

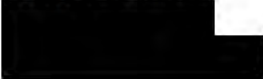
From: [scott neumann](#)
To: [Willems Van Dijk, Julie A - DHS](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:49:55 AM

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

Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as you prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccinations. thanks

Sincerely ,
scott neumann



From: [Dana Fox](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocers for vaccination
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:49:39 AM

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I have to say I support grocery staff as essential workers to be vaccinated in the next group. They kept working and exposing themselves from the very beginning. They are more important than UW staff if there has to be a choice

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cathy Reynolds](#)
To: [Willems Van Dijk, Julie A - DHS](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:49:30 AM

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Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as we have always been referred to and called essential workers and have provided necessities to our communities during the pandemic.

Before you decide or prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccination consideration us.
Thank you!

Sincerely ,
Cathy Reynolds



From: [sandra fullerburton](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Inclusion of grocery/food workers in 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:48:35 AM

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I am writing to let you know that the grocery workers of Wisconsin need to be included in phase 1B. They are as important as school teachers and others included. They are not able to work virtually and have put their lives at risk since this pandemic started for much lower wages and limited Health benefits. Please consider this going forward, I realize choices need to be made.

Have a great day, Sandy Fuller-Burton

From: [Melissa Thomas](#)
To: [Willems Van Dijk, Julie A - DHS](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:47:50 AM

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Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as you prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccinations.

Wisconsin would be the only state in the country to disregard CDC recommendations and downgrade food employees.

Food supply employees were essential during the pandemic and ensured that citizens had food and other necessary items.

A recent study found that grocery store employees may be at higher risk for COVID-19 and may be more likely to have no symptoms further complicating this pandemic.

I hope the state is taking this under serious consideration.

Sincerely ,
Melissa Thomas

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [Chris Staff](#)
To: [Willems Van Dijk, Julie A - DHS](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:47:21 AM

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Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as you prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccinations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Chris Staff



From: [Christine Quinn](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery workers should stay in group 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:46:53 AM

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I am writing to express my strong disagreement with the proposal to move grocery and food workers out of the 1B vaccination group.

Grocery and food workers are among the most essential workers in our economy, fact is we would all starve if the grocery and food supply chain collapsed. These workers have put their health and safety at risk for nearly a year by showing up at grocery stores. Customers don't always comply with mask requirements and grocery store workers still have to remain at their workplace.

Most of us go to the grocery store on a weekly basis so grocery and food workers are exposed to a lot of people- which means they're both at risk for catching and spreading COVID-19. Immunizing them sooner rather than later can reduce the spread of COVID-19 just as more contagious variants are appearing around the world.

Both as a matter of justice for the grocery/food workers and their families and as a matter of smart public health prevention measures, grocery and food workers should stay in group 1B.

Thank you,

Christine M. Quinn


Milwaukee resident and grocery shopper.

From: [Lara Miller](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: tlara29@hotmail.com
Subject: Grocery workers are essential...please prioritize us for vaccination
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:46:48 AM

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When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you.

*Lara Miller
Outpost Natural Foods
Wauwatosa*

From: [Tony Myers](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Are Grocery Workers Heroes Still?
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:46:36 AM
Attachments: image001.png

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

Hello;

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities, please keep us folks in the grocery industry at the forefront.

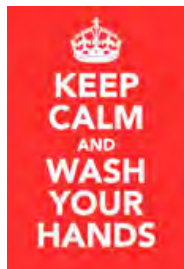
While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. We grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages, customers and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing. Daily, we still encounter those whom are not in compliance with the mandatory mask mandate in Wisconsin.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those of us that have continued to make sure food is on the shelves for our communities, please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution. If we are truly essential and heroes, please treat us as such.

Thank you.

TONY MYERS

Assistant Store Manager
Outpost Natural Foods Coop
Bay View/Mequon
a.myers@outpost.coop
(414) 755-3202 X409



From: [Jules Mennen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:44:14 AM

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Working in the grocery industry is rewarding in many ways, above all, it is a people's business where individuals from all walks of life congregate and engage in a mutually beneficial exchange of groceries, ideas, care and, less fortunately, the virus.

Working in close contact with others is part of the appeal of the job, but now a concern as well. Engaging with the wider public puts me and my coworkers at increased risk of contracting covid-19. That is, under the best of conditions, when everyone in society takes equally serious the risks of spreading the disease. As grocery workers, we cannot hold everyone accountable for good CDC guided practice. When someone seeks my service with a mask under their nose, or takes a sip of coffee that was just served, that person does so without ill-intent. Yet it creates strain, stress and risk to everyone in the store.

Please consider moving grocery workers out of the 1b phase for vaccination. Groceries are essential and last on the list for a lockdown. A vaccine for grocery workers allows us to do our jobs safely.

Sincerely,

Jules Mennen
Outpost Natural Foods, Wauwatosa
Part-time Journey Person
Prepared foods department

From: [Ann Menees](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Sub Committee / Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:44:10 AM
Attachments: image013.png
image014.png
image015.png
image016.png
image017.png

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Good morning,

The pandemic has changed almost everything, but throughout, one constant has been our ability to get food. Food Processing and grocery workers have kept our communities running, and when others could be safe at home, they could not. First responders, the elderly, and teachers should be a priority but, so should workers on the frontlines of these industries who continue to put themselves at risk to keep us fed.

Federal recommendations from the CDC say that food processing and grocery workers should get vaccinated in Phase 1B alongside other frontline essential workers. Wisconsin has relegated these workers to Phase 1C without justification. I urge you to reconsider this position and include food processing and grocery workers in Phase 1B.

Thank you,

ANN MENEES *Manager, Sales Operations*

703 West Madison Street

Waterloo, WI 53594

P: 920-478-2144 ext 212



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From: [Amy Monahan](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery store employees
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:43:24 AM

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Grocery store employees should be considered front line workers. Food is essential for life and health as much as healthcare. They should receive the vaccines with all front line workers.

Amy Monahan



From: deal5267@charter.net
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: "vaccine subcommittee" and "Phase 1B"
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:42:11 AM

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We believe that it would be advantageous to vaccinate police, EMT's, firemen, teachers and school staff and also people that are 65 years and older with underlying conditions. We also believe that certain staff in grocery stores, gas stations and some retail stores.

Thank you for asking our opinion.

Mark and Joan Deal
New Glarus, WI 53574

From: [Nereyda Garcia](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid Vaccinations
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:41:29 AM

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Essential workers included grocery store workers what happened? Why should "Mink Farmers" have priority over workers that are in constant contact with "The Public" ?!
Get it together and stop with the lame excuses.

Nereyda Garcia



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Todd A. Phipps](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Re: Vaccine Subcommittee
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:30:20 PM
Attachments: image001.png

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To:
State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC)
Vaccine Subcommittee
Via email: dhssdmac@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Dear Vaccine Subcommittee Members,

I write today as an employee of Certco, Inc. We are a wholesale grocery distributor who service independent grocery stores in Wisconsin, along with other states in the upper Midwest. We are owned by the grocery stores that we service.

I ask that there be reconsideration and you include our industry in tier 1B in the COVID-19 vaccination plan. CDC guidance on the COVID-19 vaccine distribution was released even before the announcement of a vaccine, and had our industry listed as part of tier 1B, as essential public facing workers.

I am disheartened to hear the committee is not following this guidance and is instead recommending our industry should receive the vaccine as part of tier 1C.

All healthcare workers, public safety workers and child care center workers are factored in tier 1A and 1B. Grocery workers and food supply essential workers were also mentioned in the same breath as these industries since early March of 2020 and called "Heroes". Yet, we are now left without the benefit of hope that these same individuals are getting.

Please reconsider your revised plan for Tier 1B to include our industry.

Moving the age tier down to include individuals above age 70, instead of 75 years of age, is protecting a new group that has been kept safe by the State orders to stay home, and they have been fed due to us and the stores we service.

Food is essential to the survival of all mankind, regardless of age. My coworkers and I have been working tirelessly to ensure people have the food and supplies they need available to them in order to follow the "Shelter in Place" and "Safer at Home" orders set forth by the state of Wisconsin. Without me and my co-workers remaining healthy and the grocery store workers staying healthy, we will have a much larger issue on our hands in keeping fresh food available to all Wisconsin residents.

Please reconsider the reclassification of our industry, as we are a highly essential component of the broader society.

Sincerely,

Todd Phipps

IT Technician

608-278-2207 || Cell 608-220-6748 || Fax 608-278-2223



5321 Verona Road Madison, Wisconsin 53711-6050

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From: [Nuto Farms](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Farm Workers - Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:30:18 PM

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

My name is Taylor West and I am a potato farmer from Rice Lake Wisconsin. I work on a family farm that started in 1929 alongside my brother, parents, aunt, uncle and my almost 90 year old grandparents. Aside from just my immediate family, I also work with over 50 employees who range in age from low 20s to mid 70s. These hard working people have worked relentlessly since COVID first showed up last spring and continue to come in to put food on the table for millions of US citizens. These employees have put forward a great amount of effort in order to keep themselves, their co-workers, and the customers' safe, and deserve the ability to have access to the COVID vaccine.

I am writing to you to ask that you include Wisconsin farmers and farm workers in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Thank you for considering this request and I wish you the best of luck.

Stay safe,

Taylor West
Nuto Farm Supply, Inc.
407 E. Sawyer St.
Rice Lake, WI 54868
715-234-1122
715-296-0062 (cell)

From: [effigyman](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:29:26 PM

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Comitee Members,

It is incumbent upon you to reconsider the exclusion of grocery workers from Phase 1B. They are exposed to partially masked (masks not covering noses) and noncompliant shoppers for up to eight and a half hours a day. The flimsy plexiglass barriers that have been erected to not adequately protect the cashiers or shoppers. Grocery workers are at risk of both being infected and infecting others. They are also the essential service workers I encounter that I cannot maintain a six foot distance from.

Sincerely, Timothy J. Casey
Wauwatosa, WI.

From: [Mary Winze](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: "vaccine subcommittee" and "Phase 1B"
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:27:11 PM

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Please include Grocery Workers in Phase 1B. They are certainly essential workers. I always thank them for working when I am at the grocery store.

Thank you,

Mary Winze

[Redacted signature]

From: [Al Castro](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b Vaccination Plan Public Input
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:26:15 PM

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide public input into the Phase 1b Vaccination Plan.

Overall, I support the categories being recommended at this time except for one, and wish to point out a glaring and critical omission:

I do NOT support prioritizing mink farmers over front line grocery store workers! I find it unethical and unjust to put mink farmers over those hard working, underpaid grocery workers that have continued to work providing us our food and essential supplies as "essential workers" during this pandemic, and now are being asked to take a seat behind mink farm workers. These grocery workers/clerks are tasked with making sure we have our food and essentials daily, but who usually do not have adequate (if any) health insurance, or the option to stay at home (trying to support themselves and family members) at low wages.

In addition, they have to constantly put up with shoppers who come in to the stores, but refuse to wear a mask or distance themselves, as these people do not believe the pandemic is real, or minimize the seriousness of it. We have heard of stories where grocery store workers have been verbally and physically assaulted by nasty shoppers who get upset when told to wear a mask.

Let us please recognize this group of front line (public-facing) essential workers who have been there for our food needs over the past 10 months, and who have often suffered the impact of COVID 19 directly--- much more than the mink farmers who are not meeting the essential needs of the majority of Wisconsinites! Those 300 some mink farmers and employees can choose NOT to interact with others outside their circle for the time being, besides going to/from work---but grocery store workers do not have that option--they have to face large numbers of shoppers in public daily.

Yes, I understand the link of COVID 19 with minks, but minks are not essential to our survival (as groceries are) and asking 300 some mink farmers/employees to continue to practice safe behaviors when on and off the farm a bit longer is easier than trying to protect a much larger number of grocery store employees.

Having grown up working on farms, I can understand why mink farmers may have lobbied to get on the 1b list (heck of a lobbyist they must have), but come on--- minks before grocery store workers!!! Ridiculous!

No, I am not a grocery store worker nor is anyone in my family, but I am a customer who has regularly seen these grocery workers out there when we have needed them. I do not believe it is fair to have considered them "essential workers" over the past year, but now they are not as essential when it comes to the vaccine distribution.

I recommend replacing the mink farmers with grocery store workers instead for this phase, and moving mink farmers to the next phase.

Thank you, and good luck with your challenging work!

