (despite their close courters) should be granted vaccines before I would. It doesn't make sense to me.

I also think there needs to be better organization of the vaccine once it becomes available. I have heard from my daughter (working in a hospital in Madison) that some health care workers refuse the vaccine causing the expiration date to come and it becomes wasted. I would think there could be a waiting list for outsiders to be able to come at a moments notice to any nursing home or hospital in their area to receive the vaccine causing no waste. I also believe nursing students could man vaccine sites in each city associated with the schools of nursing. Possibly the Medical students, pharmacy students and vet students could also do the same thing to help out. Med Techs are taught to give meds in nursing homes and I feel there are others that could be taught at the schools of nursing to help out to increase the people giving the vaccines once Wisconsin gets their allotment so there is no waste.

I don't feel giving an age of 70 omitting those with pre-existing conditions till the end makes sense. I would hope those in their 60's have more life span than those above 70.

I have stayed home for the past year wearing masks when the grandchildren need child care, picking up groceries at pick up and using pick up at the library. That is how I have avoided the virus and had hopes when a vaccine came out I would be given one but now see other groups not with pre-existing diseases will receive vaccines first.

My plea for future roll outs after group 1 is for those in the cardiac and pulmonary department patients would receive their vaccines before others without issues.

Thank you for your time and efforts in this matter.

Kristine Walter, Oshkosh, Wi

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From:	Buckey Brems
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	Vaccine
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:40:45 PM

I am requesting that in phase 1B you add high risk medical conditions to the list. People who are immunocompromised should get the vaccine. Many of these people are at high risk and should be able to get the vaccine just like essential workers. Thank you

Sent from my iPad

From:	David Ordan
To:	DHS SDMAC
Subject:	VACCINE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR PHASE 1B
Date:	Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:32:11 PM

## PLEASE GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS TO RECEIVE THE COVID VACCINE IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN.