

From: [Judy Gardenier](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Library personnel
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:59:06 PM

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I would like to ask SDMAC to consider including public library employees with the vaccine stage with education employees. Libraries serve many of the same clients plus even more of the community. They are often helping with education projects, research, and other needs. Also, in smaller communities, if Covid hits the staff, it means the library could soon be closed as it runs through the small staff, leaving the community without a library. Especially as more schools across the state begin to consider returning to the classroom, it only increases the demand on our local libraries.

Thank you,
Judy Hayden-Gardenier
Marshall Community Library Board member

From: [Barbara Henderson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public Comment- 1B Phase Inclusions
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:34:54 PM

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Please consider public library staff for inclusion in the 1B round of vaccinations. Library staff absolutely serve the educational needs of our communities and should be included with employees working in education, childcare, preschools, and higher education.

Thank you,
Barbara Henderson

Barbara Henderson, CLSS

Circulation Services Manager
Middleton Public Library
608-827-7405

bhender@midlibrary.org



From: [Middleton, Mary](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:28:38 PM

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To Whom it may concern,

I am employed at the Whitefish Bay Public Library and I would like you to consider adding library workers to the Covid19 vaccine phase 1B category. We provide an essential service to the community in multiple ways. The community depends on us and we are exposed to many different community members during the course of a shift. We provide educational resources, computer access, printing and others items that some patrons only have access to those things by using the library. Please consider adding Library workers to the Covid19 vaccine phase 1B.

Thank you,
Mary Middleton

From: [Emily Wawer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:16:40 PM

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To the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC):

I am writing to you on behalf of myself and my fellow library workers to ask that librarians and library workers in public, academic, and special libraries be included in state and local Phase 1b of vaccine distribution plans to protect staff and minimize risk to patrons and users.

The SDMAC's recommendations on January 13th listed public facing essential workers be included in Phase 1b, and essential workers would include education workers. The Wisconsin Library Association affirms that library staff fit both criteria. Furthermore, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) July 2020 working group report had included librarians in its definition of "essential workers". Librarians and library workers were identified as among the "workers at greatest risk for exposure to infectious diseases" and among those whose "occupational groups most likely to be exposed to infection or disease more than one time per month". The ACIP Interim Guidance grouped all "education, training, and library" workers alongside healthcare practitioners and technical, healthcare support, protective services, personal care and service, and community support workers as "essential".

It is important for state and local public health officials to recognize that public, academic, and special libraries perform regular and necessary "frontline services" every day. State and local vaccination plans should consider both the nature of the work librarians do as well as the clear social and educational benefits that libraries accrue. Including librarians and library workers in the Phase 1b of distribution plan will allow our sector to fully reopen public libraries to public service and campus libraries to all students while protecting staff and vulnerable populations. Waiting to inoculate librarians and library workers will continue to put our colleagues on the front lines to unnecessary risk and delay significant benefits to our society.

The CDC's "COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook" from October 2020 has identified libraries as appropriate and eligible sites for vaccination administration mobile clinics. This follows earlier guidance from the CDC that libraries should be considered by local health officials for mobile COVID testing sites as well. The CDC has also recognized that libraries, as trusted anchor institutions, should play an important role in sharing accurate information about approved vaccines and community vaccination activities. Hosting both mobile testing sites and vaccination clinics at the library lowers barriers to healthcare for many patrons and neighbors. Providing Phase 1b vaccinations to all library workers, staff, and librarians not only protects individuals and mitigates our collective risk, but it also helps to

legitimize the perception of vaccines as a core component of public health services.

We are calling on you to include librarians and library workers in the Phase 1b vaccination plans. Libraries are eager to help our state and we welcome any questions you may have or ideas on how we can help during this time. Thank you for your consideration,

Emily G. Wawer, Adult Services Librarian
Greendale Public Library, 5647 Broad Street, Greendale, WI 53129
(414) 423-2136, emily.wawer@greendale.org
Pronouns: she/her/hers

From: [Katie Ganser](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccinations
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:13:13 PM

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to ask you to consider to explicitly include public library staff in the 1b round of vaccinations. This round includes vaccinations for employees working in education and childcare, and we serve the educational needs of our communities.

Thank you,
Katie

--
Katie Ganser
Youth Services Librarian
Middleton Public Library
kaganser@midlibrary.org
608-827-7481



Currently Reading: The BFG by Roald Dahl

From: [Greendale Library Director](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B Vaccine Subcommittee-Public Librarian inclusion
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:05:21 PM

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Dear Members - as a public library director in a community within the most populous county in our state, I implore you to include public library workers in your Phase 1B vaccine cohort. Public library staff have been at the forefront of providing essential service since the beginning of the pandemic and continue to operate as public-facing front line workers while other industries like banks, restaurants, theaters and schools remain closed. Please help us protect this service by vaccinating our workers and keeping us on the job.

Brian Van Klooster, Director
414-423-2136, librarydirector@greendale.org
www.greendalepubliclibrary.info
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The SDMAC's recommendations on January 13th listed public facing essential workers be included in Phase 1b, and essential workers would include education workers. The Wisconsin Library Association affirms that library staff fit both criteria. Furthermore, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) July 2020 working group report had included librarians in its definition of "essential workers". Librarians and library workers were identified as among the "workers at greatest risk for exposure to infectious diseases" and among those whose "occupational groups most likely to be exposed to infection or disease more than one time per month". The ACIP Interim Guidance grouped all "education, training, and library" workers alongside healthcare practitioners and technical, healthcare support, protective services, personal care and service, and community support workers as "essential".

From: [Sara Simpson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Round 1b vaccination inclusion
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:04:45 PM

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I am writing to ask that you consider that public library staff be explicitly included in the 1b round of vaccinations, which includes vaccination for employees working in education and childcare (daycares, preschools, k-12, and higher education) as we serve the educational needs of our communities.

Thank you,

Sara Simpson
Circulation Services
Middleton Public Library
sarasimpson@midlibrary.org

From: [Tim Powers](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee and Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:00:47 PM

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Hello,

I'm writing to ask that you consider library employees in Phase 1B. Library employees are at high risk due to performing public facing positions. Many libraries are closed right now because it is not safe to have so many people in them. The library I work at averaged 4,000 visitors per week before COVID. Most libraries are currently offering curbside services, but sooner or later, libraries will need to open their doors to the public again. I hope that you will give libraries the same consideration as education and childcare.

Thank you,
Tim Powers

From: [Sarah Masa-Myers](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:46:32 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

As a public employee of the Fitchburg Public Library in Fitchburg, WI, I would like to share a few comments as you decide who should be included in phase 1B of the vaccine distribution. While I hope that healthcare workers, teachers, and employees of such areas of work are still at the top of the list, I urge you to also consider library staff across the state. Most importantly, the library provides students and adults who need our resources, the ability to continue their educational aspirations, especially during a time where education has been a struggle for so many. In addition, we are able to provide a variety of activities that are safe and accessible to patrons of all ages, as well as a way to allow for everyone to pursue their personal hobbies and escape into a favorite book while things are still uncertain.

The library provides essential and necessary services, such as reading and audio materials, educational resources, job hunting resources, private study rooms, and public computers. All of these can be accessed safely, with proper protocol, which I have no doubt that our Board of Director would ensure happen in order to help the public we serve. If library employees were able to be vaccinated, we would able to keep ourselves and the public safe, while allowing for more of the many services we offer to be accessed once more.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Masa-Myers

From: [Pat Laughlin](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: VACCINE SUBCOMMITTEE - PHASE 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:22:28 PM

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I am writing to encourage placing public library staff on the Phase 1b list for vaccines.

The Hales Corners Library has been open regular hours since June 1st, Monday through Saturday before the Labor Day Holiday, and 7 days a week after the Labor Day Holiday. Our library has provided steady, reliable service to the community and worked closely with the Hales Corners Public Health Department (located in the same building) as they've provided contact tracing, public health services to the public and business community.

The Library provides a safe environment, public computers for the unemployed for the job searches and unemployment claims, as well as reading and entertainment material for children, families, at home learning, and people of all ages. Our staff work one-on-one with members of the public, often in the close space of study rooms or at the photocopier, answering questions and providing technical support.

