

From: [Kelsey Gleason](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:59:32 PM

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Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Kelsey Gleason, and I am from Stoughton, Wisconsin. I am a small animal veterinarian specializing in veterinary acupuncture and canine rehabilitation. As a veterinarian, I am writing to respectfully urge you to include veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants, and other veterinary clinic staff in the Phase 1b prioritization list to receive the COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Veterinary health care workers are essential frontline workers that provide critical care to both food/fiber animals and companion animals throughout the state and in Dane County in a clinical and house call capacity. As a profession, we can not work from home and currently, the provision of veterinary care via telehealth is not allowed under Wisconsin law. As a result, our patient care requires uninterrupted in-person/curbside visits and availability of our unique health care services.

Thank you for considering this request.

Kelsey Gleason, DVM CVA
Heal Integrative Veterinary Center

From: [Morgan Popa](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid Vaccine Request
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:58:02 PM

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

My name is Morgan Popa and I am from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. I am client care support specialist at BluePearl-Milwaukee, previously known as Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

My practice provides emergency care and specialty medicine for small animals. When you issued the Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home order, on March 25, 2020, it stated that "Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals." While individual services limited their hours as they were able, we remained open to continue providing this essential service to our community. And in fact, despite the pandemic, for a number of reasons, veterinary services across the board have seen an increase in cases. Although social distancing practices have been in place including allowing only staff in the building, it is impossible to effectively social distance while restraining a small animal which is unavoidable in our field. We must also still come within 6 feet of a client in the parking lot in order to safely transfer control of the pet, even if they are on a leash. We were creative and resourceful in our use of PPE (handmade cloth face masks and face shields, washing exam gloves instead of disposal after each use, etc.) so that these resources could be funneled to human medicine professionals, even though it meant that our makeshift practices might have been less effective.

We are a unique group of individuals who have a special way of understanding one another. This is true of veterinary professionals in general, and especially true of my practice in particular. Within our group are spouses, family members and roommates who not only work together but also share a home. We have 3 locations in the greater Milwaukee area and over 200 employees, many of whom travel between locations due to the nature of service they provide. Although we have specific protocols in place regarding COVID exposures and positives, an outbreak could be devastating not only to an individual service but to the entire hospital, or maybe even all 3 hospitals. As one of the 2 largest groups providing [24/7/365](#) veterinary care to southeastern Wisconsin, a closure, even temporary, would also be

[REDACTED] community.

[REDACTED] please include [REDACTED] the

[REDACTED] while we continue to provide our essential service.

Thank you for considering this request.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Victoria Anderson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Call To Action on Phase 1b of COVID Vaccine Distribution Plan
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:57:17 PM

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

My name is Victoria Anderson and I am from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I am a veterinary assistant at BluePearl-Milwaukee, previously known as Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists. I am writing to ask you to include the veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

My practice provides emergency care and specialty medicine for small animals and the occasional exotics. When you issued the Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home order, on March 25, 2020, it stated that "Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals." While individual services limited their hours as they were able, we remained open to continue providing this essential service to our community. And in fact, despite the pandemic, for a number of reasons, veterinary services across the board have seen an increase in cases. Although social distancing practices have been in place including allowing only staff in the building, it is impossible to effectively social distance while restraining a small animal which is unavoidable in our field. We must also still come within 6 feet of a client in the parking lot in order to safely transfer control of the pet, even if they are on a leash. We were creative and resourceful in our use of PPE (handmade cloth face masks and face shields, washing exam gloves instead of disposal after each use, etc.) so that these resources could be funneled to human medicine professionals, even though it meant that our makeshift practices might have been less effective.

We are a unique group of individuals who have a special way of understanding one another. This is true of veterinary professionals in general, and especially true of my practice in particular. Within our group are spouses, family members and roommates who not only work together but also share a home. We have 3 locations in the greater Milwaukee area and over 200 employees, many of whom travel between locations due to the nature of service they provide. Although we have specific protocols in place regarding COVID exposures and

[REDACTED] could be devastating not only to an individual service but to the entire [REDACTED] 13 hospitals. As one of the 2 largest groups providing 24/7/365 [REDACTED] to southeastern W [REDACTED] te [REDACTED]

I am asking that you please include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan so that we may help reduce the risk of spread of COVID while we continue to provide our essential service.