~AI

Al Castro, MS
Program Director
United Community Center
1028 S. 9th Street, Milwaukee WI 53204
acastro@unitedcc.org
(414) 649-2839
www.unitedcc.org

From: [Aliya Stuehn](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee, Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:25:46 PM

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Good afternoon,

First of all, I would like to say thank you for collaborating and putting your efforts into moving the COVID-19 vaccination distribution process forward. As a Wisconsin state government employee, I can understand the pressures put forth on government agencies to move as quickly as possible to end the pandemic. I appreciate that you let the public offer their opinions on who should be included in Phase 1B, and so I am choosing to contact you regarding that as well.

I do think it is essential to firstly vaccinate essential employees and those who are most susceptible to contract the virus. I believe those who come in contact with the public every day, such as police officers and grocery store and/or commercial business workers, should be in Phase 1B. I also believe the elderly should be vaccinated; many are facing health issues daily and COVID does not need to become an additional issue for them.

I also want to acknowledge the importance of vaccinating government employees following those I have suggested above. I am an employee of the WI Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), an agency that works very closely with DHS on a daily basis. DSPS is responsible for licensing essential health employees (among other professions), and the demand for us to do so has been extremely high since the beginning of the pandemic. I have been informed that it may be required for employees like myself to return to our office in April, and I would feel uncomfortable doing so if I were not vaccinated. Although it is possible for most DSPS employees to work from home, working from home results in multiple challenges, such as connection/technological struggles and having no access to documents/materials that are essential to completing certain tasks. Additionally, sending materials via mail are essential; this requires certain employees to be present in the office to send out mail. I believe that if those individuals are being required to be in the presence of others and do not have the ability to work from home, they should have the opportunity to get the vaccine as soon as possible. I would consider those individuals to be essential employees. Working from home also prolongs DSPS' ability to license certain people due to the extra time it takes to review and scan mail to myself and other employees. This does not allow us to license people who desire to help with the pandemic as efficiently as we would like.

I wanted to provide DHS with some insight on how the pandemic has affected government employees. I will say that DSPS has provided as much assistance for working from home as possible; however, it is impossible for any business or agency to work from home fully and with complete ease. I wanted to also inform DSPS that essential employees such as those in law enforcement and people who are most susceptible to the virus are of most importance right now. Thank you for your time in reviewing my email and I look forward to hearing Wisconsin's announcement of Phase 1B very soon. If you have any other questions for me, please contact me at aliyatuehn@gmail.com or aliya.stuehn@wisconsin.gov.

Respectfully,

Aliya Stuehn

From: [Becky Phillips](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Committee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:25:18 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I would like to submit my support in adding grocery store workers to Vaccine Priority Group 1B. Grocery store workers are unable to work remotely and must interact with the public on a daily basis. With the rise in the more contagious B.1.1.7. coronavirus variant, it is critical that grocery store workers be protected to ensure that they are not at significant risk. By vaccinating grocery store workers early, we can ensure that people will continue to be fed and have access to food as well as protection for the people shopping.

Thank you for your consideration,

Becky Phillips, Ph.D.



From: kzindaa@wi.rr.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1 B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:24:50 PM

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To All Whom it may concern
Voice for Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1 B

Grocery works considered Essential for 10 months and now you are considering them to be at the bottom of the list with the general public.

Shame on you.

You have no idea what demands you put on these people in the last 10 months.

Teachers that have been working in the class room should have the vaccine, I get that – but the ones that haven't been and are not required to – should have to wait just like the rest of us.

The folks that are working in this mess (including all essential workers) since last March deserve it before anyone else!

Evers be a leader, "do the right thing"

It really hurts me that a prisoner has more rights than I do that do everything perfectly right.

It really hurts me that a prisoner will be protected from Covid before I do.

It really hurts me that a prisoner will get a vaccine before a Grocery worker, most essential workers, the elder or myself.

Let's concentrate on the people that really need it that are in this mess every day!

-

Kathy Zynda



Scanned by [McAfee](#) and confirmed virus-free.

From: attorney@wi.net
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee; Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:23:29 PM

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First priority—provide **much** more information to the public no matter what decision is taken. The information should be updated **more than once per week**. People are lost because not enough information has been released; for example, who should an individual contact to receive the vaccine? Will the department be establishing vaccine sign-up lists? If so, how will they be managed? Will the department establish drive-through clinics and where will they be located? If there is a shortage of vaccine, how will vaccine be allocated? How will second shots be allocated in the event of a shortage?

Second priority—Establish criteria for group 1b, 1c, and whatever follows. To me, 1b should include people based on their contact with the public or their status in a group badly affected by the disease rather than their membership in a “category”. Precedence should be given to those in any kind of congregate facility. That means the orderly or cleaner with daily contact with patients gets the vaccine before hospital administrators. Police/EMT’s/firefighters, teachers, homeless shelters, meat Packers and grocery workers who come in contact with the public daily should be in this category e.g. yes to the cop on the block, no to the county Sheriff. Prisoners, elderly in assisted living, and students living in dorms and their daily contacts precede wardens and nursing home managers and university presidents. This will do the most to curb spread of the disease.

As for the elderly, 1-b is fine, but organize it. First, vaccinate those in facilities, then pick an age period and vaccinate those with health conditions followed by everyone else in that period, then move down step-wise, e.g. those over 80, those over 75, etc. Tell them how and when they should register. For example, is one to call the pharmacy or the doctor or a national guard vaccine site?

Third priority—Provide criteria for vaccine sign-up e.g. picture ID with birthdate. Also provide some Proof of Vaccination and promote that, ie. If you have had both vaccinations and are two weeks post-vaccination, you are encouraged to enter businesses, restaurants, bars, etc. but you must have such ID on your person and present it upon request by the business operator or authorities.

Fourth priority—make a plan for vaccinating persons who may be unaware, unwilling, or unable to obtain the vaccine, e.g. the homeless, the housebound elderly, etc.

Janice P. Pasaba

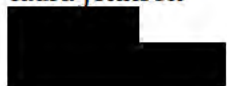
From: [laura johnson](#)
To: [Willems Van Dijk, Julie A - DHS](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:22:24 PM

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Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as you prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccinations. I work at one and have gotten it, and I donot want it again, I amleft w/residual problems now. I have worked harder and more than ever before w/this covid and feel we should not be ignored!

Sincerely ,
laura johnson



From: [Kim Gross](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:21:22 PM
Attachments: image009.png
image004.png
image006.png
image008.png

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Good Afternoon,

Phase 1B should not only include the teachers , EMS, child care workers, mink farmers, financial and store workers. To include workers at like Walgreens, CVS and banks etc.

I think the compromised persons such as a special needs individual and any auto immune person should be included.

I believe the whole roll out of the vaccine has had many holes and holdups. There should be a nation wide plan and a mass immunization.

There should be several locations where groups can get immunizations. This shouldn't take months. This should take weeks. Open more sites.

I personally think that any worker at any facility is at risk. If you are working any where with people who are not your immediate household family, you are at risk.

Grocery store workers are no more at risk than any factory worker. This shouldn't take months. This should take weeks. Open more sites and

I also believe that incarcerated individuals should be last in the line. They are not leaving the facility. The staff that comes in should receive the immunizations.

Thank you for reading this,

Stay well,

Kim Onasch-Gross

Kim Onasch-Gross

Mitz & Rozansky SC



Direct: 414-434-1609 | Main: 414-352-3200 | Fax: 414-352-3202

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From: [Neist, Johnathon](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Please include grocery store workers in 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:18:34 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to encourage your committee to include all grocery store workers in the next phase of eligible COVID-19 vaccination efforts. My wife is full-time at a Pick 'n Save and she has told me how lax all the customers have gotten since March in regards to social distancing, coughing/sneezing, mask-wearing, etc. Disregarding grocery workers' health is a grave mistake. Please consider this important group for the next wave of vaccinations. They are worthy of it and they are essential!

Johnathon Neist, MLIS

Instructional Designer

414-955-8655

From: [Maia Sherry](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:17:19 PM

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Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as you prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccinations.

Those working in grocery stores and restaurants have no alternative than to meet face to face with customers, providing a necessary service to everyone during these times.

Sincerely ,
Maia Sherry



From: [Dustin Skelley](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:16:21 PM

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

To Whom it May Concern -

I urge this committee to reconsider removing grocery store workers from Vaccination Phase 1B. My coworkers both at the Williamson Street Grocery Cooperative and at grocery stores elsewhere have not had the pleasure of working from home, have not had the safety of shutting down their business for a period of time, and have had to roll with each new order and mandate as they rolled out.

The grocery sector has had to figure this all out despite conflicting information from state and federal agencies. We've had to enforce these policies when a portion of the public deemed them as nonsense; I never in my wildest dreams thought that I would see a bouncer at a grocery store. We've been yelled at, antagonized, and degraded all while putting our lives and our loved ones' lives on the line so that our community can have access to the food it needs. We've done so with pride, grace and a positive attitude the entire time.

Please reconsider your plans to remove these essential workers from phase 1B. They deserve better, they have earned it.

Best Wishes,
Dustin Skelley

--
Dustin Skelley
Interim Prepared Foods Category Manager
Willy Street Grocery Co-Op
1221 Williamson Street
Madison, WI 53704
608.215.0676

From: [Michelle Lacock](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery store workers
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:16:11 PM

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Please include them in 1b vaccine plan along with postal workers and those in the meat industry. Thanks Michelle
Oberwise Lacock

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mary Eveland](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:14:38 PM

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

I would truly like to see grocery workers and teachers in the next round of COVID-19 vaccines. These workers along with first responders are essential to our society and our future.

Thank you

Sent from my iPad

From: [Mark Hudson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:13:21 PM

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

Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as you prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccinations.

We have been on the front lines during this pandemic when others were limited or shut down. We have had to deal with more customers per day than most businesses out there, and still are. As a grocery store manager / grocery worker we are right in the thick of it day after day with possible customers caring the virus and being around us and not even knowing they have it until later.

Sincerely ,
Mark Hudson



From: [Kathy Busch](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:12:27 PM

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

Hello,

Grocery store employees should be included early in Phase 1B of the coronavirus vaccine rollout.

These workers are likely frequently exposed to the coronavirus, since grocery stores are the one place many of us cannot avoid while we remain at home as much as possible. We all need to eat. Many of us are able to work from home, but obviously grocery store employees do not have that option. They have almost no control over the risk factors they confront daily in their public access working environment.

Many--if not most--grocery store employees live in low income households in which their incomes are sorely needed.

Grocery store employees are working harder than ever now, cleaning store space and checkout areas in addition to their regular duties. They often cannot confront maskless shoppers who ignore posted mask-wearing requirements. They are also underpaid for the work they do.

Grocery store employees, like many health care workers and teachers, must risk their health daily during this pandemic because they need their paychecks. To expect them to continue providing their much needed public service while excluding them from the protection now being offered to healthcare workers and teachers is disrespectful of them and wrong.

Katherine Busch
Shorewood, WI



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Lisa Leege](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: 1B comment. Please consider
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:11:39 PM

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ALL farmers being essential workers and having the urgent need to oftent interact in closer proximity than social distancing requires due to safety reasons- hooking up equipment, safe backing, chemical mixing, application, hose adjusting, etc- that begins in or before early March desperately relies on our elected officials to get them in line now for their vaccinations!!

Please please get them on the list for 1B covid vaccine access. All agricultural producers and ag supply-chain workers!!

These people will be working in close proximity, and we need them. Our country defense relies on a safe food supply and it needs to get planted to be harvested.

A nurse & farm family member who wants to see them protected!

Thank you
Lisa Leege
Wisconsin Dells, WI

From: [Rachel Henderson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Committee Phase 1B public comment
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:11:15 PM

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Hello,

I am writing in support of including Wisconsin grocery store workers in the Covid 19 Vaccine Priority Group 1B. Designated as essential workers from the beginning of the pandemic, grocery store employees do not have the option to work from home and are unable to avoid public contact. They have kept our state's grocery stores clean and safe, and kept our food system running smoothly all these months. They deserve to be at the front of the line in getting the vaccine! Furthermore, vaccinating grocery store workers will help minimize the risk of community spread.

Thank you for accepting public comment on this process, and for all your work to distribute vaccines in Wisconsin!

Rachel Henderson
Menomonie, WI

From: [Todd Schreiter](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:08:34 PM

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

Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as you prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccinations. With being on the front lines and having direct contact to the general public in varying conditions, I feel it necessary for us to continue to be deemed essential and out in category 1B. I appreciate your time and willingness to consider this request,

Sincerely,
Todd Schreiter



From: [William Brown](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: grocery workers are essential!
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:08:13 PM
Attachments: image001.png

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

The overall populace probably interacts more with them than medical workers. My wife and I each visit a grocery store at least once a week, and neither of us has needed a medical visit for years.