Giving public library staff the vaccine will give us the ability to continue all of these services with increased safety for everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Pat Laughlin

Patricia Laughlin | Library Director | Hales Corners Library | 5885 S. 116th Street, Hales Corners WI 53130
Direct 414-529-6150 - ext. 20 | pat.laughlin@halescornerslibrary.org | www.halescornerslibrary.org | Stay in Touch, sign up for our [newsletter](#)

Our mission is to provide the community with a space dedicated to the power of knowledge and technology, the world of culture, and the joy of reading by providing excellence in library services, resources, and programs.

From: [Reed, Nyama](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee; Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:13:01 PM
Attachments: OutlookEmoji-1578493400719d46c80f0-531c-4db7-a7f7-051b27f6b5b6.png
WLA Request for Consideration Phase 1b.pdf

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Dear State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC),

I am writing to you to join the Wisconsin Library Association's (WLA) appeal to include library staff in state and local Phase 1b vaccine distribution plans. In addition to the rationale WLA provided (see attached letter), I can personally speak to the impact reduced library services have on citizens. Many libraries statewide are closed to in-library service, resulting in citizens being unable to access public library computers to apply for jobs, complete job training online, or communicate with family and friends via email. By including library staff in Phase 1b, we will (hopefully) be able to return to in-library service safely and sooner.

Sincerely,
Nyama

Nyama Y. Reed (she / her / hers)
Library Director
N.Reed@WFBLibrary.org
414-755-6551 (direct line)

Whitefish Bay Public Library
5420 North Marlborough Drive
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
414-964-4380 (main line)



Our Mission

The Whitefish Bay Public Library, as a cornerstone of the community, is dedicated to connecting all people, inspiring a love of learning and providing access to ideas, information and resources.

From: [Phil Hansen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:59:03 PM

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Good afternoon!

My name is Phil Hansen, and I work at the Fitchburg Public Library. I'm writing to respectfully ask that public library staff members be added to Phase 1B, or one of the subsequent phases before the vaccine is available to the general public.

Currently all members of the Fitchburg Public Library staff are working in the library, and none of us are working from home. Some larger libraries are able to facilitate some employees to work from home, but we are not staffed to be able to handle that while still providing the level of services our patrons need. We are in the library 6 days a week, offering 52 hours per week of curbside services to our patrons. We socially distance internally and diligently follow cleaning and sanitizing procedures, but even so we've had at least one member of staff test positive for COVID-19 after leaving work due to symptoms. We ask our patrons to socially distance and wear masks when they come to pick up their items, but unfortunately we have had many issues with patrons refusing to follow those guidelines even when directly asked to do so. We have been told by the Fitchburg Police Department that they (very fairly) cannot help us enforce a mask policy, and that they will not be able to respond if we were to call and report a patron who was refusing to follow our policies and/or Dane County & State guidelines. This leaves us with a situation where we know for a fact that we will have patrons in our building that refuse to follow legal guidelines, including people who will be COVID-19 positive. We are planning on being proactive with patrons when this happens, but ultimately we don't have much ground to stand on. We also have staff and members of their households that are severely immune compromised, and most of our staff are part-time and do not have access to health insurance through the Library. Even though we are only offering curbside services at the current time, we do have contact with the community and to people who are not following the best practices and guidelines for social distancing or wearing of masks.

As a public institution, we also offer many educational benefits to Wisconsin communities. We have resources and technology available to help patrons apply for jobs, sign up for unemployment, and complete school projects. We offer as many of these services virtually as possible, but a large number of library patrons do not have a computer or Internet access at home. Before COVID-19 we were a big resource for patrons that home school their children, and now during the pandemic our patrons need access to free resources even more. We definitely won't be able to offer in-person programming or story times for quite a while, but we have a large population of children and senior citizens who are looking forward to using the library again once we re-open to the public. We are a public gathering space, and even though we will be following every policy and procedure to bar and discourage gatherings in the library, we will be at an increased risk of exposure as compared to the general public.

I'm sure that this is one of many emails that you'll receive about this, but please let me know if there's anything else I can do to help.

Sincerely,

-Phil Hansen

From: [Amy Eisenschink](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:56:36 PM
Attachments: image001.png

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Dear Subcommittee Members:

I'm writing today to strongly advocate that you include library workers in the Phase B vaccination plans. Libraries play a significant role in providing educational and enrichment opportunities for our communities, often providing literacy and digital literacy support to those most at risk. Although libraries have pivoted to provide many services during the pandemic, not everything can be done "curbside" or virtually.

At our library in particular, we have played a major role in connecting unemployed individuals with computers and, even more importantly, technology assistance. With our Job Center in Manitowoc County now permanently closed (and with other Job Centers temporarily closed), our library was one of the last local destinations for unemployed individuals to access public computers and receive staff assistance when needed. Additionally, many of these individuals would receive one-on-one assistance with photocopying and faxing. Each of these very essential services to our community also put our staff at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the need to be near these individuals requiring computer assistance. Sadly, in October 2020, our building was closed due to COVID-19 related staff absences and an increase of transmission in our county.

This is only one example of the ways our library workers are put at risk in our service to the Manitowoc community. Because of that increased risk and the significant value of our services, I hope you will include library workers in vaccination phase 1B with others workers providing frontline educational services. We work hard for our community, but we also want to be safe while we provide essential services. Thank you for your consideration!

Amy Eisenschink
Materials Manager
(920) 686-3015
aeisenschink@manitowoc.org
Pronouns: she, her, hers



www.manitowoclibrary.org

From: [Karen Hansen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:37:38 PM
Attachments: image001.png
Importance: High

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Dear Subcommittee Members:

I'm writing today to strongly advocate that you include library workers in the Phase B vaccination plans. Libraries play a significant role in providing educational and enrichment opportunities for our communities, often providing literacy and digital literacy support to those most at risk. Although libraries have pivoted to provide many services during the pandemic, not everything can be done "curbside" or virtually.

At our library in particular, we have played a major role in connecting unemployed individuals with computers and, even more importantly, technology assistance. With our Job Center in Manitowoc County now permanently closed (and with other Job Centers temporarily closed), our library was one of the last local destinations for unemployed individuals to access public computers and receive staff assistance when needed. Additionally, many of these individuals would receive one-on-one assistance with photocopying and faxing. Each of these very essential services to our community also put our staff at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the need to be near these individuals requiring computer assistance. Sadly, in October 2020, our building was closed due to COVID-19 related staff absences and an increase of transmission in our county.

This is only one example of the ways our library workers are put at risk in our service to the Manitowoc community. Because of that increased risk and the significant value of our services, I hope you will include library workers in vaccination phase 1B with others workers providing frontline educational services. We work hard for our community, but we also want to be safe while we provide essential services. Thank you for your consideration!

Karen Hansen
Public Services Manager
(920) 686-3036
khansen@manitowoc.org



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From: [Katie Kiekhaefer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public Comments
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:36:32 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

First, thank you for the opportunity to supply public comments in advance of the Distribution Subcommittee meeting. I am a public librarian in Wisconsin, and I am asking that the Distribution Subcommittee include public library staff in the 1b vaccine group.

I work at a small to mid-size library in southeastern Wisconsin, and when we have been open to the public during the pandemic, there are nearly 100 people a day who come through our doors, many of whom need one on one help from library staff. I am grateful that I work in a library with a library board and a director who take mask enforcement and other safety measures seriously. However, I also know that there are public library staff in countless libraries in our state who do not have those same working conditions. Their boards refuse to enforce masks or follow local health department recommendations for safe working conditions. Because each library has its own municipal governance, there is a huge disparity in safety measures and having all library staff be placed in 1b would allow us an opportunity to protect all library staff across the state.

Additionally, I believe that we should be included in 1b on behalf of our patrons, many of whom fall under the definition of vulnerable populations. We do essential work: assisting senior citizens to provide technology help, we serve young children and families, and we assist patrons needing help with unemployment forms and job applications. We are passionate about serving our communities, and receiving our vaccines in 1b will help us safely continue to offer these essential services.

Thank you again for this opportunity to give feedback.

Best,
Katie Kiekhaefer
Wauwatosa, WI

From: [Lisa Stippich](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B - Recommendation for Public Library staff inclusion
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:29:22 PM

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To Whom it May Concern:

I would respectfully like to submit into consideration the addition of Public Library staff into the inclusion of Phase 1B or subsequent phases of the COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Public Libraries are educational institutions that share many commonalities with the more traditional educational institutions cited in the *Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Recommendations for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b*, including working to meet the educational needs of students and researchers of all ages¹ and coordinating with local schools to support online and physical materials,² but with some key differences. Pre-COVID, public libraries are open to everyone for free. They provide a non-judgmental environment for communities to learn, stay warm in winter or cool in the summer, connect, read, communicate, and explore, without expecting anything in return for providing space. Public Libraries are key to bridging the digital divide by providing free and open WiFi, public access to computers, as well as technology and digital literacy education. In order to provide the best service to the public, library staff spends a significant amount of time in sustained contact with our patrons, and while we have adapted our services in light of the COVID-19 pandemic closing our doors to the public in March of 2020, there are essential services that we cannot adapt nor reasonably provide safely until we are vaccinated.