Thank you for considering this request.

[REDACTED]
Sincerely, [REDACTED]
Victoria A. Anderson

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

[Redacted]

From: [Victoria S. Miller](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: COVID 19 Vaccine Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:47:57 PM

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

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

My name is Dr. Victoria Miller and I am from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian at BluePearl-Milwaukee, previously known as Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists. I am writing to ask you to include veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Our practice provides emergency care and specialty medicine for small animals. When you issued the Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home order, on March 25, 2020, it stated that "Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals." While individual services limited their hours as they were able, we remained open to continue providing this essential service to our community. And in fact, despite the pandemic, for a number of reasons, veterinary services across the board have seen an increase in cases. Although social distancing practices have been in place including allowing only staff in the building, it is impossible to effectively social distance while restraining a small animal or providing advanced level care such as CPR, which is unavoidable in our field. We must also still come within 6 feet of a client in the parking lot in order to safely transfer control of the pet, even if they are on a leash. We were creative and resourceful in our use of PPE (handmade cloth face masks and face shields, washing exam gloves instead of disposal after each use, etc.) so that these resources could be funneled to human medicine professionals, even though it meant that our makeshift practices might have been less effective.

We are a unique group of individuals who have a special way of understanding one another. This is true of veterinary professionals in general, and especially true of our practice in particular. Within our group are spouses, family members and roommates who not only work together but also share a home. We have 3 locations in the greater Milwaukee area and over 200 employees, many of whom travel between locations due to the nature of service they provide. Although we have specific protocols in place regarding COVID exposures and positives, an outbreak could be devastating not only to an individual service but to the entire hospital, or maybe even all 3 hospitals.

As one of the 2 largest groups providing 24/7/365 veterinary care to southeastern Wisconsin, a closure, even temporary, would also be devastating to the pet community. COVID-19-related closures at other smaller local veterinary hospitals over the past several months has resulted in patients being turned away from overwhelmed veterinary facilities, and large caseload surges at the hospitals that remain open putting a huge burden on staff and potentially resulting in lower-quality care and increasing the incidence of medical complications or errors.

I am asking that you please include veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1b of the

[REDACTED] vaccination plan so that we may help reduce the risk of spread of [REDACTED] to provide our essential service.

[REDACTED] considering this request [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Brielle Kammien](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:37:16 PM

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

My name is Brielle Kammien and I am from Racine, Wisconsin. I am a Client Care Specialist at BluePearl-Milwaukee, previously known as Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists. I am writing to ask you to include veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

My practice provides emergency care and specialty medicine for small animals. When you issued the Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home order, on March 25, 2020, it stated that "Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals." While individual services limited their hours as they were able, we remained open to continue providing this essential service to our community. And in fact, despite the pandemic, for a number of reasons, veterinary services across the board have seen an increase in cases. Although social distancing practices have been in place including allowing only staff in the building, it is impossible to effectively social distance while restraining a small animal which is unavoidable in our field. We must also still come within 6 feet of a client in the parking lot in order to safely transfer control of the pet, even if they are on a leash. We were creative and resourceful in our use of PPE (handmade cloth face masks and face shields, washing exam gloves instead of disposal after each use, etc.) so that these resources could be funneled to human medicine professionals, even though it meant that our makeshift practices might have been less effective.

