

From: [Brian R Raguse](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee, Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 7:13:41 PM

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

From: Robin Raguse

<[REDACTED]>

Date: January 17, 2021 at 7:10:08 PM CST

Subject: I AM AN ESSENTIAL WORKER

To the members of this panel:

I work in a store in an area of the state that has been hit hard by the pandemic. It is a store that has both a pharmacy and grocery on site. I AM an essential worker. How do I know this? I have worked the entire time COVID restrictions have been in place. When the governor closed down the state in March, I was provided a letter to travel to and from work deeming me as an essential worker. Even when my physician assistant husband had non-essential surgeries halted for months where he worked, I worked at the same pace as always. I am in DIRECT CONTACT with the general public at least 20 hours a week and although I wear a mask and sanitize between each guest, I am still at risk daily. My employer has been amazing. They support their staff and do all they can to protect us and their guests. They have implemented safety measures and provided staff education and PPEs. It's time for the state to step up! I see more guests in one day than my husband sees patients in clinic and the OR combined. My guests run the spectrum of all age groups and health risks. Unlike medical facilities who have refused to see a patient who is experiencing COVID symptoms, has a positive COVID test or a pending one until they are cleared, we do not have that luxury. We can offer masks to guests but it is not unlikely to see some who refuse for whatever grounds continue into the store. I have had many experiences in which I am in direct contact with someone coughing away and buying multiple flu related over the counter medicine. Many people do not maintain a reasonable distance although I gently remind guests for the respect of the other shoppers in front of or behind them. When they come in close contact with me personally and I quietly step back without protesting, many inevitably move forward because the action is lost upon someone who wants to ask a question and forgets we are dealing with a pandemic.

All workers who are within a retail location which houses basic needs such as cleaning supplies to combat this virus, food, and/or a pharmacy should be the next in line to have employees vaccinated. To do anything else shows a cavalier disregard for the very people of this state who have been there day in and day out to provide a sense of normalcy in these trying times and giving our community somewhere to get all of their essential needs. You cannot go without food, medications or the very supplies the CDC has recommended throughout COVID. If not us, WHO do you expect to provide these supplies and essentials when we get sick as a result of constant exposure without a potentially game changing vaccination? If I was deemed an essential worker afforded permission to be out during a stay at home order was in place, what has changed since then? I have not seen family outside my household throughout the pandemic. I have done everything to keep my family safe including not eating out or shopping for non-essentials. Yet I have more exposure than most. Essential workers INCLUDE anyone who has a job that is in direct contact with a large population of the community. I deserve the opportunity to be vaccinated in the first phase.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

Robin R.

From: [Kayla Honsa](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Support for vaccines
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 7:13:16 PM

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Good evening,

My name is Kayla Wendlake. I am a nurse practitioner here in Milwaukee, WI. I am writing to ask that you keep grocery workers and those in the food industry under the 1B plan. These workers have without question served their community through the heart of this pandemic. They have risked their lives and the lives of their loved ones so that we are able to have meals. I can understand that it will be difficult to vaccinate such a large group of individuals, but it is of the utmost importance that we do so as soon as possible so that we may move past this pandemic as a community.

Sincerely,
Kayla Wendlake, FNP-BC

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Patricia Luebke](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 7:11:33 PM

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Dear Members of the Committee

I read two articles this week that are leading me to share my thoughts about the allocation of COVID 19 vaccine to the next group of people in Wisconsin. As a 71 woman, it looks like I will be eligible in this next round. And I am very much looking forward to receiving the vaccine and being able to resume the many activities I like to engage in. However, when I learned that the front line grocery store workers and people living and working in jails and prisons are not or may not be included in this group, I was surprised and dismayed.

As an independent senior, I have a choice as to where I go and when, or if I go at all. I can have my groceries delivered, participate in my religion virtually, and stay home if I need to. I just retired. I don't need to work to pay my bills. Those folks who have kept the grocery stores operating throughout the pandemic do not have these advantages and choices. They have to go to work - only to be in buildings all day long with a variety of people, some who carry the virus unknowingly. Those residing in jails and prisons are in close contact 24-7. It seems to me that the people who are most susceptible to get the virus should be the ones immunized first. I am able to control my exposure. They are not.