William F. Brown
SASI
1720 W. Florist Ave, Ste 250
Glendale, WI 53209
Ph # 800-752-3539, 414-224-9099
Fax # 414-225-4599
www.sasiplans.com



BBB Rating: A+

as of 9/30/2016

[Click for Review](#)

From: [Michelle Wildgen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Fwd: Vaccine Subcommittee/ Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:06:58 PM

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

Michelle Wildgen
www.madisonwriters.com
www.michellewildgen.com

Begin forwarded message:

From: Michelle Wildgen <mwildgen@gmail.com>
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee/ Phase 1B
Date: January 18, 2021 at 1:04:52 PM CST
To: "DHSSDMAC@djs.wisconsin.gov"
<DHSSDMAC@djs.Wisconsin.gov>

Dear DHS,

I am writing to urge you to include grocery workers in Vaccination Phase 1B. My understanding is that they were part of that phase but were removed, which is harmful to them and illogical given that grocery stores have been determined to be essential businesses. They are essential businesses, and the people who staff them are essential, public facing workers who ought to be protected, along with educators and first responders.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wildgen
www.madisonwriters.com
www.michellewildgen.com

From: [Joe Nierengarten](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery retail Essential Workers Vaccine phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:05:27 PM

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

Hello,

My name is Joe Nierengarten, I am a Grocery Manager with Outpost Natural Foods in Milwaukee. I am writing for your consideration to have Grocery retail workers to be eligible to receive the COVID vaccine in phase 1b. Grocery store workers on our scale are daily putting themselves in harms way everyday they go work coming in contact with more people (perhaps hundreds more a day) in a closed door building then a lot of professions that are slated to be eligible to receive the vaccine in phase 1b. Throughout 2020 our business has been greatly impacted by the number of staff out due to testing, contact tracing, positive test results and symptoms of the virus. My coworkers and I need this vaccine to work safely in this current reality and keep the doors to our business open. Our jobs were deemed essential back in March, but not being part of phase 1b to receive the vaccine seems to be contradictory to that meaning to me. It is scary to work inside a retail setting every day where social distancing at times seems non existent and impossible. Wearing masks for eight hours a day, which many outside the healthcare field do not have to do, is not protection enough. We need this vaccine and need the CDC's support and effort to get it to the much compromised workforce in our field so everyone can continue live and we can provide the goods and services our community will continue to need. Please make this happen for the good of society and improvement of the disease infection rate. I believe this would help greatly towards a downward trend of the infections of the virus and would be a great step towards a new normal life for all.

Thank you
Joe Nierengarten

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [Bonnie Lewis](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee/Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:04:29 PM

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Dear subcommittee,

I am a 69 year old white female living in Milwaukee, and have a son-in-law who works for Whole Foods. He has not missed a day of work, and I know he and his co-workers have been dedicated to getting food to people throughout the pandemic. I also know at least 3 people who work for Sendiks that are older than myself and have been there day in, day out. They are part of our front line workers that all of us Wisconsinites have relied on to make sure our families are fed. All of those working in the grocery stores need to be in Phase 1B to receive a vaccine. I would put them ahead of myself in the waiting line for vaccines every day. Please do the right thing and put them in the 1B group now!

bonnie lewis

From: [Georgann Rehak](#)
To: [Willems Van Dijk, Julie A - DHS](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:02:26 PM

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

Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as you prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccinations. Please help keep all families safe!

Sincerely ,
Georgann Rehak



From: [Joanne Weinberg](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1-B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:01:55 PM

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To All Whom This Concerns:

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

I have been so appreciative of our local employee owned grocery store workers who have done an outstanding job getting food and supplies to us in a safe manner. I urge you to reward their efforts by including them in the next phase of vaccination.

Thanks

Joanne Weinberg

From: [janice.pierce](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Next phase
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:01:33 PM

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

How can you keep a straight face and approve 'mink workers' over grocery workers for the next phase of inoculation? It would be laughable if not so tragic. Statewide there are probably a few hundred 'mink' workers vs thousands of grocery workers who are absolutely essential to state and national economy.

I don't think the one percent will miss their new fur stoles but I would miss my son who is on the frontline of this pandemic with life in hand every single hour of every single day with minimal income and little thanks. And now he and his cohort are told to take a number and go to the back of the line—no thanks.

For Christ sake stand up for working men and women of our state and not the filthy rich who cater to a small niche of the Uber wealthy. Get your priorities straight and protect our most essential and vulnerable workers. Call me cynical but this looks like a ploy to placate a few hundred workers in rural northern Wisconsin at the expense of the truly essential workers who are statewide.

Jan Pierce

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Peter Crapitto](#)
To: [Willems Van Dijk, Julie A - DHS](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:00:17 PM

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

Dear Committee Member,

I write today as an employee of Sendik's Food Markets, a retail grocer serving the citizens of Wisconsin. I am asking you to consider including our industry in Wisconsin's tier 1B of the COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, my coworkers and I have been on the front lines serving our communities. We never shut down. We are face to face with the public 14 hours a day. There is no opportunity in our industry to work remotely.

We are the stockers, checkers, baggers, cart wipers, clerks, delivery drivers and order fillers that get food to the people of our state. We are the definition of a front line worker. We are proud of what we do and have continued to show up everyday to do our jobs despite risk of exposure to the virus from the tens of thousands of guests who come to our stores every week. Our jobs are essential to our state's food supply and we consistently have been called "heroes" for the work we have done and continue to do.

In their guidelines for COVID-19 vaccine distribution, the CDC specifically calls out "grocery workers" as essential and part of Phase 1b distribution. We are asking your committee to include grocery workers as part of Wisconsin's Phase 1b distribution plan.

Sincerely,
Peter Crapitto



From: [Kyle Jones](#)
To: [Willems Van Dijk, Julie A - DHS](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:58:35 PM

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

Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as you prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccinations

Sincerely ,
Kyle Jones



From: [Tabitha Richardson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:58:31 PM

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

To whom it may concern;

As COVID numbers continues to rise, and the state is working on deciding who is “essential” for next in line to get vaccinated, I was disappointed to read that Grocers employees are NOT in line to get their vaccines along with healthcare and other essentials. While Prisoners and Mink farmers are? For the last year thousands of employees have risked their health to ensure that grocery stores are stocked and assisting the general public during the pandemic. Many of whom have gotten sick themselves. And they’re certainly not getting paid the same for the risk. Many, I imagine are making less than \$15/hour risking their health. The state owes them the opportunity to get their vaccines before the general public. I ask that Governor Evers take a stand and make Grocers part of the 1b group and get them vaccinated soon! If we can’t thank the workers for working so hard during the pandemic, and can’t show them what being essential means- then I guess there is no need to keep Grocery Stores open next time we have to lockdown the state, they’re just not “essential enough”.

Please don’t disappoint us.

Tabitha Richardson

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mari Wood](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:58:02 PM

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Hello!

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you.

Mari Wood
Cooperative Relations Manager
Outpost Natural Foods

From: [Diane Streck](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery Store Workers and Bus Drivers
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:56:14 PM

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SDMAC Committee Members,

I strongly encourage you to include grocery store workers and bus drivers in the COVID-19 vaccination phase. Just like health care workers, these workers put their lives on the line every day. They don't have the option to work virtually. They deserve to be moved up to the next phase. I am willing to wait longer for my vaccine so these workers can be given higher priority.

Thank you for your consideration.

Diane Streck

WI Resident and Senior Citizen

From: [Adam Lefco](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:54:02 PM

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

To whom it may concern,

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you.

Adam Lefco
Café Manager
Outpost Natural Foods
7590 W. Mequon Rd.
Mequon, WI 53092
262-242-0426 x507

From: [Sarah Belcher](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B - Add Grocery Workers
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:52:19 PM

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

Dear Vaccine Subcommittee Members,

Please include grocery workers in the phase 1B vaccination group. They have been serving our state as essential employees throughout the pandemic, and must work indoors in close contact with the public. Not only should they be prioritized in receiving the vaccine, but their vaccinations would help slow community spread of the virus for us all.

Sincerely,
Sarah and Bill Belcher
Stevens Point

From: [Jacinda Buss](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Sub Committee / Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:50:13 PM

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

Dear Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

The pandemic has changed almost everything, but throughout, one constant has been our ability to get food. Food Processing and grocery workers have kept our communities running, and when others could be safe at home, they could not. First responders, the elderly, and teachers should be a priority but, so should workers on the frontlines of these industries who continue to put themselves at risk to keep us fed.

Federal recommendations from the CDC say that food processing and grocery workers should get vaccinated in Phase 1B alongside other frontline essential workers. Wisconsin has relegated these workers to Phase 1C without justification. I urge you to reconsider this position and include food processing and grocery workers in Phase 1B.

Respectfully,

Jacinda Buss

QA Manager

Van Holten's | 920-478-2144

703 W. Madison Street, Waterloo, WI 53594

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From: [Julie Byrnes](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee- Phase 1B for food processing & grocery workers
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:49:22 PM

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

Please move **food processing workers and grocery workers to phase 1B!** We need those that **provide** for us to be safe.

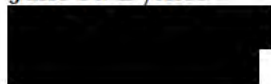
The pandemic has changed almost everything, but throughout, one constant has been our ability to get food. Food Processing and grocery workers have kept our communities running, and when others could be safe at home, they could not. First responders, the elderly, and teachers should be a priority but, so should workers on the frontlines of these industries who continue to put themselves at risk to keep us fed.

Federal recommendations say that food processing and grocery workers should get vaccinated in Phase 1B alongside other frontline essential workers. Wisconsin has relegated these workers to Phase 1C without justification.

Please reconsider this position and include food processing and grocery workers in Phase 1B.

Thank you,

Julie K. Byrnes



From: [Tim Hopp](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee and Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:47:38 PM

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

Good afternoon,

Thank you for allowing our recommendations for grocery store workers to be included in phase 1B for receiving the COVID-19.

They are always in the front line helping us to stay fed. They also have to deal with many people each day, many who refuse to wear face coverings. I personally am very grateful to them all.

PLEASE INCLUDE GROCERY STORE WORKERS IN PHASE 1B for COVID 19 VACCINE!

Thank you again for hearing the voices of the people of Wisconsin,

Tim Hopp
Cedar Grove WI

From: [Caleb Franson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Committee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:46:44 PM

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

To whom it may concern:

My name is Caleb Franson, I work as a grocery clerk in Madison, Wisconsin. I am writing to have you reconsider not including grocery workers in the next round of Covid-19 vaccinations. Let me first say that the elderly, medical personnel, teachers, and those with compromised immune systems should be first in line to receive the vaccine.

However, like teachers and EMTs, I would argue grocery workers are "public-facing essential workers", we directly interact with the public every shift. Despite the risk of catching Covid-19, we do our job, to keep people fed. I am alarmed that people who make sure you can still buy bread, formula, toilet paper, and cleaning supplies, all while dealing with the anxiety of risking our own health and the health of our families, are not considered "essential enough" to be included in 1B.

The hazards we deal with most often is trying to convince a customer to wear a mask correctly (or trying to convince them to wear a mask at all), and convincing the general public to practice basic hygiene and social distancing while shopping. There are many times myself and my coworkers have been purposely coughed on, cursed at, and threatened by the general public over masking wearing and hygiene.

Despite constant sanitizing, wearing our own masks to try to protect others, and social distancing both at work and our personal lives, it is not enough. We need the state to step up to protect us, and include grocery workers in this next round of vaccines.

Thank you for your consideration, and your time,
Caleb Franson

From: [Inez Somers](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:45:34 PM

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

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you.

--

Inez Somers

From: [Mariah Hewitt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee, phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:45:22 PM

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

Food industry should be after first responders. Our grocery workers work hard and are exposed to more people than any other group of workers. Let's do our part and try to keep those safe that have served us throughout this pandemic.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cheryl Bourne](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine committee phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:45:14 PM

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

Hi,

I think Grocery Workers should be prioritized for getting a vaccine, since they are public facing and generally have to be physically present in a building with other people, and food is essential. If other food production and distribution workers are not already prioritized they probably should be.

No need to respond, thanks for reading,

Cheryl Bourne
Verona WI

From: [Dana McMullin](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:43:46 PM

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

Hello,

Grocery workers are ESSENTIAL WORKERS and have been putting themselves at risk since March 2020. Please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. Access to food is 100% necessary for survival. Grocery workers are exposed daily to people who refuse to wear their masks properly and they deserve protection.