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[REDACTED] include veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1b of the
[REDACTED] COVID
[REDACTED]

Thank you for considering this request

Brielle Kammien

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Rebecca Santy](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:35:49 PM
Attachments: image001.png

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

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

My name is Rebecca Santy and I am from Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. I am a veterinary technician and admin member at BluePearl-Milwaukee, previously known as Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

My practice provides emergency care and specialty medicine for small animals. When you issued the Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home order, on March 25, 2020, it stated that "Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals." While individual services limited their hours as they were able, we remained open to continue providing this essential service to our community. And in fact, despite the pandemic, for a number of reasons, veterinary services across the board have seen an increase in cases. Although social distancing practices have been in place including allowing only staff in the building, it is impossible to effectively social distance while restraining a small animal which is unavoidable in our field. We must also still come within 6 feet of a client in the parking lot in order to safely transfer control of the pet, even if they are on a leash. We were creative and resourceful in our use of PPE (handmade cloth face masks and face shields, washing exam gloves instead of disposal after each use, etc.) so that these resources could be funneled to human medicine professionals, even though it meant that our makeshift practices might have been less effective.

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I am asking that you please include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan so that we may help reduce the risk of spread of COVID while we continue to provide our essential service.

Thank you for considering this request.

Rebecca Santy, CVT (she/her/hers)

Assistant Practice Manager

BluePearl Specialty + Emergency Pet Hospital

Milwaukee, WI Market

Port Washington | Glendale | Oak Creek

414.410.2586 (office/cell)

bluepearlvet.co

m



From: [Julie Loeffler](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee-Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:29:50 PM

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

Dear Secretary-designate Palm and Vaccine Subcommittee members,

I write to comment on the exclusion from phase 1B of an important group of frontline healthcare workers—veterinarians, veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants. I believe this exclusion is a mistake that you should correct.

Animal healthcare providers have been designated as essential employees and thus have been working in close proximity to others who may be infected, just like human healthcare workers. Like their human healthcare counterparts, they have stood faithfully on the frontlines throughout the pandemic. By so doing, they have helped preserve the health and lives of animals that are important to our state's economy and in our lives in so many ways.

While this alone may be enough to ensure their inclusion in phase 1B, please consider another very urgent reason to do so. COVID-19 is a zoonotic disease, it is believed that it originally circulated in animals before jumping to humans, and as the DHS' own guidance points out, multiple outbreaks have been tied to sick animals on mink farms. In addition to risk of outbreaks, deadly new mutations that increase viral virulence or help to evade vaccines can arise within animal populations and remix to human populations.

Failing to inoculate as soon as possible this group that works with sick animals thus poses a biosecurity risk to the entire state and country as a potential source for transmission and a location where newly virulent viral mutations can occur.

As the mom of a veterinarian whose workplace on the University campus in Madison has seen multiple clusters of COVID-19 infected employees and also as a resident of Wisconsin, I want this group of essential workers included in phase 1B both because I want her protected and because I want the Department of Health to take this logical precaution that may help protect the entire state's population.

I urge you again to correct your mistake: please include this group of essential workers in Phase 1B of COVID-19 vaccinations.

[REDACTED] on to this matter. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] floor [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Kala Chanthalangsy](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:27:30 PM

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To the committee members who will be deliberating COVID vaccination distribution,

My name is Kala and I am one of a team of veterinary professionals that work at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Within my own job capacity I have the potential to not only spread COVID to my coworkers such as zoo keepers who work very closely to animals of all types. But also to the endangered animals, great apes, primates, and big cats that I have contact with to provide medical care. Sometimes all of those in one day alone! We may not know the exact zoonotic potential of this virus at this time but we do know most of the species that could be susceptible to it. What other place could hold as much zoonotic risk of transmission and mutation than a zoo with multiple species in close proximity to their caretakers?

The animal caretakers and veterinary staff in zoos have always been deemed essential and have been continuously working throughout this pandemic. We work in jobs that can not be done remotely and at times not even social distancing can be utilized. All this on top of the precious endangered and threatened species we care for whose genetics can help us stop the extinction of some of the world's most beloved animals.