Don't get me wrong. I want to get the vaccine as soon as possible. I want to travel again to see my newest grandson in New York. But if my receiving the vaccine in Phase 1B means that grocery store workers have to wait until summer to get theirs, it seems that our priorities as a society are misplaced. And I can be willing to wait.

I realize that the supply of vaccine is limited and that you bear no responsibility for that. However, you do have responsibility to allocate our limited supply in a manner that best serves the greater good. I believe that including grocery store employees and those in enclosed environments, including those in jails and prisons, should be included in the next phase of distribution. I know you will use data and science in making your determination. This includes weighing the known risk to those in my age group with the risk for those working in grocery stores, and working or residing in jails and prisons. Thanks for making these very difficult decisions.

Sincerely

Patricia Luebke
Milwaukee

From: [Brian R Raguse](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: I AM AN ESSENTIAL WORKER
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 7:10:16 PM

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

To the members of this panel:

I work in a store in an area of the state that has been hit hard by the pandemic. it is a store that has both a pharmacy and grocery on site. I AM an essential worker. How do I know this? I have worked the entire time COVID restrictions have been in place. When the governor closed down the state in March, I was provided a letter to travel to and from work deeming me as an essential worker. Even when my physician assistant husband had non-essential surgeries halted for months Where he worked, I worked at the same pace as always. I am in DIRECT CONTACT with the general public at least 20 hours a week and although I wear a mask and sanitize between each guest, I am still at risk daily. My employer has been amazing. They support their staff and do all they can to protect us and their guests. They have implemented safety measures and provided staff education and PPEs. It's time for the state to step up! I see more guests in one day than my husband sees patients in clinic and the OR combined. My guests run the spectrum of all age groups and health risks. Unlike medical facilities who have refused to see a patient who is experiencing COVID symptoms, has a positive COVID test or a pending one until they are cleared, we do not have that luxury. We can offer masks to guests but it is not unlikely to see some who refuse for whatever grounds continue into the store. I have had many experiences in which I am in direct contact with someone coughing away and buying multiple flu related over the counter medicine. Many people do not maintain a reasonable distance although I gently remind guests for the respect of the other shoppers in front of or behind them. When they come in close contact with me personally and I quietly step back without protesting, many inevitably move forward because the action is lost upon someone who wants to ask a question and forgets we are dealing with a pandemic. All workers who are within a retail location which houses basic needs such as cleaning supplies to combat this virus, food, and/or a pharmacy should be the next in line to have employees vaccinated. To do anything else shows a cavalier disregard for the very people of this state who have been there day in and day out to provide a sense of normalcy in these trying times and giving our community somewhere to get all of their essential needs. You cannot go without food, medications or the very supplies the CDC has recommended throughout COVID. If not us, WHO do you expect to provide these supplies and essentials when we get sick as a result of constant exposure without a potentially game changing vaccination? If I was deemed an essential worker afforded permission to be out during a stay at home order was in place, what has changed since then? I have not seen family outside my household throughout the pandemic. I have done everything to keep my family safe including not eating out or shopping for non-essentials. Yet I have more exposure than most. Essential workers INCLUDE anyone who has a job that is in direct contact with a large population of the community. I deserve the opportunity to be vaccinated in the first phase.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

Robin R.

From: [michael.jordan.Jozwik](#)
To: [DHS.SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Larry.Jozwik](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee, Phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 7:07:50 PM

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I am writing to you today to plead that agricultural farm workers such and distributors such as myself are included within the 1b vaccine rollout. It is imperative that our staff is protected against Covid to ensure our crops are going to get into the ground and ready for sale this 2021 season. Chronic quarantine delays due to incidental exposures, despite the most strict Covid ppe precautions, are inevitable. I implore that you think of this next growing season and get farmers and farm workers the protection they need as fast as possible.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Judy Felker](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:57:43 PM

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Grocers are essential workers and I ask you to add them to phase 1b. They have been there for us seamlessly throughout 2020. Please move them ahead of prisoners and mink farmers!

From: [Jennifer L Kontny](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:54:29 PM

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

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.