(1) The impact the pandemic has had on the sector:

The Public Library Association (PLA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), conducted a survey at the beginning of the COVID-19 public health crisis where 98% of public libraries responded to having to close their doors to the public, 35% of which indicated that this was to be for an indefinite amount of time.³ To this day, a majority of public libraries in Wisconsin remain closed.⁴ Many libraries have had to furlough or cut back on staff until libraries are able to safely reopen. ALA released a statement back in March of 2020 that "libraries are ultimately unable to enforce the social distancing measures recommended by the CDC,"⁵ putting both staff and the community at risk of exposure and spread when reopening without vaccination being available.

Since then, public libraries have moved many of their services to virtual programs through social media as well as providing curbside pickup for physical library materials. With the adoption of curbside services, most library staff members are unable to work from home and are working in the building with other staff while closed to the public. This has included the creation of safety procedures requiring masks, social distancing, as well as quarantining library materials for four days based on professional guidelines.⁶

(2) The specific impact the pandemic has had on businesses or personnel:

Public libraries in are now unable to serve key under-served populations in our communities. In Wisconsin alone, according to the most recent statistics, 15% of the households do not have access to a computer or internet service.⁷ With public libraries now closed to the public, this percent of the population does not have a way to access to basic resources, now almost exclusively moved online during the pandemic. Librarians cannot provide key in person reference services such as helping people learn how to apply for a job, where to look for unemployment information, finding trusted information about COVID-19 and vaccination,⁸ how to spot misinformation, or even just how to use their email or mobile device.

In 2019, public libraries in Wisconsin reported 26.7 million in-person library visits, 3.1 million reference transactions, 3.4 million uses of public internet computers, 11.1 million wireless internet users, as well as 2.8 million in person program attendees.⁹ These numbers all apply to services that were severely or completely impacted by closing the building to the public in the interest of health and safety.

Regardless, public libraries remain one of the most trusted sources of information, with 90% of people reporting that they have a lot or some confidence in their local public library, compared to 73% confidence in local public schools or government.¹⁰

(3) Any other staffing statistics related to the pandemic:

I have included the following list of resources, which covers much of what I discussed above in greater detail with additional statistics regarding public libraries and the COVID-19 pandemic:

¹American Library Association. *Public Libraries Respond to COVID-19: Survey of Response & Activities*. <http://www.ala.org/pla/issues/covid-19/surveyoverview>. Accessed January 18, 2021.

²Panorama Project. *How is COVID-19 impacting public library collections? (May 2020)*. <https://www.panoramaproject.org/covid-19-impact-on-public-libraries>. Accessed January 18, 2021.

³Public Library Association. *Public Libraries Respond to COVID-19: Survey of Response & Activities*. http://www.ala.org/pla/sites/ala.org.pla/files/content/advocacy/covid-19/PLA-Libraries-Respond-Survey_Aggregate-Results_FINAL2.pdf. Accessed January 18, 2021.

⁴Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. *WI Public Libraries Self-reported Status during COVID-19 Pandemic*.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12IU_3BBVXMq8D_Pq8vusqdJ-F8qPhGg0O3BGbF5cq2s/edit#gid=1010227229. Accessed January 18, 2021.

⁵Public Libraries Online. *COVID-19: The Impact on Public Libraries*. <http://publiclibrariesonline.org/2020/03/covid-19-its-impact-on-public-libraries/>. Accessed January 18, 2021.

⁶OCLC REALM Project. *Research*. <https://www.oclc.org/realm/research.html>. Accessed January 18, 2021.

⁷National Center for Education Statistics. *Number and percentage of households with computer and internet access, by state: 2018*. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d19/tables/dt19_702.60.asp. Accessed January 18,

2021.

⁸Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. *COVID-19 Information for Wisconsin Public Libraries*. <https://dpi.wi.gov/pld/boards-directors/disaster-planning/coronavirus>. Accessed January 18, 2021.

⁹Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. *Wisconsin Public Library Service Data*. <https://dpi.wi.gov/pld/data-reports/service-data>. Accessed January 18, 2021.

¹⁰ProQuest. Innovative Research Report. *Centuries of Resilience: Public Libraries Still Crucial During COVID-19*. https://www.iii.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/iii_ResearchReport.pdf. Accessed January 18, 2021.

I sincerely thank you for your hard work and for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Lisa Stippich

Electronic Services Librarian

Fitchburg Public Library

5530 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711

(608)729-1781

www.fitchburgwi.gov/library

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From: [Marshall Library Staff](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee / Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:24:37 PM

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Hello! In fairness I work for the library. I do believe some thought should be put into including library personnel into the 1B phase of distribution. There is considerable pressure to either reopen libraries to the general public or to keep them open. Younger children and their parents also use the library more due to at home schooling during the pandemic. Also many people without internet access use the library. Many employees and volunteers are older (retired) and at higher risk. with this increased exposure to the general public it would be a priority for employees to receive the vaccination at an early date. Thanks for your consideration!
Jeff Van Caster

Marshall Community Library
605 Waterloo Road
Marshall, WI 53559
608-655-3123 marlib.org

Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9am -7pm
Thursday and Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday 9am-3pm
Sunday Closed

Kindles, cds, scanning, faxing, online book club, activities for kids, dvds, video games, job search and resume help, ukuleles, cake pans, and of course, books.

“The library is central to our free society. It is a critical element in the free exchange of information at the heart of our democracy.”—Vartan Gregorian, president, Carnegie Corporation of New York (*In Praise of Libraries*, 1989)

From: [Elaine Danczyk](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Inclusion of Public Library workers in the Covid-19 Phase 1B Vaccinations
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:22:46 PM
Attachments: Outlook-3knmmuen.png

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Hello.

I am writing you today to ask you to consider including public library staff in the next round of Covid-19 vaccinations, which includes vaccination for employees working in education and childcare (daycares, preschools, k-12, and higher education).

The mission of the Portage County Public Library, where I have worked for twenty-three years, is to "... enrich our community by connecting people and offering free and equal opportunity for lifelong learning and enjoyment."

Last year in the pandemic, the total number of items checked out at the four branches of the Portage County Public Library was 324,432. The total door count at the four branches was 144,459. The total number of Adult and Children's programs was 843. The total number of program attendees was 13, 214.

Please help us to continue serving our communities' needs through "educating, inspiring, and connecting." We need to stay well, though. We need to be vaccinated against Covid-19.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elaine Danczyk, Circulation Library Associate
Portage County Public Library
1001 Main St.
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715-346-1547
edanczyk@pocolibrary.org



From: [Colleen Swanson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B rec for Library Essential Workers
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:07:46 PM

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Hello,

I'm writing to request that you consider public library staff as essential and include them in Phase 1b vaccine distribution. Library staff were included by the CDC in July 2020 as being "essential workers," yet are omitted in both Phase 1b and 1c vaccination plans. Public libraries perform critical educational frontline service every day, so library staff are in a high-risk group, and many are reopening or considering reopening at this time. Delaying vaccination of public library staff until Phase 2 puts them at unnecessary risk and keeps them from providing essential services to their communities.

Thank you,
Colleen Swanson

From: [Andrew & Alexis Anderson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:53:24 PM

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To the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee, I am emailing you today and pleading that Dane county librarian workers be included in the next phase1B for the COVID vaccine. During this pandemic, librarians have been essential workers in providing educational resources and materials to patrons everyday. Specifically, we have been a constant source in supplying homeschool materials for children during this pandemic. If we want to feel safe and open our doors in the near future, it is crucial that we are vaccinated soon.

Please consider all library workers to be vaccinated in Phase 1B so we can serve the educational needs of our communities.