In fact, veterinary professionals are deemed essential by the CDC and have already been included in a multitude of other states early phases such as California, Kansas, and Ohio to name a few. Not to mention veterinary professionals have also been called to action to help distribute vaccines in Connecticut and parts of Canada because ultimately we are medical professionals, doctors and nurses for all intensive purposes. It is because we are at risk to transmit this virus to the animals, to other coworkers, and yes, even the public as they visit our zoo, vet clinics or just as we go to grab groceries, that I feel the veterinary field and that zookeepers should most definitely be included in phase 1B of COVID vaccination distribution. To protect the public and to protect the animals.

Thank you for you time and consideration,

Kala Chanthalangsy
Veterinary Technician, CVT
Milwaukee County Zoo

From: [Teri Sieglaff](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: COVID Vacc.
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:21:02 PM

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

My name is Teri Sieglaff and I am from West Bend, Wisconsin. I am a CCS at BluePearl-Milwaukee, previously known as Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

My practice provides emergency care and specialty medicine for small animals. When you issued the Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home order, on March 25, 2020, it stated that "Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals." While individual services limited their hours as they were able, we remained open to continue providing this essential service to our community. And in fact, despite the pandemic, for a number of reasons, veterinary services across the board have seen an increase in cases. Although social distancing practices have been in place including allowing only staff in the building, it is impossible to effectively social distance while restraining a small animal which is unavoidable in our field. We must also still come within 6 feet of a client in the parking lot in order to safely transfer control of the pet, even if they are on a leash. We were creative and resourceful in our use of PPE (handmade cloth face masks and face shields, washing exam gloves instead of disposal after each use, etc.) so that these resources could be funneled to human medicine professionals, even though it meant that our makeshift practices might have been less effective.

We are a unique group of individuals who have a special way of understanding one another. This is true of veterinary professionals in general, and especially true of my practice in particular. Within our group are spouses, family members and roommates who not only work together but also share a home. We have 3 locations in the greater Milwaukee area and over 200 employees, many of whom travel between locations due to the nature of service they provide. Although we have specific protocols in place regarding COVID exposures and positives, an outbreak could be devastating not only to an individual service but to the entire hospital, or maybe even all 3 hospitals. As one of the 2 largest groups providing 24/7/365 veterinary care to southeastern Wisconsin, a closure, even temporary, would also be devastating to the pet community.

I am asking that you please include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan so that we may help reduce the risk of spread of COVID while we continue to provide our essential service.

Thank you for considering this request.
Teri Sieglaff

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Emilie Nieman-Witt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b of COVID Vaccine Distribution for Veterinary Service
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:17:10 PM
Attachments: Outlook-ploioq4q.png

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

My name is Emilie Nieman-Witt and I am from Glendale, Wisconsin. I am a member of management at BluePearl-Milwaukee, previously known as Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

My practice provides emergency care and specialty medicine for small animals. When you issued the Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home order, on March 25, 2020, it stated that "Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals." While individual services limited their hours as they were able, we remained open to continue providing this essential service to our community. And in fact, despite the pandemic, for a number of reasons, veterinary services across the board have seen an increase in cases. Although social distancing practices have been in place including allowing only staff in the building, it is impossible to effectively social distance while restraining a small animal which is unavoidable in our field. We must also still come within 6 feet of a client in the parking lot in order to safely transfer control of the pet, even if they are on a leash. We were creative and resourceful in our use of PPE (handmade cloth face masks and face shields, washing exam gloves instead of disposal after each use, etc.) so that these resources could be funneled to human medicine professionals, even though it meant that our makeshift practices might have been less effective.

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I am asking that you please include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan so that we may help reduce the risk of spread of COVID while we continue to provide our essential service.

Thank you kindly for considering this request.