Please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution to ensure the reliability of our food supply.

Thank you,
Dana McMullin

From: [Matt Haas](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid-19 Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:42:54 PM

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

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to you on behalf of all employees at Palo Popcorn based in Sheboygan Falls, WI. It is our understanding that the subcommittee is continuing their work to determine priority status for the COVID-19 vaccination, and that food processing workers are currently scheduled to be included under Phase 1C. While we recognize that the vaccine rollout is a decision left up to the states, we also note that the Phase 1C designation is in conflict with the CDC's recommendation that food processing workers be classified under Phase 1B.

Palo Popcorn has been operating throughout the pandemic in order to meet increased demand for our products as more people are working from home, schooling from home, following local Stay At Home restrictions, and avoiding normal activities/gatherings. While we have not had any employees test positive for COVID-19, we have had instances where secondary exposure to positive coronavirus tests have necessitated extended quarantines by some employees. As a somewhat small company, the absence of even 1-2 employees can cause strain on our production capacity and make it difficult to fulfill customer orders.

From the start of the pandemic, our employees have committed to practices and procedures which would minimize the risk of COVID-19 affecting our workplace including how they conduct themselves when not at work. They have been called on to cover for absent employees, work extended hours as dictated by higher demand, and shown up to work each day to fulfill their role as a designated essential employee. As a part of the essential employee class providing products for the food supply chain, we ask that you would consider including food processing workers in Phase 1B of the vaccine rollout.

Sincerely,

Matt Haas
Vice President-Sales
Palo Foods, Inc.
955 Willow Drive, Suite G
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
920.467.2300 office
920.410.8998 cell

www.palopopcorn.com

From: [Lori Bokowy Feldhausen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:42:30 PM

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

Hello,

I'm writing in support of including our grocery workers as an essential group in the 1b vaccine rollout group. These workers have continued to go to work as an essential service, putting themselves and their families at risk and should, therefore, continue to be treated as essential workers. I can lower my risk by doing a grocery pick up because of their role/work and they should receive vaccine protection asap.

Additionally, this group will allow for a more diverse population to receive the vaccine - something that is very much needed.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lori Feldhausen
Cudahy, WI

From: [Nick Heitman](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b for Grocery Store employees
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:39:57 PM

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

Good afternoon,

I am writing today to advocate not only for myself, but for my brave and hard-working colleagues who have shown up to work in a grocery store during this pandemic. We have been belittled by anti-maskers who feel we are trampling on their “rights” when we politely ask them to put on a face covering, and scoffed and when we have kindly asked them to give us some space so we can stock shelves or provide customer service. When earlier reports indicated that we would be included in phase 1B of the vaccine distribution, I was filled with joy and hope. We ARE an extremely essential service, and we have no “work-from-home” option. Then, for reasons not entirely known to us, we were removed from our essential category, and are now made to wait to be vaccinated with the general public. I employ whoever reads this to reconsider this decision. We are scared, over-worked, and under-appreciated. We deserve to be protected so that we can continue to provide the ESSENTIAL services that we show up for.

Yours respectfully,

Nick Heitman
Meat Department Manager
Willy St Coop Middleton WI

From: [Kristoper Griffin](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid 19 Distribution
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:39:05 PM

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When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you.

From: [Frederik Bach](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Committee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:38:47 PM

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

Dear Governor Evers and Vaccine Committee Members,

I was horrified to read in this morning's Milwaukee Journal update that at present prisoners, even violent ones, are to be given the lifesaving vaccine BEFORE the grocery store workers that have been considered "essential" throughout the almost year-long CoVid19 pandemic!

I am equally outraged that law abiding citizens like my 69-year old wife might not be eligible while violent criminals would be! Please reconsider and put the grocery workers next in line, along with law abiding citizens 65 and over instead.

This matter is URGENT and could mean the difference between life and death for my wife, as well as these essential workers who have kept us fed with healthy food for all these months!!!

Thank you for your consideration,

Fred Bach

From: [Erika W Hagen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: keep grocery store employees in group 1B for COVID-19 vaccination plan
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:38:35 PM

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

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to urge you to keep grocery store employees included in phase 1B of COVID-19 vaccine recipients. This group of community members has been on the "front lines" since the beginning of the pandemic, keeping stores open and essential food and other items available for our community. They come into contact with large numbers of people daily and should be included among this group of essential employees that need to be protected.

Respectfully,
Erika Hagen

From: nbigler@charter.net
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B vaccine subcommittee
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:38:32 PM

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

It seems like an overwhelming job to decide who receives the vaccine especially since the doses are in short supply. So I will leave it up to your best judgements.

But, I do want to express my appreciation to the grocery store workers. I am guessing these are lower wage positions which are essential to keep all of us fed as well as for them to provide food and housing for themselves and their families. They work indoors wearing masks for their entire shifts. They come into contact with hundreds of customers as well as people who deliver products from all over the country. This puts them in danger of contracting as well as spreading the virus.

Good luck,

Nancy Bigler

From: [alliemac1311](#)
To: [Lt Governor](#); [DHS SDMAC](#); [GOV Info](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase 1b include grocery stores!
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:37:50 PM

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

Hello,

As a current grocery store worker, I urge you to reconsider and reinstate grocery store workers into vaccine group 1b. We are subjected to hundreds if not thousands of people a day. This includes the general public, our vendors and our coworkers. Our families and all of the social circles of our customers also come in to play. There are just too many points of contact to not worry about the transmission of COVID-19 during every work day. As grocery store workers we are essential. You, me and everyone else in the world depends on eating and having food available to eat. Preferably safely. Grocery workers handle your food. You want us vaccinated against covid-19 as soon as possible. Include grocery store workers in group 1B, for the safety of our community and local groceries.

Sincerely,
A frontline essential Grocery Store Supervisor

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [Brian Hilley](#)
To: [Willems Van Dijk, Julie A - DHS](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:35:52 PM

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

Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as you prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccinations.

We have employees that are exposed to thousands of customers in a week, we need help now !! Please consider us as same level as Health care workers.

Sincerely ,
Brian Hilley



From: [Kurt Buehner](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: grocery workers
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:35:42 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I would strongly encourage you to put grocery workers back in the 1b category. They are very essential and come into contact with thousands of people daily to keep our country fed. Neither I, nor anyone in my family are in this group, so my message is not self serving, merely the right thing to do. Please reconsider and put them back where they belong. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kurt Buehner

From: [alliemac1311](#)
To: [GOV Info: DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase 1b include grocery stores!
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:35:30 PM

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

Hello,

As a current grocery store worker, I urge you to reconsider and reinstate grocery store workers into vaccine group 1b. We are subjected to hundreds if not thousands of people a day. This includes the general public, our vendors and our coworkers. Our families and all of the social circles of our customers also come in to play. There are just too many points of contact to not worry about the transmission of COVID-19 during every work day. As grocery store workers we are essential. You, me and everyone else in the world depends on eating and having food available to eat. Preferably safely. Grocery workers handle your food. You want us vaccinated against covid-19 as soon as possible. Include grocery store workers in group 1B, for the safety of our community and local groceries.

Sincerely,
A frontline essential Grocery Store Supervisor

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [Casey Bushmaker](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Committee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:34:57 PM

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

Hello,

I am writing in support of including grocery store workers in Phase 1B of Wisconsin's vaccination plan. I work in IT and I feel strongly that grocery workers have been put in a much more stressful and risky position throughout the pandemic than workers in many other industries and we should acknowledge their essential nature and the ongoing risk of continuing to do their work by including them in Phase 1B. Grocery workers should absolutely have an earlier claim to COVID-19 vaccination than the general public.

thanks for your consideration,
Casey Bushmaker
Madison, WI

From: [Pat Barnes](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:34:05 PM

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

Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as you prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccinations. Our team members are and have been on the front line and exposed to the potential of getting the virus without any way to know if people coming to our stores are infected and need the vaccine for protection. We have thousands of customers that shop our nine stores every week and we need protection for our staff. In the beginning we were lucky that not many of our team members got the virus but as of late we have more and more team members that have tested positive, some to the point that it's getting hard to staff the department.

Sincerely ,
Pat Barnes

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [Laura Parker](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:34:01 PM

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While my organization does not operate facilities in Wisconsin, many of my customers in the food industry do. With the great heritage of food & agribusiness that we have in Wisconsin (I live in Wisconsin despite working in IL) I was disappointed to see grocery & food production vaccination priorities potentially being pushed out to 1C. If you have ever been to a meat, bakery, or dairy production facility you would appreciate the need for prioritization of the vaccine to those working so very hard in close quarters.

These hard-working men & women rise every day with big hearts to continue feeding our fellow Americans day in and day out. Often these workers are earning low wages with limited health care access and are living in multi-generational homes. These homes may have at-risk family members and often high concentrations of people in one home. I urge you to recognize the key role these vital workers play and the risk that you have to potential to reduce with prioritizing the vaccine for these essential workers to 1B in alignment with federal guidelines.

Regards,

Laura Parker

Caldic USA Inc.

National Commercial Director
2425 Alft Lane Elgin, IL, 60124
Telephone 1-847-468-0001,3214
Mobile 262-325-7334
Fax. 847-488-0007
Email lparker@caldic.us
www.caldic.us

From: [Rex Lemke](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee-phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:32:58 PM

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

Dear Vaccine subcommittee,

Grocery workers should be included in the phase 1b of the Vaccine protocol. They are essential workers who put themselves at risk every day because we all need to get groceries and they are there having contact with so many people. Please put them in a group to get their Vaccine as soon as possible. We need to do this not just for them, but for the people they have contact with them as they serve us!

Thank you for your consideration in the matter.

Sincerely,

Rexann Lemke
Chippewa Falls, WI
Chippewa County

From: [John Burt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:32:55 PM

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

Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as you prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccinations. These individuals working in this environment put their lives in harms way every day due to the constant contact they have with hundreds of people daily. They are truly front line workers whose jobs are ESSENTIAL for the well-being of others.

Sincerely ,
John Burt



From: [Ginger Buehner](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery workers
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:32:40 PM

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

To whom it may concern:

Please prioritize ALL grocery workers and include them in Phase 1B of the vaccine.

These are critical and essential workers and must be considered as such!!

Your attention to prioritizing grocery workers is appreciated-

Thank you & be well—

Ginger Buehner



From: [Robert Fox](#)
To: [Willems Van Dijk, Julie A - DHS](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:32:38 PM

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

Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as you prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccinations.

We in the Grocery business have been at the front lines of this COVID crisis since the very beginning. Our employees deal with the public all day long & have been since the TP & other commodities started running out & panic was on the rise.

Our industry worked (& continues to work) extremely hard to keep the people of our State feed while never panicking through the entire situation. We simply ask that our employees are included & appreciated for their hard work in the face of this pandemic.

Thank you!

Sincerely ,
Robert Fox



From: [Karen Green](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery Workers in Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:31:42 PM

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a teacher over the age of 65 with a medical condition.

Please put grocery workers in Phase 1b for COVID-19 vaccinations.

I know parents want their children back in school, but please think of the grocery workers who have worked throughout this pandemic to keep us fed. Grocery workers are exposed almost as much as health care workers and many of them don't have health insurance and can't afford to miss work.

Please make grocery workers a priority for Phase 1b of vaccinations.

Thank you!

Karen A Green



From: [Peter Ferr](#)
To: [Willems Van Dijk, Julie A - DHS](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:30:12 PM

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

Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as you prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccinations. Please do what is right to those that provide the necessary service to the Wisconsin people!

Sincerely ,
Peter Ferr



From: [Mary Yerges](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Sub Committee / Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:38:22 AM
Attachments: image013.png
image014.png
image015.png
image016.png
image017.png

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

Dear Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

The pandemic has changed almost everything, but throughout, one constant has been our ability to get food. Food Processing and grocery workers have kept our communities running, and when others could be safe at home, they could not. First responders, the elderly, and teachers should be a priority but, so should workers on the frontlines of these industries who continue to put themselves at risk to keep us fed.

Federal recommendations from the CDC say that food processing and grocery workers should get vaccinated in Phase 1B alongside other frontline essential workers. Wisconsin has relegated these workers to Phase 1C without justification. I urge you to reconsider this position and include food processing and grocery workers in Phase 1B.

Respectfully,

Mary Yerges Customer Service Manager

703 West Madison Street
Waterloo, WI 53594
P: 920-478-2144, Ext. 214
F: 920-478-2316



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to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

From: [Mary Ann Biederwolf](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:38:20 AM

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

Hi,

I'm writing to you in support of **including** grocery workers in the 1B phase roll out of vaccination as well as non-EMS first responders, education and childcare workers, and non frontline healthcare personnel in addition to at least those 70 and older. Of these, there are 2 in the group that I think **MUST** be included: grocery workers and childcare workers/educators.