Thank you for your time,
Alexis Anderson

From: [Ellen James](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:57:55 AM

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Please consider library personnel as they provide many services to the public.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Joan Behm](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Recommendation for Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:56:35 AM

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In response to public comment on draft recommendations for WDHS related to the next stage of Covid-Phase 1B. On behalf of myself and my staff please consider Library Personnel for the following reasons:

Public libraries are an essential part of any community, but especially in rural communities where public areas are few. Public libraries serve their citizens providing books and materials, computers and internet for work and play, spaces to meet, learn, and be social. Librarians are crucial as researchers, reference providers, after school care, visitor guides, young families advisers, and friends to those who live alone. Many libraries have had to close to quarantine, offer curbside service only, and reduce their services over the past several months putting a strain on their communities. Much of the demographic served by libraries is a range of ages including the elderly and children. As age is the single greatest risk factor for mortality due to COVID-19, it seems wise to vaccinate those who are in in-person contact with them on a regular basis, including staff at their public libraries. As libraries serve families by providing a safe space for their children after school, librarians are in-person with these children daily assisting them in various ways until parents are able to pick them up. Many school districts are reopening for second semester of this school year, if not already providing hybrid schedules. These school openings will increase the risk at libraries and for families as an essential service to our communities in the coming months. Many librarians themselves are in the demographic which places them in a higher risk including age and socioeconomic vulnerability with lower pay and few benefits. Therefore, public librarians should be vaccinated as soon as feasibly possible to keep their communities safe and reduce the risk of library closure by exposure and infection of staff.

Thank you for this consideration as you plan. Regards, Joan Behm, Dir.

Joan Behm, Dir.

Cambridge Community Library
P.O. Box 490
101 Spring Water Alley
Cambridge, WI 53523
608-423-3900

From: kmoore522@wi.rr.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:33:33 AM

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Respected Committee Members:

Please give serious consideration to including Public Library main library and branch facility staff members in the Phase 1B Covid 19 vaccine distribution.

At this point in our Covid "journey", I think it's critical for members of the public (adults and especially children) to have access to library materials and services in person at neighborhood locations. I think those staffers are critically important to serving a portion of the public who need in person access to all that physical facilities provide. As such, I think the staff needs the protection of the vaccine to continue to provide the critical services.

Thanks for your consideration of this important segment of the critical work force as we work to tame this pandemic.

Thanks for all your hard work and contributions to this vitally important element of public health.

Wishing you good health, and stay well.

Respectfully,

Kevin Moore
Town of Brookfield

From: swanson.molly
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:19:35 AM

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To whomever it may concern,

I'm writing to request that you consider public library staff as essential and include them in Phase 1b vaccine distribution. Library staff were included by the CDC in July 2020 as being "essential workers," yet are omitted in both Phase 1b and 1c vaccination plans. Public libraries perform critical educational frontline service every day, so library staff are in a high-risk group, and many are reopening or considering reopening at this time. Delaying vaccination of public library staff until Phase 2 puts them at unnecessary risk and keeps them from providing essential services to their communities.

Molly Mauritz

From: [Tyana Toft](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:58:39 AM

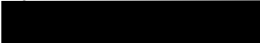
Caution: Message from external sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good morning,

I'm writing to request that you consider public library staff as essential and include them in Phase 1b vaccine distribution. Library staff were included by the CDC in July 2020 as being "essential workers," yet are omitted in both Phase 1b and 1c vaccination plans. Public libraries perform critical educational frontline service every day, so library staff are in a high-risk group, and many are reopening or considering reopening at this time. Delaying vaccination of public library staff until Phase 2 puts them at unnecessary risk and keeps them from providing essential services to their communities.

Thank you for your time,

Tyana Toft



From: [Brenna Swanson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:52:22 AM

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

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to request that you consider public library staff as essential and include them in Phase 1b vaccine distribution. Library staff were included by the CDC in July 2020 as being "essential workers," yet are omitted in both Phase 1b and 1c vaccination plans. Public libraries perform critical educational frontline service every day, so library staff are in a high-risk group, and many are reopening or considering reopening at this time. Delaying vaccination of public library staff until Phase 2 puts them at unnecessary risk and keeps them from providing essential services to their communities.

Thank you,

Brenna Swanson

From: [Bill & Patti](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: draft recommendations
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:48:35 AM

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Good morning,

I am writing to request that public library staff be included as soon as possible for vaccine eligibility. In our community here in Lodi the library is an essential service that provides educational and other resources to its customers. As a member of the Friends of the Lodi Public Library I can attest to the critical need the staff provide our community.

Thank you,

Bill Welch

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Dana Swanson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B recommendation for library staff
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:45:13 AM

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Good morning,

I'm writing to request that you consider public library staff as essential and include them in Phase 1b vaccine distribution. Library staff were included by the CDC in July 2020 as being "essential workers," yet are omitted in both Phase 1b and 1c vaccination plans. Public libraries perform critical educational frontline service every day, so library staff are in a high-risk group, and many are reopening or considering reopening at this time. Delaying vaccination of public library staff until Phase 2 puts them at unnecessary risk and keeps them from providing essential services to their communities.

Thank you,

--Dana Swanson

From: [Jenny Carr](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public Library workers in phase 1b of vaccination schedule
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:02:50 AM

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Hello,

I am writing you today to ask you to consider **public library staff** to be explicitly included in round 1b of vaccinations, which includes vaccination for employees working in education and childcare (daycares, preschools, k-12, and higher education), as we serve the educational needs of our communities.

Thank you,

--

Jenny Carr
Acquisitions Librarian
Middleton Public Library
Tel: (608) 827-7420
Email: jennycarr@midlibrary.org

From: [Bruce Gay](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:00:05 AM

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Hello—

I'm writing as the director of the Waukesha Public Library in Waukesha, Wisconsin. I'd like to urge the subcommittee to add library workers to Phase 1B for Coronavirus vaccines. Here at the Waukesha Public Library, we opened to the public for limited service on June 8 and have been open since then, through the surges of November. Most other libraries in the County have been open similar hours. Libraries serve a crucial role in the community, offering respite through reading, entertainment, and a place for computer access for those unable to afford devices or internet service. Here in Waukesha the public has used our computers for job searching and unemployment applications. Our services are crucial for a safe economic recovery.

However, the Coronavirus is a constant threat to our ability to stay open. In August we closed for several days after a staff member had COVID symptoms. Because the Waukesha Public Library, like most in the state, has limited staff room, we lost seven other staff who had to stay home to quarantine—making us unable to cover our circulation desk and stay open. This is a regular occurrence at public libraries in the state.

Putting library workers on the 1B phase for vaccines would help us provide consistent and important services for the community.

Thank you for your time,
Bruce

Bruce Gay
Library Director, Waukesha Public Library
321 Wisconsin Ave
Waukesha, WI 53186
262-524-3681

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From: [cori schlegel](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:25:44 AM

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To whom it may concern;

I would like to strongly suggest that public library workers be included in Phase 1b vaccination plan under the same category that includes education and child care workers as front line essential workers.

Libraries are an important part of our social fabric, and including library workers in the next phase of vaccinations would help move the local library system towards being able to open for limited patron services. More importantly, in the 21st century an internet connection is an **absolute** requirement for enrollment in many social services. Paradoxically, many of our most vulnerable citizens, those in desperate need of these services, are also those who don't have access to the internet in their homes. Many of these folks rely on the library for access to these forms and services, and without consistent access they are suffering and have little recourse.

Vaccinating library workers in phase 1B would help to alleviate these difficulties for our most needy neighbors; please include library staff among front line essential workers in the next phase.

cori schlegel
Stoughton, Wi

From: [Nyama Reed](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Comment to Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:04:25 PM

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WI Subcommittee Vaccine Distribution,

I stand with educators and librarians in requesting all public school and public library employees be prioritized in the vaccine distribution process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nyama Reed

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Cheryl Romo](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Wisconsin Library Employees.
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:08:25 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam:

With regard to the covid vaccine, I am hoping the library system, like schools can be at a higher listing for the vaccine.

With regard to this, also hope that if an employee does decline to get the vaccine, that it is not held against that person.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Romo
Lodi Wi

From: [Debbie Haack](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: "vaccine subcommittee" ; "Phase 1B"
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:54:41 PM

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To The State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC) Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee :

I am writing to you today to ask you to consider including public library staff be included in the Phase 1B vaccination. Like employees working in education and childcare, library staff serves an important function in the educational and social needs of our communities. Direct contact with patrons of all ages is desirable and has the most effect with our ability to serve the public.

Your consideration to include library staff in Phase 1B would be very beneficial and appreciated.