--

Emilie Nieman-Witt (she/her)

Client Care Supervisor - Glendale

Blue Pearl Specialty & Emergency Pet Hospital

2100 W Silver Spring Drive | Glendale, WI 53209

P 414-540-6710 | F 414-540-6720 | C 262-483-6187



From: [Alyssa Nelson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinary Health Care Professionals Phase 1b of WI COVID-19 Vaccination Plan
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:15:17 PM

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

My name is Alyssa Nelson and I am from Glendale, Wisconsin. I am a client care specialist at BluePearl-Milwaukee, previously known as Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

My practice provides emergency care and specialty medicine for small animals. When you issued the Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home order, on March 25, 2020, it stated that "Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals." While individual services limited their hours as they were able, we remained open to continue providing this essential service to our community. And in fact, despite the pandemic, for a number of reasons, veterinary services across the board have seen an increase in cases. Although social distancing practices have been in place including allowing only staff in the building, it is impossible to effectively social distance while restraining a small animal which is unavoidable in our field. We must also still come within 6 feet of a client in the parking lot in order to safely transfer control of the pet, even if they are on a leash. We were creative and resourceful in our use of PPE (handmade cloth face masks and face shields, washing exam gloves instead of disposal after each use, etc.) so that these resources could be funneled to human medicine professionals, even though it meant that our makeshift practices might have been less effective.

We are a unique group of individuals who have a special way of understanding one another. This is true of veterinary professionals in general, and especially true of my practice in particular. Within our group are spouses, family members and roommates who not only work together but also share a home. We have 3 locations in the greater Milwaukee area and over 200 employees, many of whom travel between locations due to the nature of service they provide. Although we have specific protocols in place regarding COVID exposures and positives, an outbreak could be devastating not only to an individual service but to the entire hospital, or maybe even all 3 hospitals. As one of the 2 largest groups providing 24/7/365 veterinary care to southeastern Wisconsin, a closure, even temporary, would also be devastating to the pet community.

I am asking that you please include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan so that we may help reduce the risk of spread of COVID while we continue to provide our essential service.

Thank you for considering this request.

Alyssa Nelson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Tyler Klose](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarian inclusion in COVID vaccination Phase 1b
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:15:01 PM
Attachments: Outlook-signature_.png

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

My name is Dr. Tyler Klose; I live in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian at BluePearl-Milwaukee, previously known as Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

My practice provides emergency care and specialty medicine for small animals. When you issued the Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home order, on March 25, 2020, it stated that "Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals." While individual services limited their hours as they were able, we remained open to continue providing this essential service to our community. And in fact, despite the pandemic, for a number of reasons, veterinary services across the board have seen an increase in cases. Although social distancing practices have been in place including allowing only staff in the building, it is impossible to effectively social distance while restraining a small animal, which is unavoidable in our field. We must also still come within 6 feet of a client in the parking lot in order to safely transfer control of the pet, even if they are on a leash. We were creative and resourceful in our use of PPE (handmade cloth face masks and face shields, washing exam gloves instead of disposal after each use, etc.) so that these resources could be funneled to human medicine professionals, even though it meant that our makeshift practices might have been less effective.

Within our group are spouses, family members and roommates who not only work together but also share a home. We have 3 locations in the greater Milwaukee area and over 200 employees, many of whom travel between locations due to the nature of service they provide. Although we have specific protocols in place regarding COVID exposures and risk reduction, an outbreak could be devastating not only to an individual service but to the entire hospital, potentially even all 3 hospitals. As one of the 2 largest groups providing 24/7/365 veterinary care to southeastern Wisconsin, even temporary closure would also be devastating to the pet-owning community.

I am asking that you PLEASE include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan so that we may help reduce the risk of spread of COVID while we continue to provide this essential service.

Thank you for considering this request.

Tyler Klose, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM) (he/him/his)

Doctor Internal Medicine
BluePearl Specialty + Emergency Pet Hospital
Milwaukee, WI Market
Glendale , WI
414-540-6710
bluepearlvet.com



From: [Andrea Kolodziej](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vet Med Professionals in Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:14:15 PM
Attachments: Outlook-5xptie3m.png

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

My name is Andrea Kolodziej and I am from Racine, Wisconsin. I am a patient care coordinator and tech with BluePearl-Milwaukee, previously known as Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists. I am writing to ask you to include veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

My practice provides emergency care and specialty medicine for small animals. When you issued the Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home order, on March 25, 2020, it stated that "Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals." While individual services limited their hours as they were able, we remained open to continue providing this essential service to our community. And in fact, despite the pandemic, for a number of reasons, veterinary services across the board have seen an increase in cases. Although social distancing practices have been in place including allowing only staff in the building, it is impossible to effectively social distance while restraining a small animal which is unavoidable in our field. We must also still come within 6 feet of a client in the parking lot in order to safely transfer control of the pet, even if they are on a leash. We were creative and resourceful in our use of PPE (handmade cloth face masks and face shields, washing exam gloves instead of disposal after each use, etc.) so that these resources could be funneled to human medicine professionals, even though it meant that our makeshift practices might have been less effective.