From: [Judy Mumpy](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:38:19 AM

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

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive.

Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you

Judy Mumpy

From: laur.pevnickdesign.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Group 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:38:02 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 am in favor of including grocery store workers in group 1B waiting to be vaccinated against COVID-19 for the following 2 reasons:

1. **To keep these essential workers safe.** Grocery store workers are “on the front lines,” faithfully going to work every day so that the rest of us can access the fresh food that we need to get through the pandemic.
2. **To keep the rest of us safe.** Grocery stores are one of the main places where all Wisconsinites congregate out of necessity every week, so if the grocery workers are healthy, the stores will be safer for us all.

I hope that you will seriously consider these points and include grocery store workers in group 1B.

Thank you,

Laurie Pevnick

[Redacted signature block]

From: [Alison Pietruszka](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:37:29 AM

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

Grocery workers have been considered frontline essential workers since the beginning. They deserve to be included in this phase for receiving covid vaccinations

Sent from my iPhone

Alison Pietruszka
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

From: [Julie Johns](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Next phase of covid vaccine
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:34:41 AM

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

Grocery store employees are front line workers exposed to almost everyone. Please put them at the top.

We OBJECT TO YOUR INCLUSION OF JAIL AND PRISON INMATES BEFORE LAW ABIDING CITIZENS.

We are appalled that they are being considered at this stage when so many of us have stayed at home and worn masks on our rare trips out to a grocery store. Over 65 and those with compromised health should be before prisoners as well. Prison employees, yes. PRISONERS, NO!

Most sincerely,

Tom Bett
Julie Johns



Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Martha Davis Kipcak](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee regarding Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:33:28 AM

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

Grocery workers across Wisconsin are ESSENTIAL workers every day and deserve to be prioritized as such.

I urge you to include grocery workers in Phase 1B of Covid-19 vaccine recipients. They are undoubtedly on the front-line plus they are keeping us fed which surely must count for something! Not to mention, this is the directive given to us by the CDC.

Do the right thing for Wisconsin.

Include grocery workers in Phase 1B. They deserve to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Martha Davis Kipcak
Milwaukee

MARTHA DAVIS KIPCAK



How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.
— Anne Frank

From: [Barbara Costanzo](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: comment to vaccine subcommittee re Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:30:39 AM

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

I am dismayed at the subcommittee's recommendation to exclude grocery store workers from Phase 1 of vaccine distribution.

Grocery workers are essential and should be included among the first to get the vaccine. They are dealing with the public daily, a public that often is uncooperative about complying with the minimal inconvenience of wearing masks and oblivious to the need to maintain a physical distance. They are indoors for hours, in close contact with hundreds of people every time they go to work. These workers don't really have a choice about working; it's not a highly paid occupation and they are working for food and shelter. If they are infected at work, they are likely going home to a family or roommates who are then exposed.

I am 75 years old and anxiously awaiting my turn to receive the vaccine. But I don't have to go to work and I have a choice about going out. My getting the vaccine will help protect me.

The grocery worker's getting the vaccine will have a much greater impact on public health. The worker, the customers they serve, their families will benefit from their getting the vaccine.

I hope you will reconsider and include grocery workers in Phase 1B. It would recognize their service to the nation for the past ten months while supporting the health of the entire community.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara K. Costanzo

From: resv346u@frontier.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: VACCINE SUB COMMITTEE Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:30:02 AM

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Dear Committee,

You have done an admirable job in the preparation of the initial document. I find it quite thorough. Thank you for taking comments.

I am writing to make sure that all "front line" people are included in the vaccine distribution. I think your idea of a lottery for some groups of people including the underprivileged is a good idea.

I want to put in a good word for library staff and grocery store employees.

There are many library workers in the South Central Library system who are exposed to the public on a regular basis. My local library has had to close their doors and limit both their hours and services because workers were affected by Covid 19. I feel that libraries are an essential part of each community and that immunization of these workers would benefit Wisconsin.

Employees who provide basic services that involve food distribution are also important to the society. I am concerned that employers or business owners are reluctant to draw negative attention by reporting the number of employees who are quarantined or who are no longer working because of contracting Covid 19. I feel that these workers also deserve to be given priority in the vaccine distribution. They, if not vaccinated, should also be recognized as a source of spreading

the virus to a large number of people.
Thank you for taking my comments,
Tim Jensen
Town of Medina
Dane County

From: [Roger & Bonnie Jolly](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine sub-committee, phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:29:46 AM

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Regarding the Wisconsin Growers Association lobbying for inclusion in phase 1b.

I do most of my grocery shopping at a Pick n Save store and every time I'm there, I see several people without masks. I have spoken to management about why they aren't enforcing the mask requirement. Their response is that they "can't enforce it".

They obviously can enforce it by telling them they will have to leave but they choose not to because they want the money, even though it puts their employees and responsible shoppers at risk.

If grocers aren't willing to protect their employees by simply enforcing the mask requirement, how can they justify asking for priority over more vulnerable groups?

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rachael Wendt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Committee Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:28:21 AM

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grocery store workers be considered essential workers and be a part of COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1B. “They are not able to work from home, may not refrain from contact with the public, and were previously defined essential in Wisconsin Emergency Order 12: Safer At Home, “Our front line workers, our business, and our community deserve the extra security vaccinating our employees early will provide: protection for our staff to continue keeping the public fed, and added protection for our customers who may rely on shopping our business in person.”

From: [Susan Stein](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:26:56 AM

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

PLEASE include grocery workers in Phase 1B. My son has been working in grocery through this entire pandemic. He has had to put up with people screaming at him and his employees (because they can't get every item the store has every stocked), and sometimes, those customers are anti-maskers. Although my son does wear a mask whenever he leaves his house, since Wisconsin has NOT mandated masks State-wide, I fear every day that that day will be the day he contracts this virus from customers (who do need groceries but who do not care about others).

I am 69 years old, and I have told him that if it was possible, I would give him my dose if I become eligible before he does, but I know that isn't possible. He had said a couple months ago that he will believe that Wisconsin truly considers his group as essential workers when he actually sees his group get the vaccine in their arms! They have HAD to work through this horrible time, but does the government really believe they are ESSENTIAL?

Thank you.

Susan Stein

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Vicki Bott](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:26:52 AM

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

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities, please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive.

Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves, please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you,

Vicki Bott



From: [Shelley Jurewicz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: FaB WI request to DHS prioritizing Food and Beverage Industry for 1b COVID Vaccines
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:26:44 AM
Attachments: image005.png
image006.png
image007.png
image008.png

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January 18, 2021

RE: Prioritizing Food and Beverage Industry for 1b COVID 19 Vaccines

Secretary Andrea Palm
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
1 West, Wilson St.
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Secretary Palm:

We are writing to you today to request priority access to COVID-19 vaccines for the frontline workers of Wisconsin's food and beverage industry.

From farm to factory to fork, Wisconsin's food and beverage industry is of the strongest in the world, comprised of 20,000 employers, accounting for 430,000 jobs, and generating more than \$104 billion in economic activity for the state.

The industry's leaders and workers have gone above and beyond to meet extraordinarily high demand for life-sustaining food and drink, while employing the highest of standards for food and employee safety throughout the pandemic.

Due to the interconnectivity of this industry, as restaurants closed, many food and beverage manufacturers found ways to keep their products in consumers' hands, and in some cases, literally pivoting production lines to produce hand sanitizers. This, all while our manufacturers and grocers adapted quickly, using the best of best practices to ensure consumer and employee safety.

Our farms, factories, grocers, and restaurants have been feeding and quenching the world for over 200 years. FaB Wisconsin works with nearly 150 food and beverage manufacturers and makers ranging in size from 1-1,000+ employees. As the economy continues to open, these individuals continue to face a higher risk of infection, going to work every day to help manufacture, sell, and serve, life-sustaining products.

In determining the allocation of COVID-19 vaccines, FaB Wisconsin respectfully requests that our food and beverage manufacturers, grocers, and related workers be prioritized for vaccines in Phase 1b, as outlined in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook.

Phase 1b prioritization will ensure continued safe employment in safe operations and a safe supply of food and beverage products - from fresh to processed to prepared - to feed and quench consumers.

FaB stands ready, willing, and able to work with you and your administration on the COVID-19 challenge and related issues. We appreciate your service and consideration as you determine vaccine allocation for these populations.

Respectfully,

Sincerely,

SHELLEY JUREWICZ

Chief FaBricating Officer

m. 414.331.0598 // o. 414.287.4143

e. sjurewicz@fabwisconsin.com

275 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 220 | Milwaukee, WI 53203

www.fabwisconsin.com



From: [Rachael Wendt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery store workers
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:25:23 AM

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

Grocery store workers Are essential and should be considered 1b for the vaccine. Thanks

From: [Robert Merker](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Robert Merker](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:23:23 AM

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

Hello,

My wife and I are both retired. I am 80 years old. My wife is 77. Since March, our children/grandchildren have visited us several times for 10 - 15 minutes. All visits took place outside, even on Christmas. Other than those visits, we have limited our social exposure since March to a few trips to the Doctor, curbside pickup of prescriptions, and grocery shopping.

Obviously, grocery shopping, which we do every three weeks, is by far our weakest link in defending ourselves against Covid. Only one of us, me, goes into the store. I know what to get, where it is located, and move quickly (even at 80). I go early in the day, avoid other shoppers but then finally must encounter the checkout lady. If she were vaccinated, then I would feel almost free. Also, if she were vaccinated, she could go to work without the great trepidation that she must feel every day as she walks through the door of the store.

There are many types of retail establishments. Most are not essential. Food is essential. Therefore, grocery stores are essential. Therefore, grocery store workers are essential. Let's vaccinate those essential workers in Phase 1B.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Merker


From: [Gregg Geier](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Sub Committee / Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:23:23 AM

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Dear Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

Food Processing and grocery workers have kept our communities running, and when others could be safe at home, they could not. Support for workers on the frontlines of these industries who continue to put themselves at risk to keep us fed.

Federal recommendations from the CDC say that food processing and grocery workers should get vaccinated in Phase 1B alongside other frontline essential workers. Wisconsin has relegated these workers to Phase 1C without justification. I urge you to reconsider this position and include food processing and grocery workers in Phase 1B.

Respectfully,

Gregg P. Geier
Van Holten's
Waterloo, WI 53594

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

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From: [Steve Hanson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee phase 1b comment
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:22:17 AM

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Please consider the following in the Phase 1b rollout plan:

1. People in the food provision chain who are essential workers - this would range from people working in meat processing plants, who have been a locus of spread of the virus, to grocery store workers who are in constant contact with the public and who are essential workers in every sense. We all need to eat.
2. Following the new CDC guideline and accepting people over age 65 rather than age 70.

Thank you for your consideration.

From: [Amanda Henes](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Vaccine Part 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:21:53 AM

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When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

I work in the curbside department here at Outpost Natural Foods in Bay View (where there have been several OSHA complaints as a result of mask violations). I bring this up as I work directly with sick, elderly, or otherwise immunocompromised customers. It would behoove everyone to get the grocery workers vaccinated.

Thank you for reading this and for your consideration.

Best,
Amanda Henes
a.henes@outpost.coop

Amanda Henes
Outpost Natural Foods
Curbside
414.755.3202

From: [Kat Bunke](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:20:39 AM

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Dear Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee,

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities, please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and to show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves, please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you,
Kat Bunke

From: [Doug Rasmussen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Sub Committee Decision on Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:19:51 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png

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Dear Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

Thank you for all you have been doing in rolling out the Vaccine. Such a huge task in these times. I wanted to write to you to ask you to keep Food Processors in Phase 1B. Food Processing and grocery workers have kept our communities running, and when others could be safe at home, they could not. First responders, the elderly, and teachers should be a priority but, so should workers on the frontlines of these industries who continue to put themselves at risk to keep us fed.

Federal recommendations from the CDC say that food processing and grocery workers should get vaccinated in Phase 1B alongside other frontline essential workers. Wisconsin has relegated these workers to Phase 1C without justification. I urge you to reconsider this position and include food processing and grocery workers in Phase 1B.

Thank you for your time and wish you the best in this roll out.