Sincerely,

--

Debbie Haack Librarian Assistant II | dhaack@mononalibrary.org
Monona Public Library | <http://www.mononalibrary.org/>
1000 Nichols Road, Monona, WI 53716
608.222.6127



From: [curtis hossman](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: COVID-19
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:07:28 PM

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I support all library staff receiving the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible. They provide an essential service to the overall health of our community.--

Curtis Hossman



From: [Jean Elvekrog](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Include library staff in Phase 1B Vaccinations
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:04:30 AM

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To the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee:

I strongly urge you to consider including public library staff in the Phase 1B round of Covid-19 vaccinations. Library employees work with the public in the same manner as those working in schools and day care centers, since they, too, serve the educational needs of our communities.

Public libraries are an essential service. Library staff members need to be protected so they can effectively administer to their patrons.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jean Elvekrog
President
Waunakee Public Library Board
Waunakee, WI
608-849-9224

From: [Cathy Sheffield](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public comment- Covid vaccination Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:41:17 AM

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Good morning,

I serve as a Trustee on the Waunakee Public Library board. I am writing today to request that public library staff be specifically included as employees working in education in the Phase 1B priority groups for Covid vaccination. Our library workers are providing an essential public service and are vital for community education, particularly with so many students participating in virtual or hybrid education this school year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cathy Sheffield

From: [Erick Plumb](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public library staff should be included in Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:37:53 AM

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Dear committee,

I write to ask that you consider adding public library staff members to the next phase (1b) of the state's coronavirus vaccine rollout. Nearly all public libraries in the state have been open to the public in some capacity since last May, serving a vital role in providing educational and enrichment services to our communities. The pandemic has shown how important library access - whether in person, via curbside, or online - is to Wisconsin residents and we have been proud to continue to offer services. Getting library staff vaccinated sooner means that we can consider expanding our services more fully and get us closer to pre-pandemic levels of service. Libraries serve as a community engagement and enrichment center in every community that hosts one, and the dedicated employees who continue to work with the public deserve to be considered as essential as teachers and daycare providers, as library staff serve to augment those essential workers in their roles.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Best wishes,
Erick Plumb

--
Erick Plumb
Library Director
Waunakee Public Library
608-849-4208
eplumb@waupl.org

"Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities."

- R. David Lankes

From: [Todd Cox](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B Covid Vaccine Priority Feedback
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:21:01 AM

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Greetings. However you decide to prioritize vaccine distribution, it is imperative that librarians and other library-related workers be considered on the same level with teachers and other educators. Both groups of people work with the same overlapping population, and with librarian workers there is the added element of a general population that differs every day. It would be a gross oversight to look at those in the library field as not being educators, or to decide that they do not merit the earliest distributions of the vaccine. Those of us who are employed by libraries have been interacting with the public since the pandemic began, often filling a need that was emptied when schools closed in those early days. We have continued bringing service throughout the summer and to this very day, placing both the public and ourselves at considerable risk of being exposed to COVID. Because of the nature of library service, and its almost unique role in providing the use of *shared* materials between disparate groups, librarian workers simply must be given a place in the prioritization of the vaccine that recognizes what it is they do and what it is they risk every day.

Sincerely,

Todd Michael Cox

From: [Jessica Williams](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B Covid Vaccine Priority Feedback
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 1:36:55 PM

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Dear State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee:

Please consider library staff to be included in Phase 1B Covid Vaccine Priority. At the Mount Horeb Public Library, my staff and I have continued to work with the public throughout this pandemic. We know that our services are critical for those who do not have internet access, access to computers, printers, fax machines, etc. Libraries remain the last great equalizers across all economic levels and it has been a challenge to provide our services to the public in a safe manner.

I am so incredibly proud of my staff for working behind massive plexi-glass barriers and sanitizing high touch points every two hours in order to allow patrons into our building. They have adapted in ways we never thought possible! We are able to allow up to 10 people in at a time for computer access and "Library Express" services. Our model works for Mount Horeb, but many other libraries in Dane County are unable to open their doors safely and our public needs us.

Providing the vaccine to library workers will really help those in our community who desperately need more access to our services. Please consider including library staff in the next round of vaccines.

Thank you,
Jessica

Jessica Williams, Library Director
Mount Horeb Public Library
105 Perimeter Road
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
(608) 437-9378 (Direct line)
(608) 437-5021 ext. 4108

From: [Rebecca Swanson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1B LIBRARY WORKERS
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 9:57:01 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I write to urge you to consider including public library workers for priority in Phase 1B of vaccine distribution. Public libraries are an essential part of their communities, and much of the work we do involves close, personal interactions with often vulnerable members of the community such as the elderly and others at greater risk. As an essential part of the community, it is vital that public library workers are vaccinated so we can get back to the work of providing our full range of services to the community. While we can provide library materials through curbside services, we are unable to safely provide many other services that community members rely on, such as desperately needed technology assistance and help with educational and information resources.

Some public libraries have remained closed for public access throughout the pandemic as the number of people who would typically come through the building, the close proximity to others while in the building, and the amount of time spent in the building renders it unsafe. This leaves many in the community, including many vulnerable community members, without a place to access the internet (essential for applying for many government and social services) or to get information and resources.

Reference: Please see page 9 in which librarians are categorized with others in the education field as workers most likely to be exposed to Covid-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2020-07/COVID-07-Mbaeyi-508.pdf>

Thank you,

Rebecca Swanson
Reference Librarian
Fitchburg Public Library
5530 Lacy Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711
(608) 729-1784

From: [Nan Rose](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Including library staff in Phase 1B
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 9:28:45 AM

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Dear Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee,

I am writing to request that library staff and volunteers be included in the Phase 1B round of vaccinations. Since this round includes employees working in education and childcare, I feel the library staff should be added as a part of this group.

Our local library absolutely serves to educate and bring together all ages of our community, from our elders to our children. They have adult and child programs, as well as the ability to lend out information vital in helping all of us keep or mental health during this time.

If library staff and volunteers can be vaccinated we can start to bring back those programs and interactions that are so important to the stability and health of our community.

Thank you.

Nancy Piraino
Lodi, Wisconsin

From: granmarg@charter.net
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: library workers vaccinated
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 8:20:16 AM

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Please include library workers specifically in the early rounds of co-vid vaccinations. At this time more than ever we need healthy library workers.!!!

From: [Jenny Myers](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 8:08:17 AM

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I'm writing to ask that library workers be added to the vaccine list as soon as possible. In Washington County, where I work at a public library, our sheriff's department has said they won't enforce the mask mandate. So we have patrons that won't wear a mask and we can't enforce any kind of time limit in the building. We're at a lot of risk.

Thanks in advance for your time.

Jenny Myers

From: [Kayce Gentry](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine group public comment
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 6:30:37 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

As a Wisconsin resident, I applaud the DHS for including education workers in group 1b in recognition of the importance of reopening our public schools.

I would like to respectfully suggest that workers in public libraries be included in that group with other public educators. Many public libraries in the state have continued to provide services to the public throughout the pandemic, especially to low-income populations who might not otherwise have basic computer access. I think it is also worth noting that, like K-12 teachers, many library workers overlap with other high-risk groups based on age or other health concerns.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on these plans. Thank you for the critically important work you continue to do for our state.

With thanks,
Kayce Carter
Onalaska, WI

From: [Lynn Montague](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Request for consideration
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 6:01:34 PM
Attachments: Outlook-cw24oxtd.png

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To the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,
Please consider librarians and library workers be included in Phase 1b of vaccine distribution plans. The CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) had included librarians in its list of essential works and were considered “workers at greatest risk for exposure to infectious diseases” and among those whose “occupational groups most likely to be exposed to infection or disease more than one time per month”. The ACIP grouped all "education, training, and library" workers alongside healthcare practitioners and technical, healthcare support, protective services, personal care and service, and community support workers as "essential." Please recognize that libraries of all types and sizes perform regular and necessary "frontline services" every day.

Including librarians and library workers in Phase 1b of vaccine distribution plans will allow libraries to fully reopen and provide these essential eservices while protecting both staff and vulnerable populations.

Additionally, libraries have been identified as appropriate and eligible sites for vaccination administration mobile clinics. By vaccinating librarians and library workers, libraries can be used in this manner much more effectively because they will be able to be open. Without vaccination, this is not possible. Please include librarians and library workers in the Phase 1b vaccination plans. Libraries are eager to help our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynn Montague

Lynn Montague
Head of Youth Services
Sun Prairie Public Library
she/her/hers



From: [Svetha Hetzler](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccination for public library workers
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 5:13:37 PM

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To the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC),

I am writing to you on behalf of the Sun Prairie Public Library to ask that librarians and library workers in public libraries be included in state and local Phase 1b of vaccine distribution plans to protect staff and minimize risk to patrons and users.