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I am asking that you please include veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan so that we may help reduce the risk of spread of COVID while we continue to provide our essential service.

Thank you for considering this request.

Andi Kolodziej

Patient Care Coordinator

BluePearl Specialty + Emergency Pet Hospital

Milwaukee, WI Market

Oak Creek Location

p 414-761-6333 | f 414-761-8808



From: [Megan Gallager](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:08:25 PM

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

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

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

I am one of four veterinarians at a busy small animal general practice in Middleton. Our clients rely on us for the care of their pets for everything from health exams and vaccines to medical appointments, filling life-saving medications, and helping their pets pass peacefully when their quality of life declines beyond treatment. Our schedules are consistently fully booked from opening to closing with appointments and consults squeezed in throughout the day to accommodate for sick pets who need our help.

A COVID outbreak at our practice would significantly impact the pets and people we see. Like many veterinary clinics, we are understaffed despite our best efforts to hire new people, and even one person out of the office can prevent us from functioning at full efficacy and create stress for those who are working. If our clinic were closed due to a COVID outbreak, our patients may not get the care and support they need, especially if unaffected clinics are unable to handle the spill over of so many pets needing care.

If you have a pet or have ever had a pet, I implore you to consider how it would feel to be told your sick dog or cat...your pet who supported you through the pandemic...could not be seen because your clinic is closed. To be told that your only options are to wait long hours for an emergency appointment or try to schedule an appointment with someone who doesn't know your pet's history and a may not be able to see them for a week.

Veterinarians are essential personnel who deal closely with the public, provide important services for animal and human health, and they deserve to be included in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccine plan.

Thank you for considering this request.

Megan Gallager, DVM

From: [Rebecca A. Schnabel](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarian Health Care Professionals - Phase 1b of COVID Vaccine Distribution Plan
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:08:03 PM

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

My name is Rebecca Schnabel and I live in Grafton, Wisconsin. I am a Client Care Specialist at BluePearl-Milwaukee, previously known as Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

My practice provides emergency care and specialty medicine for small animals. When you issued the Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home order, on March 25, 2020, it stated that "Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals." While individual services limited their hours as they were able, we remained open to continue providing this essential service to our community. And in fact, despite the pandemic, for a number of reasons, veterinary services across the board have seen an increase in cases. Although social distancing practices have been in place including allowing only staff in the building, it is impossible to effectively social distance while restraining a small animal which is unavoidable in our field. We must also still come within 6 feet of a client in the parking lot in order to safely transfer control of the pet, even if they are on a leash. We were creative and resourceful in our use of PPE (handmade cloth face masks and face shields, washing exam gloves instead of disposal after each use, etc.) so that these resources could be funneled to human medicine professionals, even though it meant that our makeshift practices might have been less effective.

We are a unique group of individuals who have a special way of understanding one another. This is true of veterinary professionals in general, and especially true of my practice in particular. Within our group are spouses, family members and roommates who not only work together but also share a home. We have 3 locations in the greater Milwaukee area and over 200 employees, many of whom travel between locations due to the nature of service they provide. Although we have specific protocols in place regarding COVID exposures and positives, an outbreak could be devastating not only to an individual service but to the entire hospital, or maybe even all 3 hospitals. As one of the 2 largest groups providing 24/7/365 veterinary care to southeastern Wisconsin, a closure, even temporary, would also be devastating to the pet community.

I am asking that you please include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan so that we may help reduce the risk of spread of COVID while we continue to provide our essential service.