DOUG RASMUSSEN *Creative Coordinator*

703 West Madison Street
Waterloo, WI 53594
P: 608-334-8996



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From: [Suzi Bergeron](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:18:58 AM

To the committee

I think grocery workers should be part of the 1b group as well as 65 year olds. 65 year olds are such a vulnerable group and grocery workers are definitely essential. Thank you

From: [Shawn Duket](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:18:41 AM

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Hello,

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you,

*Shawn Duket
Outpost Natural Foods Capitol Drive
Bulk Grocery/ Coffee Journey person*

From: [Mike Toepfer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:18:22 AM

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Dear Wisconsin Vaccine Advisory Board members,

I am writing to ask you to do the morally right and civically responsible thing on January 18th and vote to keep grocery workers along with other food industry individuals *in* the 1B tier of coronavirus vaccine eligibility.

The people who do these jobs are essential to Wisconsinites' lives, and their efforts since last March have been nothing short of heroic, putting themselves and their own families at risk on our behalf. Please recognize their efforts by including them in the 1B phase of Wisconsin's distribution of available COVID-19 vaccine. Making this choice will not only fittingly recognize their service. It will also help make all of Wisconsin safer from coronavirus, since so many of us not only depend on grocery and food service workers; we also regularly come into both direct and indirect contact with them. Relegating this group to anything but 1B will be a detriment to us all.

Please, when you vote on phase 1B, vote to include grocery and food industry workers in this category.

Sincerely,

Michael S Toepfer
Milwaukee, WI

From: [Andy Kosanke](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:17:55 AM

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Hello,

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you,
Andy Kosanke

From: [Julie Toepfer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: ["Mike Toepfer"](#)
Subject: Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:16:41 AM

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Dear Wisconsin Vaccine Advisory Board members,

I am writing to ask you to do the morally right and civically responsible thing on January 18th and vote to keep grocery workers along with other food industry individuals *in* the 1B tier of coronavirus vaccine eligibility.

The people who do these jobs are essential to Wisconsin's lives, and their efforts since last March have been nothing short of heroic, putting themselves and their own families at risk on our behalf. Please recognize their efforts by including them in the 1B phase of Wisconsin's distribution of available COVID-19 vaccine. Making this choice will not only fittingly recognize their service. It will also help make all of Wisconsin safer from coronavirus, since so many of us not only depend on grocery and food service workers; we also regularly come into both direct and indirect contact with them. Relegating this group to anything but 1B will be a detriment to us all.

Please, when you vote on phase 1B, vote to include grocery and food industry workers in this category.

Sincerely,

Julia D Toepfer
Milwaukee, WI

From: [Gary Nidetz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Sub Committee - Phase 1B public comment
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:16:15 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png
image007.png

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Dear Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

The pandemic has changed almost everything, but throughout, one constant has been our ability to get food. Food Processing and grocery workers have kept our communities running, and when others could be safe at home, they could not. First responders, the elderly, and teachers should be a priority but, so should workers on the frontlines of these industries who continue to put themselves at risk to keep us fed.

Federal recommendations from the CDC say that food processing and grocery workers should get vaccinated in Phase 1B alongside other frontline essential workers. Wisconsin has relegated these workers to Phase 1C without justification. I urge you to reconsider this position and include food processing and grocery workers in Phase 1B.

Respectfully,

Gary Nidetz *Controller*

703 West Madison Street

Waterloo, WI 53594

P: 920-478-2144 ext. 215



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From: [Lisa Bruno](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:15:43 AM

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URGENT: Call To Action

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing. To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

This is my college graduate I am talking about. The one who graduated during a pandemic. The one who can't get a job in her field and who took a full time job in a grocery store to make ends (barely) meet. Because grocery workers ARE essential and don't have the luxury of working from home.

Food IS essential, just as these workers. Thank you

From: [Jim and Sandy](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:14:38 AM

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We are a retired couple both in our 70s. We feel that grocery workers need to be included in the 1B phase of vaccines.

These people have been touted as heroes who have shown up every day to keep the public able to get needed groceries during this pandemic.

They have performed their various duties every day with masks and have not always had the luxury of social distancing in their stores as they deal with the public.

It is unfair to push them down on the list for vaccinations after their almost a year of service.

Please reconsider their rightful place as heroes in the recommendations for vaccines.

Thank you,
Sandra and James Jankowski
Colgate, WI

From: [Steve Engstrom](#)
To: [Willems Van Dijk, Julie A - DHS](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:13:51 AM

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Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as you prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccinations. We should be considered an essential worker.

Sincerely,
Steve Engstrom



From: [S. T.](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:13:36 AM

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Hi.

As an employee of a local grocery store chain, I have to say that it's really disappointing and horrifying that people want to exclude us from the next phase of vaccine distribution.

My co-workers and I, and people from other groceries stores and settings that allow people to purchase food, have been putting our lives on the line for almost an entire YEAR. Every day I'm afraid of bringing COVID into my home, to my husband, and to my diabetic mother who lives with us.

Walk into any grocery store and you'll see that customers have little to no respect for our personal space, our mask policies, and our sanitation guidelines. Close to 21,000 grocery retail workers have already been infected or exposed to COVID-19.

PLEASE do not exclude grocery store retail workers and other food service workers from accessing the vaccine.

Thank you.

Sarah Talaska

From: [Kathy Schoephoester](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:12:35 AM

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

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.
Thank you.

Kathryn Schoephoester
Madison, WI

From: [Danny Sarandos](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase 1 B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:11:48 AM

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

My coworkers and I, at Parthenon European Market, [8415 W. Greenfield Avenue, West Allis, WI, 53214](#), have all been working HARD for months to keep our store stocked and open to serve our customers. We understand that keeping our shelves full and our store clean is reassuring to customers. Not only have we seen an increased volume in the number of shoppers in the store, and an increased volume in the amount of groceries that they are purchasing, but our online order volume has increased tremendously. Customers come to our store from as far away as Madison, Fond du Lac, and even northern Illinois. Additionally, we ship to customers all over the United States.

Please help us to do our job by providing us with the safety of the vaccine as soon as possible. Right now, food is not only a necessary intake of calories, but the act of preparing and eating the food is one of the few things that is providing comfort to people during a very upsetting time. And, unlike white collar workers, my colleagues and I don't receive sick pay. It is vital that all 15 of us stay healthy enough to work – not just for the well-being of our customers, but our own well-being.

Please, follow CDC guidelines and include grocery store workers in Phase 1B of the COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Thank you,
Danny Sarandos

Sent from my iPhone

From: [erin parcell](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B vaccine subcommittee
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:11:20 AM

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

Please include grocery workers and other food industry people in this phase of vaccines. They are truly on the front lines of this pandemic and deserve to get the vaccine now.

Thank you,
Erin Parcell

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bruce Wiggins](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:11:13 AM

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

I implore the subcommittee to include grocery workers in this phase to receive the Covid vaccine. They are essential workers and should be vaccinated to protect us all. Food is a necessity and people should not be endangered by going to shop for necessities.

-b-

Bruce Wiggins

from Patriot John R. Lewis:

"Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe. In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love and nonviolence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring. When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression and war. **So I say to you, walk with the wind and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide.**"

From: [Laura p](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:10:17 AM

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When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you.

Laura

From: [Barb Shore](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: COVID vaccination Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:09:30 AM

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I am 70 with chronic asthma. My spouse, who is under 60, has been working from home since last March. We leave only to go grocery shopping, since the curbside pickup and delivery services locally are abysmal.

Nevertheless, I think those groups where the highest COVID infection and hospitalization rates should be 1B. That would reduce the health care cost burden to our state economy overall. Also vaccinate people who cannot work from home, which would help the state unemployment rate.

I am also deeply disappointed in the lack of urgency in getting vaccines in arms and the lack of communication from our state Department of Health, the Waukesha County Department of Health and our major health care systems in the metro Milwaukee area: Froedtert, Advocate Aurora, Ascension, Pro Health and Columbia St. Mary's. Even if vaccines were available to everyone, there has been no public outreach or information campaign to let the average person know where they can register to get an appointment for a vaccination. I do not want to sit overnight in a line in hopes of getting a vaccine like they are doing in Florida.

Barbara Shore

[REDACTED]

From: [Max de Gail](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:09:10 AM

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When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you.

From: [Olivia Vazquez](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:08:20 AM

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

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities, please keep the grocery industry in the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the capacity of support in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you.

From: [Elsie Evenson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Lucy Rumpf](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:08:11 AM

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Comments regarding grocery store workers and vaccine Phase 1B:

**I go to the grocery store, masked, as seldom as possible, per guidelines of health experts to keep me, a 75 year old senior at lower covid risk.

** I am grateful every time for the stocked shelves in every department. Some of those workers stock as I shop—with customers walking by, within inches, constantly. In a shift, they are exposed to perhaps hundreds of contacts.

**At the check-out stations extra precautions are in place to protect checkers and packers, but other store workers have only a mask to protect them as they do work their essential work with social distancing impossible, hand washing not feasible.

It is only logical that these workers are at as much risk as other designated essential workers. Besides, it's a reciprocal benefit as I would be protected as well. **These workers need to be added to the list of those receiving vaccine in Phase 1B, more so if predictions that our worst months are ahead become reality.

My efforts for good health, for me and my community, engender my hope that you will consider this vaccination expansion as you cope with this dreadful virus.

Elsie Evenson
Neenah WI

From: [inaparaps](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B and Grocery Workers
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:07:52 AM

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

Please include grocery store workers in phase 1B of the Coronavirus Vaccine Roll-out Plan.

They have been considered essential workers during this whole COVID-19 pandemic and so should be included in the phase 1B.

Thank you.

Judy Sparapani

Sent from my iPhone

From: lisa.nowalis@gmail.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:07:50 AM

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

I'd like to start by thanking you for all of your efforts so far to keep us safe and for taking public comments.

I am so happy to see teachers and childcare workers on the 1B list. I am however, incredibly disappointed to see prisoners in this group, or any group before the general public. Having them vaccinated will not help keep my 7 month old daughter safe, who cannot wear a mask to protect herself. Continuing to focus on essential workers, like grocery store workers, will. I understand that covid cases are probably pretty bad in the prisons since there isn't really a way to social distance, but isn't the bigger goal to stop/slow the spread outside of prison walls?

Thank you again for taking the time to read my thoughts.

Lisa Nowalis

From: [carey drees](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B - keep grocery workers in!
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:05:36 AM

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

I am a resident of Brookfield, Wisconsin. I have family members who work locally in grocery stores, particularly my father who is over 65 and a cancer survivor. He has a forward facing position and deserves immediate access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

Please keep the grocery industry at the forefront of groups who have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one. Access to food is 100% necessary and these workers should be properly vaccinated to slow the community spread of this virus.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves, please keep the grocery industry as a top priority for vaccine distribution.

Thank you,

Carey Drees

From: [Marcia Beauchaine](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee, Phase 1b recommendations
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:05:23 AM

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Hello, I feel that in addition to people over 70 being included in this next group, also included should be people >60 with health problems such as diabetes, heart issues, etc. I feel that people who are incarcerated should not be included at this time. I also feel that non-frontline essential workers, such as in the grocery store, should not be included as they are not generally in the high risk age group. I am 62 yrs old, and have essentially been taking care of my mother who is 94 and lives alone. I very much want her to be in the next group, and waiting patiently for myself to be immunized as well. Thank you, Marcia Beauchaine

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jess](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:05:12 AM

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To the members of the committee,

I urge you to reconsider your decision not to include grocery workers in phase 1B of COVID vaccine distribution. These employees have been providing an essential service for the many months of this pandemic and continue to do so despite the risk they take every day, and it is in the interest of public safety that they are made a priority when it comes to the vaccine. Handling our food and keeping our grocery stores running is an essential service we all need, please help protect all of us by protecting these employees. I also urge you to consider other public facing positions, such as those in our public libraries, as a priority for vaccination.

Thank you for your time.

Jessica Moore

From: [Eric Conway](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid Vaccine Tier changes
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:04:47 AM

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January 18, 2021

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC)
Vaccine Subcommittee Via email: dhssdmac@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Dear Vaccine Subcommittee Members,

I write today as an employee of Certco, Inc. We are a wholesale grocery distributor who service independent grocery stores in Wisconsin, along with other states in the upper Midwest. We are owned by the grocery stores that we service.

I ask that there be reconsideration and you include our industry in tier 1B in the COVID-19 vaccination plan. CDC guidance on the COVID-19 vaccine distribution was released even before the announcement of a vaccine, and had our industry listed as part of tier 1B, as essential public facing workers.

I am disheartened to hear the committee is not following this guidance and is instead recommending our industry should receive the vaccine as part of tier 1C.