Since Covid, we have kept our doors open only for express technology services. All other services have been virtual or via curbside. This has limited the library's ability to allow for full access to our materials, resources and services which reduces our ability to fulfill our mission to support the lifelong learning needs of our community.

The SDMAC's recommendations on January 13th listed public facing essential workers be included in Phase 1b, and essential workers would include education workers. Public libraries fit both criteria. Furthermore, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) July 2020 working group report had included librarians in its definition of "essential workers". Librarians and library workers were identified as among the "workers at greatest risk for exposure to infectious diseases" and among those whose "occupational groups most likely to be exposed to infection or disease more than one time per month".

Including public library staff in Phase 1b of distribution plan will allow us to fully reopen our library and serve our community while protecting staff and vulnerable populations. We are calling on you to include public library workers in the Phase 1b vaccination plan. The Sun Prairie Public Library is eager to open and fully serve and help our community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Svetha Hetzler
Library Director
Sun Prairie Public Library
www.sunlib.org
(608)825-0900
she/her/hers

From: [Jennifer Foster](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee- phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 4:04:02 PM

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Hello,

I would like to voice my recommendation that public library staff be included in Phase 1B of the vaccination prioritization. Since March, public libraries have had to choose between providing their services to their communities or protecting their staffs. I have been lucky enough to work in a library that has, with the support of our Board of Trustees, our municipal government, and our community members, prioritized staff safety. We have provided contactless curbside services to get physical materials to our patrons, but we would be able to do so much more for our community if it was safer to open our doors. We provide internet and computer access to those who do not have access at home. Patrons use our physical, digital and staff resources to search and apply for jobs. We are often the only source of interaction that some of our older patrons get, even in pre-pandemic times. We are neither healthcare workers nor teachers, but we are essential workers and the pressure to re-open our doors is mounting. Please vaccinate us so that we can serve our community in a way that is safe for them as well as ourselves.

Thank you,

Jen Foster

Jen Foster
Library Assistant III
Fitchburg Public Library
5530 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711
(608) 729-1772
www.fitchburgwi.gov/library

Connect v Discover v Enjoy

From: [Tegan Karow](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 3:40:59 PM

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To the SDMAC Vaccine Subcommittee:

Please consider adding all librarians and library staff to vaccine priority group 1B. Libraries have been closed to the public throughout the pandemic to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to keep staff healthy so we can continue curbside services. While we have maintained curbside services, the pandemic has limited the types of services we are able to offer our patrons. By having staff vaccinated we would be able to open our doors so we could provide some essential services that we are not currently able to. These essential services include assisting patrons in completing unemployment paperwork, applying for jobs, and providing information on community resources that could help those severely affected by the pandemic. We would also be able to offer the use of computers with internet access to complete school work, job applications, etc. We are very much looking forward to opening our doors to provide these essential services but cannot in good conscience do so until staff are vaccinated. Once we do open our doors, there will be a high level of exposure to all staff since we will be working with the public. We ask that you please include all librarians in the 1B group so that we can help all the individuals affected in various ways by the pandemic.

Thank you!

Tegan Karow
Adult and Technical Services Manager
Fitchburg Public Library
5530 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711
(608) 729-1780
www.fitchburgwi.gov/library

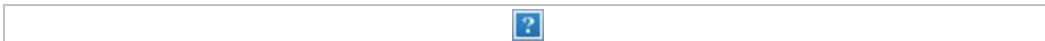
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From: [Wick, Kristin](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Comment on Group 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 3:40:59 PM

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To whom it may concern,
Please consider adding public library staff to group 1B. As you know, access to the internet has never been more important than during this pandemic, and public libraries are the only agency on the front lines providing this essential service. During normal times, we also serve as warming/cooling shelters for the homeless, valued partners for school districts and community organizations, and centers of important community-based information. We are here to help -- please help us do it safely.

Thank you,
Krissy Wick
Director of Public Services
Madison Public Library
(608) 266-8685



From: [DIANE HUGHES](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1b
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 3:16:13 PM

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Employees of public libraries that are open and serving the public should be included as Essential Workers along with the education and childcare workers.

Especially in Wisconsin's many rural areas, libraries provide vital services to the community such as computer/internet access, copying, and faxing, in addition to the usual service of loaning books, movies and other materials. These services often require staff to work in close proximity with patrons. Many need help with a computer and you can't do that six feet apart.

Librarians require training and not easily replaceable. Again, in rural communities, where the library is staffed by sometimes only two or three individuals, there is the risk of having to shut the library down should staff become ill.

Diane M. Hughes

From: [Wendy Rawson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee- Phase 1B- please add library staff
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 3:09:26 PM

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Dear SDMAC subcommittee,

First of all, I'd like to thank you for putting your time and effort into helping our state respond to the pandemic in a thoughtful and measured way. I am thankful to have the opportunity to send in feedback as you define the priority groups for vaccinations.

I am a Library Director in the city of Fitchburg. Our city has a population of approximately 30,000, but we serve many residents of surrounding municipalities and counties as well. In pre-pandemic times, we saw upwards of 4,000 visitors per week. As you know, libraries welcome everyone, so our patrons are of all ages, races, and walks of life. For many seniors, we were the only social contact they may have in a day. For families, we were one of few places they could come that didn't cost them any money. Others relied on us for access to a computer or WiFi to apply for jobs or access unemployment benefits.

We have been closed to the public since March 16th, and providing curbside services since June 1st. While curbside allows us to provide materials to patrons, we aren't able to provide a place for them to be, computers to use, or a smiling face. We are all anxious to reopen our doors, but I just can't put my staff of 30 people at risk by having them interact with so many people each and every day. If library staff were included in the next vaccination group, we could begin to serve patrons in person again, and return to being a resource for all who need it.

I urge you to consider adding library staff to the 1b priority group. Libraries are such an important community resource, especially in difficult economic times. The benefits of opening library facilities safely state wide would be tremendous.

Sincerely,

Wendy Rawson
Library Director
Fitchburg Public Library
5530 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711
(608)729-1764
wendy.rawson@fitchburgwi.gov

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From: [Jim Ramsey](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine eligibility for library workers in phase 1b
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:20:57 PM

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To the Committee:

I'm writing to urge you to consider including public library staff among the employee groups eligible for COVID-19 vaccines under phase 1b.

Much like our public schools, Wisconsin's public libraries offer essential support for education and literacy. Additionally, public libraries offer crucial access to information and technology for workforce development and virtual learning. For many Wisconsinites, particularly those in rural areas, the public library is their sole access to broadband internet.

For this reason, I believe library staff should be explicitly included alongside educators and childcare workers in the employee groups designated for priority in phase 1b.

When the pandemic began, Wisconsin public libraries were forced to close their doors for a period of time and pivot to virtual programming and curbside delivery of library materials. Most libraries restored access to their buildings in the summer and fall of 2020, but the surge of cases this winter has forced some to return to virtual and curbside services.

Whether or not a public library's building is currently accessible to the public, that library is still very much "open for business" and providing resources for its community through curbside delivery of materials, wireless hotspots, and Wi-Fi access on their building's exterior.

The sooner library workers are vaccinated, the sooner we can get back to supporting the educational needs of everyone in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

--

Jim Ramsey, Director
Stoughton Public Library
304 S. Fourth St.
Stoughton, WI 53589
608-873-5309

From: [Jessica Robl](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccinations for library staff
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:16:42 PM

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Dear SDMAC,

"Thank You" seems quaint. We appreciate all you are doing and facing on a daily basis.

I ask you to consider adding public library staff to the first phase of those receiving vaccinations. We serve many people in the community and offer a variety of services that have not been available for some time. We are somewhat rural and many students and community members have struggled to find alternatives to those services.

I believe many staff, including myself, have other jobs that serve the public besides working at the libraries. I am also a substitute teacher in the schools. I believe by vaccinating library staff you will double your efforts with one "shot".

Thank you for your consideration.

From: [Tracy Herold](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B -- library staff
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:01:00 PM

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Greetings,

I am reaching out to urge you to include library staff in the 1B COVID Vaccination priority list. Libraries are one of the few governmental public-facing agencies that serve ALL members of the public. Daily we come into contact with a variety of residents from different communities, some of whom do not distance or wear masks. Libraries frequently serve people from different counties, as patrons use their home libraries and the libraries where they work. For example, a patron may live in Columbus and visit their local public library to pick up holds, and also visit the Madison Public Library when they go to work.