Thank you for carefully considering this matter,

JENNIFER KONTNY, PhD
Director of Composition
Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Composition
Department of English
Mount Mary University
Milwaukee, WI 53222

Fidelis Hall 222
414-930-3665
kontnyj@mtmary.edu

From: [Natalie Loftin](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:51:39 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. We have not only remained open to the public, but have dealt with an influx of customers. I'm not sure how else it needs to be said, but food is a necessity. We are essential because without us, there is no one.

Sincerely ,
Natalie Loftin



From: [Maureen Rymer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:50:48 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to see group 1B include teachers, grocery workers, 65 and older adults and adults with serious pre-existing conditions with put them at increased risk. Please consider these high risk groups in 1B. Thank you.

Maureen Rymer RN


From: [Ann Williamsen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee + Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:47:00 PM
Attachments: smime.p7s
ATT00001.txt
ATT00002.htm

Wisconsin Vaccine Advisory board,

I encourage you to include grocery workers, (& other food industry people) out of the 1b phase of vaccine.

People in this group of workers are typically underserved population's. A vaccine that protects grocers would improve the mental health (and secure actual health) for the people who've shown up every day to make sure everyone has food and supplies we all need.

Thank you,
Ann Williamsen
Milwaukee County

From: [Bernadine Williamsen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine distribution
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:46:14 PM

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Please do want you can to move the vaccine up to cover people who work within the food industry particularly the people in the grocery stores who are serving the public so we may have food.

Thank you

Bern Williamsen

54311

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bob Ninneman](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:35:13 PM

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ATTN: Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Public Comment

Please add Retail Grocery Workers to your list of those who should be included in Phase 1b of the COVID-19 vaccinations here in Wisconsin.

I have spent most of a decades-long career in the retail grocery industry. I have always been aware of the importance of the work we do and the significance of it; without the dedicated people who serve on our front lines, the entire country would soon come to realize just how much we all rely on a safe, efficient supply of food. The continued availability of this service is vital to the well-being of us all.

Our workers have no option of performing their jobs from home. Each day, retail workers are face to face with hundreds of people. During a pandemic, this presents a risk not only to the health of each worker but also to the health of their family members and the greater community.

I appreciate the difficulty of the task you face in prioritizing groups of people for vaccination, and I ask that you consider including grocery workers in your final draft of Wisconsin's Phase 1b specifications.

Thank you.

Robert (Bob) Ninneman
Woodruff, Wisconsin

From: [Natalya & Robert Chaffee](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: 1B group
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:32:12 PM

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As a bakery owner and employer I believe essential grocery stores' and bakeries' workers should be included into 1B group. From the beginning of pandemic we were serving our communities providing food and everyday necessities. And all this time we were the ones facing thousands of customers every day. We have to manage maximum store capacity, social distance, deal with aggressive mask objectors, meanwhile trying to keep our employees safe. DHS left us, business owners, and our employees, to enforce state mask mandate, without any help from local authorities. There is still no clear message to public about proper mask wearing over mouth AND nose and not entering store properties with "Mask required" sign without mask on.

In proposed groups - People over the age of 70; Teachers; Non-EMS first responders; Child care workers; Mink farmers - only first responders are getting daily exposure to large numbers of random people on par with register clerk at food store. All people over 70 have retirement income and can choose to stay home with limited contact with people - drive-ins and home deliveries are widely available. Food workers HAVE to go to work and be potentially exposed to Covid every day to pay bills.

As a food business owner I have to make a lot of extra efforts to stay open, make and sell product and keep jobs while serving thousands of customers weekly and facing danger of being exposed to Covid. I don't understand, why DHS doesn't see us as the ones that need protection sooner than mink farmers or over 70 retirees.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [Christine Schlagenhauf](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B opinion
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:24:49 PM

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Dear members of the Vaccine subcommittee,

I understand the difficult position you are in; trying to decide how to allocate the next round of COVID-19 vaccines. Clearly patient-facing medical personnel have been designated Phase 1A recipients but it is appalling to hear that grocery workers won't be included in the next phase (1B) after all.

Grocery workers selflessly worked long and risky hours during the first months of the pandemic, dealing with angry shoppers when the shelves were empty of toilet paper and cleaning supplies, thus increasing their personal stress and susceptibility to illness. They face daily contact with "non-maskers", increased work cleaning protocols and often-times overtime shifts when other workers fail to show up to work because of their fear of getting the coronavirus. Many of these workers also represent our most vulnerable populations: lower income, under-insured, sandwich generation who SHOULD be vaccinated to avoid contracting the coronavirus and bringing it home to their families.