All healthcare workers, public safety workers and child care center workers are factored in tier 1A and 1B. Grocery workers and food supply essential workers were also mentioned in the same breath as these industries since early March of 2020 and called "Heroes". Yet, we are now left without the benefit of hope that these same individuals are getting.

Please reconsider your revised plan for Tier 1B to include our industry. Moving the age tier down to include individuals above age 70, instead of 75 years of age, is protecting a new group that has been kept safe by the State orders to stay home, and they have been fed due to us and the stores we service.

Food is essential to the survival for all mankind, regardless of age. My coworkers and I have been working tirelessly to ensure people have the food and supplies they need available to them in order to follow the "Shelter in Place" and "Safer at Home" orders set forth by the state of Wisconsin. Without me and my co-workers remaining healthy and the grocery store workers staying healthy, we will have a much larger issue on our hands in keeping the food available to all Wisconsin residents.

To be called heroes for 10 months and have this glimmer of hope for a vaccine ripped out of our hands is a shame. Please reconsider.

Sincerely,
Eric J Conway

Eric Conway

Maintenance Mechanic

Office (608)278-2257 || Fax (608)278-2223



5321 Verona Road Madison, Wisconsin 53711-6050

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From: [Eric Struve](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B - please consider grocery workers!
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:02:49 AM

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

Hello,

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you,

Eric Struve
Director of IT
Outpost Natural Foods Co-op
3200 S 3rd St
Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-918-0424
www.outpost.coop

From: [Andy Loomans](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:02:49 AM

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JANUARY 18, 2021

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I AM AN ESSENTIAL WORKER.

I WORK FOR WOODMAN'S FOOD MARKETS AND HAVE WORKED THROUGHOUT THIS ENTIRE PANDEMIC IN A TIME OF NEED IN OUR COMMUNITIES. I HAVE WORKED HARD TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS, ENSURING THEY STILL HAVE ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL ITEMS TO SURVIVE IN A STATE OF UNKNOWN. I WORKED HARD TO SERVE GUESTS, WITHOUT HESITATION.

IT HAS BEEN SCARY. WHEN EVERYONE ELSE WAS SHELTERED AT HOME, I STILL CAME AND CONTINUE TO COME TO WORK.

BUT NOW I AM TOLD I AM NOT AN ESSENTIAL WORKER. ALL OF MY HARD WORK AND SACRIFICE OF MYSELF, MY FAMILY AND MY LOVED ONES MEANS NOTHING. I AM NO LONGER A PRIORITY TO RECEIVE A VACCINE.

THIS IS NOT FAIR. WHY SHOULD I CONTINUE TO PUT MYSELF, MY FAMILY AND MY LOVED ONES HEALTH ON THE LINE WITHOUT PROTECTION?

AM I NO LONGER THE HERO YOU REFERRED TO ME AS BEFORE? I CAME INTO CONTACT WITH THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE EVERY DAY AND WEEK TO ENSURE THEY HAVE ACCESS TO THEIR FOOD AND OTHER ESSENTIAL NEEDS. HOW AM I NOT CONSIDERED TO BE A "PUBLIC FACING ESSENTIAL WORKER?"

PLEASE TELL ME AS I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

I ASK YOU TO RECONSIDER YOUR RECOMMENDATION AND PRIORITIZE ALL OF THE "HEREOS" WHO HAVE WORKED HARD IN UNKNOWN AND SCARY TIMES TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITIES IN THEIR ESSENTIAL NEEDS.

I AM AN ESSENTIAL WORKER.

SIGNED,

Andrew Loomans

Woodman's Food Markets
Phone: 920 735 6655
FAX: 920 735 6748
andrew.loomans@woodmans-food.com

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distribution, or copy of this message is strictly prohibited. If received in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete/destroy the message and any copies thereof. Although Woodman's Food Markets, Inc. and/or its affiliates (collectively "Woodman's") attempt to prevent the passage of viruses via e-mail and attachments thereto, Woodman's does not guarantee that e ther are virus-free, and accepts no liability for any damage sustained as a result of any such viruses.

From: [Amber Czaplewski](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery store employees on 1B list
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:02:40 AM

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To whom it may concern,

As an essential worker that works for the Kroger company, I find it a slap in the face that mink farmers and prisoners are more essential to get the next round of vaccines. Help me understand where mink farmers come in? Second, how are prisoners more essential than myself that have been working in the grocery store, coming in contact with people constantly. I am immune compromised and have been putting myself at risk daily to make sure people get what they need every single day, dealing with people everyday that come into our business and put up a fight about wearing a mask, also trying to do social distancing. How well do you think that works at a grocery store? The amount of people we come in contact with each day out weighs what a prisoner or a mink farmer come in contact with each day in an area. So I'm asking that you reconsider who is essential and who is non-essential. Thank you for your time.

Amber Czaplewski

From: [Jennifer Sentz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B input/teachers/grocery store workers
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:01:51 AM

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I am sending input for the next phase of the vaccination schedule. I strongly recommend that teachers/school employees and grocery store employees be included in phase 1B for the vaccination.

In order for our schools to provide quality instruction for our students adults that work in schools need to feel safe coming to work. As the virus continues to be prevalent in Wisconsin all school employees need this vaccine. Only then can schools develop a plan to fully open with in school instruction. Substitute teachers need to be included especially since they are in many different classrooms and fill in for teachers who may be ill with the virus.

In addition, my experience going to grocery stores has shown me that many shoppers ignore or disregard the mask and social distancing mandates. Many people wear masks incorrectly or not at all after they get into stores. Numerous people ignore the 6 foot distance recommendation. Grocery workers cannot enforce this effectively. They expose themselves to the risk of the virus every day because of the amount of people in grocery stores. They are essential workers since people need to eat so should be included in the next phase.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to give my input and I trust you will take it seriously and start phase 1B in a timely manner.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Sentz

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tom Wysocki](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine input
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:01:05 AM
Attachments: Message from 24-RICOH.msg
Message from 24-RICOH.msg
Message from 24-RICOH.msg

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

Good morning,

Attached is 147 letters from the employees of Woodman's Onalaska expressing their displeasure of being moved down the vaccine order. Very simply, we have been serving the public and exposing ourselves and families to COVID daily for 10 months. Many of us have had COVID, and given it to our family. We have been assaulted, spit on, swore at, flashed handguns, while enforcing the facemask guidelines. We are on the front line. We were unable to check out, hide at home, and avoid the risk. Now we are being forced to wait longer. So the people who took their ball home, and hid, are receiving the vaccine before us. How much do we have to bear so others can be safe? This is unacceptable and unfair.

Tom Wysocki
General Manager
Woodman's-Onalaska
608-783-2233

From: [UE1186 WSGC Union](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery workers must be in Phase 1B of COVID vaccine plan
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:00:51 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 am writing on behalf of the grocery workers of UE Local 1186 at the Willy Street Co-Op in Madison and Middleton.

We are appalled that grocery workers may no longer be included in Phase 1B of the state's COVID vaccine roll-out plan.

This is unacceptable. We put our lives, as well as those of the people we live with and care for, on the line every single time we go to work.

We are "essential frontline workers" who must be given priority to receive the vaccine.

Thayer Reed
UE Local 1186 President

From: [Mary Pat Siewert](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:00:11 AM

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

I am writing to express concern about Phase 1B in the vaccine roll out in Wisconsin. I STRONGLY believe that, along with teachers, all grocery store workers must be included in this phase. These workers have been on the job serving us during this crisis - coming in contact with hundreds of people every day. Please protect them!

In addition, I believe that Wisconsin must follow the CDC guidelines and allow seniors 65 and older to be included in Phase 1B. I'm not sure why Wisconsin thinks it should make its own guidelines vs following the CDC. Please include seniors 65 and older.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Mary Pat Siewert



From: [Anu Skinner](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:59:07 AM

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

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you.

Anu Skinner

From: [Brooke Winnowing](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:58:33 AM

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I have never been so disappointed in Wi. Grocery store workers and truck drivers being over looked as essential. My mother is 65 and works 40 hour work weeks at the grocery store in hopes to retire soon but she cannot get her vaccine. But my nieces ex boyfriend whom tried to kill her and sits in jail for 20 years on attempted homicide charges will get his. Not to mention the free health care he gets as well as our working class gets over looked again.

At least drop the age 65.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jaime Stahnke](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery worker in 1B vaccination round.
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:58:20 AM

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

I just came across an article from WMTV that informed me that grocery store workers were not included in the 1B vaccination round. Please reconsider this. Grocery store workers have been so important to all of us during the pandemic and they absolutely should be included in the early rounds of the vaccination. They put themselves out there every day while many of us are able to isolate. I will gladly delay my vaccination if it means someone at higher risk gets their sooner.

Jaime Stahnke


From: [Enid Asmus](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:56:36 AM

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Starting with those who educate our younger children, please have educators and school staff receive the COVID vaccine as soon as possible. If we are to safely return to in-person classes this is essential.

Please also consider grocery store employees receive the COVID vaccine sooner than later. They have been “essential workers” for many, many people who have relied on curbside pick-up for their groceries. As a 66 year old Milwaukee resident, the service they provide has made it possible for me to avoid in-store shopping since the beginning of the pandemic.

I recognize the difficult decisions you need to make. Thank you for your consideration.
Enid Asmus

From: [Amy Lohmiller](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:56:24 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 am writing to please ask for further consideration of the next rollout of vaccinations for COVID-19. I work in Human Resources in the food sector and I see the direct impact of COVID-19 in our industry and business at this time with our staff and their families.

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you,

Amy Lohmiller
HR Generalist-Outpost Natural Foods
3200 S. 3rd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-431-3377 ext. 125

From: [Bob Klief](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee" and "Phase 1B"
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:56:22 AM

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

Regarding the potential decision of not including front line grocery workers in the 1B vaccines, my wife and I disagree with that option in the strongest terms possible.

Since the start of the pandemic grocery workers have been front and center to ensure that we all have access the food and other supplies while risking their own lives and health with regard to Covid. With restaurants and bars forced to close, at home dining presented a dramatic increase. Grocery workers worked 24/7 since March to meet that demand. The risks they faced and continue to face are no less than doctors, nurses and other health care workers, EMT, police, and firemen face. They should be given the same consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Klief
Charlene Klief
Muskego

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Ryan Doan](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:56:07 AM

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When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you.

Ryan Doan

From: [Kjerstin Bell](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:56:05 AM

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Grocery store workers have been considered essential through the entirety of the Pandemic and still have continuous and daily contact with the public - please include all grocery store employees in Phase 1B. Thank you.

From: [Jamie Marquardt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Essential Workers
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:55:43 AM

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

Hi there,

Please keep grocery store workers categorized as essential. Our food supply is critical to the health of our people, and grocery store workers come into contact with the broader population on a daily basis.

They have been on the front lines of this crisis from day 1 and deserve to be given the opportunity to receive the vaccine if they choose. Employee retention will also be higher, giving these stores a chance at staying open, which is in and of itself...essential!

Thank you,

Jamie Marquardt
Oconomowoc, WI

From: [Ann Conroy](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:53:03 AM

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Hello,

I just want to express my opinion that grocery workers should ABSOLUTELY be included in the Phase 1B vaccination plan. I'm not sure how people who provide food could be anything less than essential.

Also, prisoners would have NO reason to be vaccinated. They are not going out into society. Their only risk would be from visitors or prison workers so vaccinate the workers and restrict visitors until the general public can be vaccinated. Problem solved...you're welcome!

Honestly it would be refreshing to see decisions based on common sense for once.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my personal opinion.

Ann Conroy

From: [Mary Ellen Voelz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee and Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:49:39 AM

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

Please keep our dedicated grocery workers safe and help get them vaccinated as a priority, as they have been loyal workers keeping up fed throughout this pandemic. Thank you.

Mary Ellen Voelz

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cara Berken](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee + Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:49:37 AM

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Good morning,

I am an employee for Outpost Natural Food Cooperative in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I don't work on the front lines (I'm a graphic designer), but a lot of my friends do. I've worked here since 2011, a lot of my friends have been here longer than me. We don't mind telling people that we work for a grocery store – even though we know the general population thinks of grocery store employees as low skill minimum wage earners. Most of us believe in the mission of our cooperative being community owned, promoting local businesses and farmers, giving back to the hungry in our community and providing a safe place that our neighbors can trust. We are proud to work here.