Given the high level of exposure to the broad public, I ask you to consider library staff in the 1B priority list.

Thank you,
Tracy

Tracy Herold, Director, Dane County Library Service
herold@dcls.info
608-266-6388
1874 S. Stoughton Rd.
Madison, WI 53716
"Be kind."

From: [Ryan Claringbole](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Comment on Prioritization of Employee Groups for COVID Vaccination 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 1:58:02 PM

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

Dear SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee,

I write to you today as one of the thousands of library staff in the state of Wisconsin. Wisconsin has always been known to provide exceptional public services through our 381 public libraries. The staff who work in these buildings are committed to serving their communities to the best of their abilities, whether it's providing early childhood literacy, workforce development, programs for teenagers, reference help for applying for loans, or one of the hundreds of other services that we provide. In order to be most effective to the community, we need to be open to the public, but we also know we can't be open until the safety of library staff is guaranteed. One step towards this is including library staff, who work face to face with the public every single day, into the 1B vaccination phase. Millions of people go through public libraries in this state every year, and every one of them encounters a library staff member. We are met with smiles, questions, and a deep love of the neighboring communities. Please consider including public library staff in the 1B vaccination phase so we can continue to serve our communities, offering help around literacy, education, workforce development, and community building, every day moving forward.

Thank you for considering,
Ryan Claringbole
Director, Monona Public Library

From: [Brian Kopetsky](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Please consider adding library workers
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 1:54:17 PM

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We would like your committee to include public library workers in the Phase 1B vaccination list. As a public educational institution or staff members serve a large cross-section of the community. While we often do not have the extended contact some teachers may, we have much less control over who comes and goes in our setting. Right now many libraries in the state are closed to public access due to Covid. Protecting our staff would go a long way in moving us back to opening the doors to those who need better access to our services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brian M. Kopetsky, MLIS
Assistant Director
McMillan Memorial Library
715-422-5144

From: [Jessica Bergin](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Include public library staff in Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 1:49:05 PM
Attachments: Outlook-u4teugxk.png

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I am writing you today to advocate for public library staff to be explicitly included in Phase 1B of vaccination, which includes vaccination for employees working in education and childcare (daycares, preschools, k-12, and higher education). Public library staff serve the educational needs of our communities, and need to be vaccinated to be able to offer full services to the public.

Sincerely,

Jessica Bergin, Library Director

jessica@baraboopubliclibrary.org

mobile 608-393-0371

Pronouns she/her/hers

<http://www.baraboopubliclibrary.org>



230 4th Avenue | Baraboo, WI 53913

608-356-6166 | 608-355-2779 (fax)

From: [Holly Lague](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Frontline library workers COVID-19 vaccine
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 1:48:43 PM

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Dear Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee,

Please consider including library workers in Phase 1B.

We are frontline workers providing for the educational needs of our communities. Many libraries have had to close their buildings in response to or prevention of exposure to COVID-19. Our building has been closed since March, while we offer reduced services via a window. Our public computers aren't currently accessible to students or to job-seekers looking to take online trainings. With the confidence of having our staff safely vaccinated, we would be able to expand those much-needed services again.

Thank you for your efforts in keeping our state safe.

Kind regards,
Holly Lague

Holly Lague, Director
New Glarus Public Library
319 2nd St, New Glarus WI 53574
office 608-527-4893, library 608-527-2003

From: [Erica Loeffelholz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 1:48:43 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I understand that DHS is currently preparing recommendations for phase 1B of the covid vaccination rollout. I applaud the decision to include teachers in this group, and I encourage you to add library workers as well.

As librarians, we work with members of the general public every day. Our patrons range from those who continue to deny the severity of the virus and refuse to wear masks, to children too young to understand why there are so many new rules and restrictions, to elderly folks who are at a high risk of severe complications or even death should they contract covid.

Additionally, many of us have our own health issues that we are dealing with. I am doubly concerned about covid, not only because my asthma could cause more problems if I fall ill, but also because I am the sole caregiver for my elderly, disabled mother.

The sooner we are able to vaccinate library workers, the better we will be able to serve our patrons. As it stands now, I can't take a little one by the hand to show them where to find books on princesses or dinosaurs. I can't sit next to an elderly patron and teach them how to use a computer. And we certainly can't host literacy events where the whole community is invited to join us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Erica Loeffelholz
Assistant Director
New Glarus Public Library
319 2nd Street, PO Box 35
New Glarus, WI 53574
608-527-2003
www.newglaruspubliclibrary.org

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system. Thank you.

From: [Good, Amy](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public comment for vaccine subcommittee on Phase 1B vaccinations
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 1:42:00 PM

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Hi. My name is Amy Good, and I would like to enter a public comment.

I work for the Lodi School District as the library media specialist, and am currently teaching online. Although many of our students have opted to come back to school in a blended model, I have requested to work online due to my health issues.

My opinion is that **all school workers should get vaccinated right away**, so that people like me can get back to working in person with students. I'm sure there are others that have requested to work online for health reasons, as well. I would feel so much safer, if I could get vaccinated BEFORE going back in the classroom with students, instead of the other way around, needing to go in with students before being eligible for a vaccine. It doesn't make sense to me that I have to put myself at risk for something that is intended to take that same risk away.

I appreciate everyone who is working to do this the best way possible and appreciate in advance your consideration.

Respectfully,

Amy Good

From: [Alex LeClair](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Library workers should be included in Phase 1B
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 1:37:37 PM
Attachments: Request-Consideration-Phase-1b.pdf

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Dear State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC),

I share WLA's desire for library workers to be included in Phase 1B of vaccine distribution (letter attached). In our city, for example, the library has mostly been open since May 2020 with a brief closure in November and December when cases spiked. Moreover, libraries have an older user base and it would be wise to vaccinate library workers, because it will keep the cultural centers open and because it will add another layer of protection for the vulnerable in each of our communities.

Thank you,
Alex

Alex Le Clair / Director
608.592.4130

Lodi Public Library
130 Lodi Street
Lodi, WI 53555
www.lodipubliclibrary.org



WISCONSIN
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

4610 South Biltmore Lane, Suite 100
Madison, Wisconsin 53718-2153
wla.wisconsinlibraries.org

To the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC):

I am writing to you on behalf of the Wisconsin Library Association and its members to ask that librarians and library workers in public, academic, and special libraries be included in state and local Phase 1b of vaccine distribution plans to protect staff and minimize risk to patrons and users.

The SDMAC's recommendations on January 13th listed public facing essential workers be included in Phase 1b, and essential workers would include education workers. The Wisconsin Library Association affirms that library staff fit both criteria. Furthermore, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) July 2020 working group report had included librarians in its definition of "essential workers". Librarians and library workers were identified as among the "workers at greatest risk for exposure to infectious diseases" and among those whose "occupational groups most likely to be exposed to infection or disease more than one time per month". The ACIP Interim Guidance grouped all "education, training, and library" workers alongside healthcare practitioners and technical, healthcare support, protective services, personal care and service, and community support workers as "essential".

It is important for state and local public health officials to recognize that public, academic, and special libraries perform regular and necessary "frontline services" every day. State and local vaccination plans should consider both the nature of the work librarians do as well as the clear social and educational benefits that libraries accrue. Including librarians and library workers in the Phase 1b of distribution plan will allow our sector to fully reopen public libraries to public service and campus libraries to all students while protecting staff and vulnerable populations. Waiting to inoculate librarians and library workers will continue to put our colleagues on the front lines to unnecessary risk and delay significant benefits to our society.

The CDC's "COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook" from October 2020 has identified libraries as appropriate and eligible sites for vaccination administration mobile clinics. This follows earlier guidance from the CDC that libraries should be considered by local health officials for mobile COVID testing sites as well. The CDC has also recognized that libraries, as trusted anchor institutions, should play an important role in sharing accurate information about approved vaccines and community vaccination activities. Hosting both mobile testing sites and vaccination clinics at the library lowers barriers to healthcare for many patrons and neighbors. Providing Phase 1b vaccinations to all library workers, staff, and librarians not only protects individuals and mitigates our collective risk, but it also helps to legitimize the perception of vaccines as a core component of public health services.