I presume you'll be receiving many letters like mine, trying to persuade you to include grocery workers in Phase 1B vaccinations. Think about your personal situation when in mid-March we were told to "stay home, stay safe". I'm sure your first thoughts went to "how am I going to feed everyone now that we are all home together?" "I need to get to the grocery store." And the grocery stores were open! Food is essential to our wellbeing. And the grocery store workers who make it possible for us to buy food, prepare food and serve food are ESSENTIAL to our working economy. Please, please please reconsider your decision and make grocery store workers eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine as part of Phase 1B.

Thank you for your consideration.
Christine Schlagenhauf RDN, CSOWM, CD



Sent from my iPad

From: [Jo Mestelle](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:11:08 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 as a Utility Clerk at Metcalfe's Market at Hilldale Mall in Madison Wisconsin. My work brings me in direct contact with customers, 6 hours each day, 5 days per week. I interact with each customer as I bag their groceries and hand over their bagged groceries to each customer.

This work is essential to the grocery store business as it requires direct contact with the customers and maintains the movement of customers as they check-out their groceries.

We do our work with limited protection (e.g. partial plexiglass protection) and direct contact as we load groceries into their carts.

Please reconsider your decision to move grocery store workers down to Level C. I can reassure you the Utility Clerks directly interact with each customer with very limited protection and are a critical member of the grocery staff team.

Thank you for considering this request and for deciding to support our safety and health.

My best,
Jo Mestelle

Sincerely ,
Jo Mestelle



From: [David Ace](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:09:30 PM

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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.

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,
David Ace



From: [Norma Albrecht](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:04:21 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. It is very important! Thank you! Norma

Sincerely,
Norma Albrecht



From: [tfabian111](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: FW: vaccine subcommittee phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:02:27 PM

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Mink farmers and inmates should NOT be on phase 1B

House of Correction in Franklin has open dorms spending 10 million dollars on a building where these inmates can be treated. No one has gone there. There are many more vulnerable populations such as our older adults, our grocery store workers, restaurant workers etc. Vaccinating this population would allow us to open the economy quicker which is our ultimate goal.

Mink farming does not appear to be an essential farming activity. Maybe our farmers and other agriculture workers should be on the next list so that we can sustain our healthy intake of food.

Terry & Jim Fabian

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

From: [Nancy Wright](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:00:09 PM

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I certainly hope and pray the committee has the knowledge and common sense to include and prioritize people with comorbidities in 1B. People with health problems are at high risk for complications, severe cases, and very poor outcomes including death. On the other hand, why would grocery store workers, other workers, and many others currently on the list have priority over all these people mentioned above? Many workers are in their 20s, 30s, 40s, with very much reduced risk for a severe covid case. Also, if you vaccinate the younger age group now, they will just keep socializing as much as they are now, and will probably increase socializing when they know they have very, very low risk of getting sick after vaccination. Yet they can well still get infected and spread to the higher risk folks. Isn't the real desired outcome from a vaccination campaign to reduce hospitalizations and deaths? Makes absolutely no sense for healthy younger population to be vaccinated before those who truly will suffer the most from infection.

From: [Caitlin prostek](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:58:33 PM

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To whom it may concern,

Grocery workers deserve to remain apart of Phase 1B. They have worked tirelessly throughout the entire pandemic during extended hours and constantly putting themselves and their families at risk. To disclose them from 1B is a slap in the face to every employee who are mostly already underpaid and receive minimal benefits. I really hope this committee will support their prior commitment and ensure that each grocery worker remain in phase 1B and get the vaccine to be protected.

I also hope you consider other healthcare works such as interns within hospitals and every other employee who has been considered essential in this state.

Thank you for your consideration & I hope that you make the correct and right decision,
Caitlin Prostek

From: [H/J Fuchs](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:57:34 PM

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

Dear SDMAC Vaccine Subcommittee Members

I am writing to ask you to reconsider putting grocery workers back in the phase 1B plan as recommended by the CDC. I work in the grocery industry and have been considered an essential worker up until now. We have had to work endless hours during this pandemic. We are required to interact with hundreds of people every day so we have potential for exposure every day. We have put our health on the line as well as our families.