On March 12, everything changed for a lot of people, but especially grocery store workers. We didn't get to "stay home", learn how to make bread, redecorate a room, or even monitor our kids' virtual classroom. No. We had ESSENTIAL WORK to do. Building plexiglass screens around our checkout lanes and installing floor graphics. Sourcing face masks, hand sanitizer, and yeah, toilet paper, while responding to shortages in our deliveries. Monitoring the latest recommendations from the CDC, federal and local government, which changed daily for the first two months. Making SO MANY SIGNS. Then making new signs. And then more signs. Closing down all self-serve areas of our store (including entire aisles and departments) and creating new ways to get these foods to customers safely. Making decisions to protect our employees – like an indoor mask requirement – long before this was required by the state. Some people didn't like that last one, and they told our employees, hissing in their faces and assaulting them with frozen foods. Cursing, screaming, stealing food, directing all their bottled up and misinformed anger at the people who showed up to help. The same employees who have written down customers' grocery lists over the phone and shopped for them, during the months we were throwing together a web store from scratch. The same employees who let the elderly and the healthcare workers in the doors before open to protect them. The same employees that used hand sanitizer for the hundredth time today.

My friends have worried daily about catching COVID. Hoping the plexiglass and the mask restrictions were enough. They take frequent breaks outdoors to take long deep breaths and they've created boxes with different treats and stress relievers to help manage their anxiety. Our HR team has done a stellar job of protecting our highest risk employees, contact tracing and recommending testing, advising on protocol, fielding health insurance questions. There's 400 employees, who've been praying every day, that we don't lose one of our own. And we know we are doing our best. Masks, social distance, limited exposure time, and sanitizing have worked so far. We are all tired though, really tired.

I'm demanding that frontline grocery workers be included in phase 1b, including grocery cooperative employees. They have been nothing short of heroes and are essential to our community's survival and welfare.

I'll wait my turn.

Cara Berken
Graphic Design Manager
Outpost Natural Foods Cooperative
3200 S. 3rd Street
Milwaukee, WI 53207
www.outpost.coop

From: [Lori Ford](#)
To: [Willems Van Dijk, Julie A - DHS](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:48:27 AM

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Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as you prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccinations. We have been working through the Pandemic from Day 1. Because we are considered "Essential" we did not have the opportunity to stay home and collect any benefits. It is very stressful knowing we are exposed everyday.

Sincerely ,
Lori Ford



From: [Colleen McGuigan](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:46:23 AM

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

Hello,

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities, please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you.

Colleen McGuigan
Brown Deer, Wisconsin.

From: [Courtney Field](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:46:22 AM

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

Hello,

I am writing to you today to voice concern over the delegation of the Covid-19 vaccines in Phase 1b not including grocery store workers. According to the CDC website, "On December 20, 2020, ACIP recommended that in Phase 1b, the vaccine should be offered to persons aged ≥ 75 years and frontline essential workers (non-health care workers)". I think you would be remiss to not include grocery store employees in this phase. They have been on the frontlines of this pandemic since it has started, and have continued to serve us despite the personal risk they must bear. They come into contact with many people throughout one day which not only leaves them more exposed but also can be a point of contact people has to get this virus. Many workers care for their families who may be high risk if they are not high risk themselves. I understand that this virus has been hard on every aspect of society and our personal lives., so it's not an easy decision of who can access the vaccine. These have been some of the hardest months of my life too, personally. I really do believe that grocery store workers should get this vaccine as soon as possible to protect our community as they truly are on the frontlines providing essential care. Together we will continue to get through this!

Thank you,
Courtney Field

From: [Ben Pelc](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:44:54 AM

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To whom this may concern,

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you.

--

v/r

-Ben Pelc

From: [Erin Munro Krull](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:44:42 AM

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

Dear State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

I would like to add a public comment on your latest meeting that addressed prioritization for the COVID-19 vaccine as part of the phase 1b rollout.

I would like to recommend grocery store workers as part of the phase 1b rollout. These workers face the public every day, and are arguably in contact with a large proportion of the population. Not only do most people still shop for food, but for it may be their main contact with others outside of their homes. Grocery personnel work in the aisles among the shoppers, maintaining the food supply and helping customers. My husband works as a manager of the health and beauty department, and he often gives medical recommendations to customers as well as help them find the care they need.

It is impossible for these workers to work remotely or at off hours, and they have been working on the frontline from the start of the pandemic. They are often the first business to face the public when new policies are in place, including mandating mask wearing. They are also essential since they have the training required to maintain the food and medical supply so that the public can maintain access to these necessary items. They work hard to maintain stock and meter out supplies so that everyone can have access to: hand sanitizer, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, and many other items that have experienced shortages in the past year.

Finally, there is some evidence that grocery workers have faced higher infection rates. [Occupational & Environmental Medicine](#) published an article last October stating that the infection rate may be 5 times higher than the general population and that many of those tested may be asymptomatic. A recent [NBC article](#) states that many workers cannot afford to take time off even if they do show symptoms. This applies for my husband's workplace as well, where workers must stay home without pay if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or show symptoms. Many of them avoid having to stay home because they simply can't afford it.

These workers have been on the front lines since the beginning of this outbreak, holding off runs on hand sanitizer last February when many of us were barely aware of the pandemic. They have faced work every day as conditions change. Getting them vaccinated sooner rather than later would not only greatly relieve their work, but also effectively mitigate the risk of spread.

Best,
Erin Munro Krull

P.S. As a college professor, I have been able to work online from the beginning of the pandemic. While not all of my colleagues and students have been able to continue their work

online, I would recommend a targeted approach to vaccinations for educators.

--

Erin Munro Krull

Assistant Professor of Mathematics and the Mark and Janice Franzen Professorship in Applied Mathematics

Ripon College

300 W. Seward St.

Ripon, WI 54971

(p) 920-748-8368



Visit us at ripon.edu

From: [Margaret Mittelstadt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Bumping COVID-19 vaccine distribution to grocery workers below Phase 1b status
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:44:08 AM

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

Dear members of the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee:

I work in the grocery industry in metro Milwaukee. Along with approximately 370 of my fellow colleagues, our staff has been in the forefront of providing essential food and services to the general population since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Every day, our staff is put in potential harm's way by being exposed to everyone who walks through the doors to buy food. A floor clerk may be exposed to a 100 people during an 8 hour shift. Multiply that by a 40-hour work week, that is 500 people a week. A cashier may be exposed to even more customers, and in closer proximity. Not all of our customers have had COVID safety in mind when they come to our store. In addition to this, our staff have had to deal with food shortages and disruption in the supply chain, trying to keep food and supplies on the shelf.

Who else in the marketplace has had that level of constant exposure to an unknown virus during unprecedented times while providing an essential product necessary to maintaining life as we know it?

Protect our grocery workers - keep them in the Phase 1b tier of vaccine distribution. To suddenly say to these people that their efforts don't warrant extra protection is terrible.

Get better at getting the vaccine, get better at distribution and get better at getting the shots into the arms of grocery store workers - now. Grocery workers were once deemed essential. Heroes, even. Does that now go away? Have they become commonplace? Do our hourly workers not matter? Keep grocery workers on the Phase 1b tier of COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

Sincerely,
Margaret Mittelstadt
Glendale, WI
Employee at Outpost Natural Foods Cooperative
www.outpost.coop

From: [Kurt Baehmann](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B-Grocery workers
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:44:03 AM

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

When considering COVID-19 vaccine distribution priorities please keep the grocery industry at the forefront. While there are many jobs that may be considered essential, access to food is 100% necessary for all humans to survive. Grocery workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic since day one, dealing with food shortages and members of the public that may not have the safety of others in mind by properly wearing masks and social distancing.

To ensure the reliability of our food supply and show respect for those that have continued to make sure there is food on the shelves please keep the grocery industry as a top priority when considering vaccine distribution.

Thank you.

Kurt Baehmann
Sustainability Manager
Outpost Natural Foods Co-op
k.baehmann@outpost.coop
www.outpost.coop
3200 S. 3rd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-918-0433

From: [Amanda Jabs](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee, Phase 1 B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:43:29 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to request that Restaurant employees be considered as a part of the Phase 1B of the vaccine distributions.

Restaurants are an important part of the food supply chain – feeding the public through carryout, delivery, and dine-in; keeping farmers, wholesalers, fishers, wineries, breweries, delivery drivers, and more, in business. “Front of House” restaurant workers (managers, servers, hosts, bartenders, etc) have high level of interaction with the public and cannot control social distancing – they work in close proximity to unmasked diners for extended periods of time. “Back of House” restaurant workers (managers, chefs, cooks, dishwashers) are not able to physically distance from each other while cooking in kitchens. Restaurant workers cannot telework and have been working throughout the entire pandemic. A large amount of restaurant workers are Latinx. People in the Latinx community continue to be disproportionately represented among both people testing positive and people hospitalized for COVID-19.

In addition to government capacity mandates and closures, restaurants have regularly shut down when there is an employee COVID case and other employees are exposed and must isolate. When this happens, restaurants don’t have enough workers to operate, and are forced to close for the isolation period, losing valuable sales, wasting product, and putting employees out of work for several days, or weeks at a time.

The restaurant industry has suffered and having workers vaccinated will make customers feel safer, help our industry rebound faster, and keep our restaurants open. Restaurant sales are down 50-70%, and it’s even worse in the winter when they can’t rely on outdoor dining. Restaurants are losing tens of thousands of dollars every month due to capacity restrictions and customer reluctance to dine in restaurants. Many restaurants are on the brink of closing and the vaccine can protect employees and be a lifeline for the industry.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Kind Regards,

Amanda Jabs
Controller

Food Fight Restaurant Group ®
5111 Monona Drive

Monona, WI 53716
Office: 608-246-2719
Cell: 608-287-6285
www.foodfightinc.com

From: [Mark Bauman](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Should Include Grocery Workers in Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:42:33 AM

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Hello Vaccine Subcommittee,

I'm writing to express my strong opinion that grocery workers should be included in Phase 1B for dissemination of the Coronavirus Vaccine. Grocery workers are essential workers and need to be given that special status and due respect. I am not myself a grocery store employee (I'm retired), but I believe their job to be at higher risk because of the constant exposure to other people, even when wearing masks. Please provide this prioritization of the vaccine distribution to these essential workers!

Thank you,
Mark Bauman



From: [Sue Tessmer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:41:12 AM

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Dear Committee Member,

I write today as an employee of Sendik's Food Markets, a retail grocer serving the citizens of Wisconsin. I am asking you to consider including our industry in Wisconsin's tier 1B of the COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I work as a cashier and greet and help many people a day with their food and necessities with a positive attitude to soothe people in these trying times.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, my coworkers and I have been on the front lines serving our communities. We never shut down. We are face to face with the public 14 hours a day. There is no opportunity in our industry to work remotely.

We are the stockers, checkers, baggers, cart wipers, clerks, delivery drivers and order fillers that get food to the people of our state. We are the definition of a front line worker. We are proud of what we do and have continued to show up everyday to do our jobs despite risk of exposure to the virus from the tens of thousands of guests who come to our stores every week. Our jobs are essential to our state's food supply and we consistently have been called heroes from our customers for the work we have done and continue to do.

In their guidelines for COVID-19 vaccine distribution, the CDC specifically calls out "grocery workers" as essential and part of Phase 1b distribution. We are asking your committee to include grocery workers as part of Wisconsin's Phase 1b distribution plan. Thank you for reading!

Sincerely,
Sue Tessmer



From: [Marianne From](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:40:52 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I am an essential worker exposed to COVID-19 multiple times a day.

I have worked on the front lines at Woodman's Food Markets and have worked throughout this entire pandemic. I have worked hard to keep our community stocked with food and essential items to survive in this time of fear and uncertainty. I have worked hard for Wisconsin, without hesitation.

Now I am told I am not an essential worker, that I should go home and we should close grocery stores because none of the workers are essential, this is INSANE.

This is not fair to WI, our communities, or the workers who are exposed to thousands of people every week.

I am asking for you to reconsider your recommendation and prioritize all of the workers in these scary and unknown times.

I am an essential worker.

Marianne From

From: [dave hartman](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee. Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:40:46 AM

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Your grocery store employees need to be vaccinated as soon as possible in Phase 1B. The December CDC recommendation is to have your grocery employees vaccinated. Please follow the science and what they tell you. Yes, 60,000 people is a big group but that does make them any less essential.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Matt Phillips](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccination Prioritization for Retail Employees
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:38:42 AM
Attachments: Retail Vaccination Prioritization.Final.pdf

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Please see the attached letter from the Alliance of Wisconsin Retailers.

Matt Phillips

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Madison, WI 53703
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[Email: matt@stengergov.com](mailto:matt@stengergov.com)