Thank you for considering this request.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Janet Smail](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:04:57 PM

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I feel that we as veterinary professionals should be considered for phase 1b as an essential worker. Veterinary professionals deal with the public and could be detrimental as we care for food producing animals as well as companion animals. We as veterinary professionals cannot work from home as this is illegal in the state of Wisconsin as of right now. We must be able to work with the public in order to make a living, receiving the vaccine would be, again, essential for us to continue to work.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

From: [Amanda Calvillo](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Request
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 3:00:21 PM

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

My name is Amanda Calvillo. I am from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I am a veterinary technician at BluePearl-Milwaukee, previously known as Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

My practice provides emergency care and specialty medicine for small animals. When you issued the Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home order, on March 25, 2020, it stated that "Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals." While individual services limited their hours as they were able, we remained open to continue providing this essential service to our community. And in fact, despite the pandemic, for a number of reasons, veterinary services across the board have seen an increase in cases.

Although social distancing practices have been in place including allowing only staff in the building, it is impossible to effectively social distance while restraining a small animal which is unavoidable in our field. We must also still come within 6 feet of a client in the parking lot in order to safely transfer control of the pet, even if they are on a leash. We have been creative and resourceful in our use of PPE (handmade cloth face masks and face shields, washing exam gloves instead of disposal after each use, etc.) so that these resources could be funneled to human medicine professionals, even though it meant that our makeshift practices might have been less effective. We have done everything we can to support the human medical side to hopefully ease the burden on healthcare personnel.

We are a unique group of individuals who have a special way of understanding one another. This is true of veterinary professionals in general, and especially true of my practice in particular. Within our group are spouses, family members and roommates who not only work together but also share a home. We have 3 locations in the greater Milwaukee area and over 200 employees, many of whom travel between locations due to the nature of service they provide. Although we have specific protocols in place regarding COVID exposures and positives, an outbreak could be devastating not only to an individual service but to the entire hospital, or maybe even all 3 hospitals. As one of the 2 largest groups providing 24/7/365 veterinary care to southeastern Wisconsin, a closure, even temporary, would be devastating to the pet community.

I am asking that you please include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan so that we may help reduce the risk of spread of COVID while we continue to provide our essential service.

[REDACTED] ing this request [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Lisa Nowak](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:53:21 PM

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

My name is Lisa Nowak and I am from West Bend, Wisconsin. I am a certified veterinary technician at BluePearl-Milwaukee, previously known as Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

My practice provides emergency care and specialty medicine for small animals. When you issued the Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home order, on March 25, 2020, it stated that "Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals." While individual services limited their hours as they were able, we remained open to continue providing this essential service to our community. And in fact, despite the pandemic, for a number of reasons, veterinary services across the board have seen an increase in cases. Although social distancing practices have been in place including allowing only staff in the building, it is impossible to effectively social distance while restraining a small animal which is unavoidable in our field. We must also still come within 6 feet of a client in the parking lot in order to safely transfer control of the pet, even if they are on a leash. We were creative and resourceful in our use of PPE (handmade cloth face masks and face shields, washing exam gloves instead of disposal after each use, etc.) so that these resources could be funneled to human medicine professionals, even though it meant that our makeshift practices might have been less effective.

We are a unique group of individuals who have a special way of understanding one another. This is true of veterinary professionals in general, and especially true of my practice in particular. Within our group are spouses, family members and roommates who not only work together but also share a home. We have 3 locations in the greater Milwaukee area and over 200 employees, many of whom travel between locations due to the nature of service they provide. Although we have specific protocols in place regarding COVID exposures and positives, an outbreak could be devastating not only to an individual service but to the entire hospital, or maybe even all 3 hospitals. As one of the 2 largest groups providing 24/7/365 veterinary care to southeastern Wisconsin, a closure, even temporary, would also be devastating to the pet community.

I am asking that you please include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan so that we may help reduce the risk of spread of COVID while we continue to provide our essential service.

Thank you for considering this request.