Thank You again for you consideration,
Jeff

From: [Timothy Albrecht](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:55:07 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. I do the maintenance for several grocery stores and am around lots of non mask wearing people. Thanks for your consideration

Sincerely ,
Timothy Albrecht



JANUARY 14, 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 OUR GUESTS, WITHOUT HESITATION.

IT HAS BEEN SCARY. WHEN EVERYONE ELSE HAS 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 COME IN 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 RECONSIDER YOUR RECOMMENDATION AND PRIORITIZE ALL OF THE "HEROES" WHO HAVE WORKED HARD IN UNKNOWN AND SCARY TIMES TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITIES IN THEIR ESSENTIAL NEEDS.

I AM AN ESSENTIAL WORKER.

SIGNED,



From: [Kathy Wolf](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine feedback
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:52:11 PM

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I have read 1b recommendations. Based on the amount of state committees, categories, time and resources used to date, it is understandable the delay in vaccinations.

The Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee recommends the following be included in Phase 1B:

- People over the age of 70...My comment: clearly state age 70 and older; also included are people with medical conditions defined in the recommendations. My comment: ideally the Preferred age group.....all people 65 and older based on the this group is statistically and medically most affected by the virus.
- Teachers
- Non-EMS first responders
- Child care workers
- Mink farmers

I did not see grocery store workers on the list, but saw incarcerated people on the list. Not sure that is equitable, given all these workers have done to keep us safe and groceries available.

Sent from my iPad

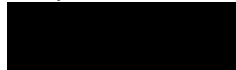
Sent from my iPad

From: [Larry & Holly Haskin](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:51:19 PM

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

I believe the grocery store workers absolutely deserve to receive the vaccination in the next phase - 1B. They have been at their jobs since this whole thing began and have continued to provide the general public with groceries no matter what the status of the pandemic.

Holly Haskin



Sent from my iPad

From: [dyan.fearson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid vaccine 1B group
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:48:21 PM

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I would like to see the grocery store workers next in line. They are in contact with customer and co workers every day. And worked during the shut down. They are and were essential workers for the full ten and one half months. Please put them in the 1B group.

From: [Maureen Rymer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid vaccine recommendations
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:46:32 PM

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I would like to see 1B include teachers, grocery workers, 65 yr and older. All 3 of these groups are high risk. Thank you

Maureen Rymer RN



From: [Geri Berg](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:45:13 PM

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Hello!

I am an employee at Outpost Natural Foods

A food coop in Milwaukee. I am very disappointed to hear we are being taken off the essential workers list and out of group 1b.

We have kept our doors open for people to get food since the pandemic began. We have constantly put our lives on line on a daily basis. I hope you reconsider putting the grocery workers in the 1b grouping.

Thank - you for your time.

Sincerely,

Geri Berg

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Karen Houlihan](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Essential workers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:31:30 PM

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

Hello, I am writing with a heavy heart that grocery store workers were taken off the next part of the Covid vaccination list.

What happened to them being essential workers? They have stayed working in these stores for minimum wage most likely and were considered heroes. My son is one of these heroes and he remained loyal to his job and served his customers throughout this pandemic. He and ALL essential workers need to be vaccinated next. Thank you and please reconsider. Karen Houlihan

Sent from Karen Houlihan

From: [Mary Johnson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee, Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:31:04 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in strong support that you include grocery workers in the 1b phase of Covid 19 vaccinations.

I understand hard decisions have to be made but grocery workers **MUST** be included in the next phase of vaccines.

Thank you for your time,
Mary Johnson

From: rabbiam@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [ALEXANDER MILCHTEIN](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Requesting inclusion of vaccines for frontline, essential hunger-relief workers in phase 1B of the Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory vaccine subcommittee recommendation
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:30:35 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 Vaccine Subcommittee,

Thank you for your efforts to ensure efficient and equitable distribution of vaccines. It is incredibly important and necessary that the Phase 1B recommendation for the COVID-19 vaccine include hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers. These workers and volunteers are essential to continue the unprecedented distribution of food to those Wisconsinites experiencing hunger during the pandemic and economic crisis.