We are calling on you to include librarians and library workers in the Phase 1b vaccination plans. Libraries are eager to help our state and we welcome any questions you may have or ideas on how we can help during this time.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sherry Machones, WLA President (715-682-2365, smachones@northernwaters.org)

Plumer Lovelace, WLA Executive Director (608-245-3640, lovelace@wisconsinlibraries.org)

From: [Angela Noel](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Framework Feedback
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 1:20:48 PM

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Dear SDMAC,

First, I want to thank you for your commitment to ensuring that Wisconsinites receive COVID-19 vaccinations as quickly as possible and in a logical order that meets the needs of our communities and the State.

In reviewing your draft plan for Phase 1B of vaccine distribution, I am writing you to ask that you consider adding public library staff to this phase, as you have added other public-facing essential workers including daycare staff and teachers. Libraries are vital to the success of most communities and provide access to education and lifelong learning to all members of our communities. Library directors and their boards of trustees from around the state continue to offer as many services as possible while following social distancing guidelines, capacity recommendations, and public health protocols for cleaning, but we consistently hear from our patrons, community stakeholders, and elected officials that they want us to get back to providing more services more quickly. This includes providing access to early learning materials, homework help, and even assisting people struggling to file unemployment claims.

By including public library staff in with teachers, daycare workers, and other higher education staff, we not only get back to serving the needs of our communities--the core of the work we do--but we also help set an example for why vaccination is important and that vaccinations are safe.

Thank you for your time today, and thank you again for the planning and decisions you make around vaccine distribution.

Sincerely,

Angela Noel

Angela Noel
Director
Brodhead Memorial Public Library
1207 25th Street
Brodhead WI 53520
(608) 897-4070

From: [Emily Vieyra](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public comment for vaccine subcommittee on phase 1B inclusion
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 11:19:56 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I would like to request expansion of the Phase 1B public facing essential workers to include public library staff. I write as a member of the public, a mother to a young child in daycare, and a career public librarian.

The state of Wisconsin's public libraries – of all sizes – have responded with ingenuity and great empathy to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are not immune to the disease, and through providing the services we provide – including very necessary access to computers and the internet for thousands with no other access – we put ourselves at risk. The work we do requires working with people of all ages and circumstances. It puts us in close contact so we may provide direct assistance with unemployment applications, online healthcare and banking, and as people struggle to safely stay in touch with family and friends near and far. While some of what we do can be, and has been, conducted “curbside,” our communities are experiencing difficulties by being cut off from computers, internet, and the brief connections our staff can provide. For a patron who lives alone or who is not secure in housing, we can be the only other real person with whom they speak. Further, being allowed inside the library building, versus using it only as a curbside service, allows people to self-serve and access the information they need but may be hesitant or unable to ask for via the phone or internet, whether due to a language barrier, a visual, auditory or other disability, or an enhanced need for privacy.

We simply cannot serve our communities and help them heal the real trauma of the COVID-19 experience without access to a vaccine soon. Libraries are essential.

Please consider including public library staff in this phase 1B group.

Sincerely,

Emily Vieyra

Assistant Director



Shorewood Public Library

3920 N Murray Ave.
Shorewood, WI 53211

Library: 414-847-2670
Direct: 414-847-2685

ShorewoodLibrary.org

[Twitter.com/ShorewoodLib](https://twitter.com/ShorewoodLib)

[Facebook.com/ShorewoodPublicLibrary](https://facebook.com/ShorewoodPublicLibrary)

From: [Cates, Lisa A - DHS](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: FW: Request for consideration of library workers in Phase 1b
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 9:56:23 AM
Attachments: WLA Request for Consideration Phase 1b.pdf

From: Sherry Machones <smachones@northernwaters.org>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 9:51 AM
To: DHS SDMAC <DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Palm, Andrea J - DHS <andrea.palm@dhs.wisconsin.gov>; GOV Info <govinfo@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Request for consideration of library workers in Phase 1b

Please consider the Wisconsin Library Association's request for library workers to be included in Phase 1b of the vaccine rollout, which is stated in our request attached to this email. Libraries are essential to every community in the state and there are several ways libraries can help during this time. We welcome any questions you may have.
Thank you for the consideration,
Sherry

Sherry Machones
Pronouns: she, her, hers
Director - Northern Waters Library Service
Wisconsin Library Association President
WLA Library Development and Legislation Committee Member
WLA Federal Relations Coordinator
SRLAAW Chair
715-682-2365
smachones@northernwaters.org

From: [Sherry Machones](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Palm, Andrea J - DHS](#); [GOV Info](#)
Subject: Request for consideration of library workers in Phase 1b
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 9:51:30 AM
Attachments: WLA Request for Consideration Phase 1b.pdf

Please consider the Wisconsin Library Association's request for library workers to be included in Phase 1b of the vaccine rollout, which is stated in our request attached to this email. Libraries are essential to every community in the state and there are several ways libraries can help during this time. We welcome any questions you may have. Thank you for the consideration,
Sherry

Sherry Machones
Pronouns: she, her, hers
Director - Northern Waters Library Service
Wisconsin Library Association President
WLA Library Development and Legislation Committee Member
WLA Federal Relations Coordinator
SRLAAW Chair
715-682-2365
smachones@northernwaters.org



WISCONSIN
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

4610 South Biltmore Lane, Suite 100
Madison, Wisconsin 53718-2153
wla.wisconsinlibraries.org

To the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC):

I am writing to you on behalf of the Wisconsin Library Association and its members to ask that librarians and library workers in public, academic, and special libraries be included in state and local Phase 1b of vaccine distribution plans to protect staff and minimize risk to patrons and users.

The SDMAC's recommendations on January 13th listed public facing essential workers be included in Phase 1b, and essential workers would include education workers. The Wisconsin Library Association affirms that library staff fit both criteria. Furthermore, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) July 2020 working group report had included librarians in its definition of "essential workers". Librarians and library workers were identified as among the "workers at greatest risk for exposure to infectious diseases" and among those whose "occupational groups most likely to be exposed to infection or disease more than one time per month". The ACIP Interim Guidance grouped all "education, training, and library" workers alongside healthcare practitioners and technical, healthcare support, protective services, personal care and service, and community support workers as "essential".

It is important for state and local public health officials to recognize that public, academic, and special libraries perform regular and necessary "frontline services" every day. State and local vaccination plans should consider both the nature of the work librarians do as well as the clear social and educational benefits that libraries accrue. Including librarians and library workers in the Phase 1b of distribution plan will allow our sector to fully reopen public libraries to public service and campus libraries to all students while protecting staff and vulnerable populations. Waiting to inoculate librarians and library workers will continue to put our colleagues on the front lines to unnecessary risk and delay significant benefits to our society.

The CDC's "COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook" from October 2020 has identified libraries as appropriate and eligible sites for vaccination administration mobile clinics. This follows earlier guidance from the CDC that libraries should be considered by local health officials for mobile COVID testing sites as well. The CDC has also recognized that libraries, as trusted anchor institutions, should play an important role in sharing accurate information about approved vaccines and community vaccination activities. Hosting both mobile testing sites and vaccination clinics at the library lowers barriers to healthcare for many patrons and neighbors. Providing Phase 1b vaccinations to all library workers, staff, and librarians not only protects individuals and mitigates our collective risk, but it also helps to legitimize the perception of vaccines as a core component of public health services.

We are calling on you to include librarians and library workers in the Phase 1b vaccination plans. Libraries are eager to help our state and we welcome any questions you may have or ideas on how we can help during this time.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sherry Machones, WLA President (715-682-2365, smachones@northernwaters.org)

Plumer Lovelace, WLA Executive Director (608-245-3640, lovelace@wisconsinlibraries.org)

From: [Joshua Ludke](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Comment referring to educator vaccination
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 8:42:47 AM

Thank you so much for your work in facilitating the prioritizing of vaccination of our community!

One thing to consider is that in the Madison Metro School District, our support staff, such as Special Education staff and assistants, MSCR Cares program workers, and a few others are currently working face to face and should be moved to the front of the line when it comes time to vaccinate education staff. Classroom Teachers in MMSD are still teaching from home and most of us would gladly wait until face to face staff are vaccinated.

That being said, specialist area teachers like Art, P.E. Music, Technology and Library along with other staff who serve at multiple schools are most likely going to remain virtual, but potentially could have contact with hundreds of students across different schools. Just something to be aware of.

Sincerely,

Joshua Ludke
Art teacher
Orchard Ridge Elementary School
and Wright Middle School