Prioritization of hunger-relief frontline workers is imperative for the following reasons:

- We work with a community that is mostly elderly and in a poor health. We deliver food to apartments and pretty often we are the only people these seniors see. Working in overcrowded buildings and elevators is a huge risk factors both for us and for the seniors we serve. We can not risk delivering a deadly virus together with a food package!
- Hunger-relief workers and volunteers are the critical force behind the wellbeing of the record number of Wisconsinites facing food insecurity. One in eight Wisconsinites, including one in five Wisconsin kids, don't know where their next meal is coming from. The hunger-relief network is mobilized like never before to meet this need.
- The hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers serve individuals in vulnerable health situations. People experiencing food insecurity have a disproportionately high rate of chronic health conditions that put people at higher risk of severe COVID-19 complications.

Collaboration between our hunger-relief organizations, public health, and those administering the vaccine will be essential to planning for equitable and efficient distribution, addressing concerns, educating about and adhering to appropriate protocols.

The COVID-19 vaccine is a critical step toward ensuring the safety and health of staff, volunteers, and those accessing food resources. It also ensures that food banks have the capacity to continue distributions at this unprecedented rate to feed Wisconsinites experiencing hunger. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Rabbi ALEXANDER MILCHTEIN



From: [Kathleen Somers](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:25:31 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.

I am not sure why the decision was made to downgrade grocery store workers, but given that they have been keeping our food supply open during this incredibly important time and facing a lot of customers who do not always take precautions, , I believe that they should be vaccinated as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely ,
Kathleen Somers



From: [Kelly Casselberry](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery Store Workers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:22:41 PM

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

Grocery store workers, including those who clean grocery stores, must be included in the next phase of COVID-19 vaccinations.

I am stunned that these frontline workers would not be prioritized. They have been working since day one of this public health crisis, putting their lives and the lives of their families at risk to feed Wisconsin.

Until late July, these workers were subjected to unmasked customers. This remains a daily hazard for these workers.

I strongly urge that you consider including these workers in the next phase.

Kelly Casselberry

From: [Bessie LeRose](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:22:14 PM

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

Hello,

I am emailing to request that grocery store workers be included in phase 1B. They have had to work consistently through every lock down, as they were deemed fully essential and unable to close. They experienced high rates of infection, extremely high contact and interaction with the public. It seems to be a grave oversight to not include them in this group.

Thank you,
Elizabeth LeRose

From: [Sheri Smo](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee, Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:21:11 PM

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

As an all-volunteer food distribution organization, we have been subjecting ourselves to an ongoing Covid 19 danger to get food to those in need. Being able to vaccinate would be a big help to us. Please work to ensure we are able to protect ourselves.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure the efficient and equitable distribution of vaccines. It is incredibly important and necessary that the Phase 1B recommendation for the COVID-19 vaccine include hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers. These workers and volunteers are essential to continue the unprecedented distribution of food to those Wisconsinites experiencing hunger during the pandemic and economic crisis.

Collaboration between our hunger-relief organizations, public health, and those administering the vaccine will be essential to planning for equitable and efficient distribution, addressing concerns, educating about, and adhering to appropriate protocols.

The COVID-19 vaccine is a critical step toward ensuring the safety and health of staff, volunteers, and those accessing food resources. It also ensures that food banks have the capacity to continue distributions at this unprecedented rate to feed Wisconsinites experiencing hunger. Thank you for your consideration.

From: [Simon, Kaia Lea](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Keep grocery workers in Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:20:08 PM

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

Dear Wisconsin Vaccine Advisory Board members,

I am writing to voice my support that grocery workers and others in the food industry remain in the 1B phase of the Wisconsin coronavirus vaccination plan. These workers cannot do their jobs from home. They have been heroically risking their own health and the health of all in their households during the entirety of this pandemic. They cannot control those who enter their workplaces, and they are at the mercy of the public's commitment--or lack thereof--to the safety measures of physical distancing, mask wearing, and handwashing. As a state, we owe 1B status to these workers for the coronavirus vaccine availability. They have kept us fed. They are essential. Offering them the vaccine during phase 1B recognizes this. Additionally, the citizens of Wisconsin are more protected as more grocery and food industry workers are vaccinated, since so many of us come into contact with them. Including them in phase 1B makes sense for everyone in Wisconsin. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kaia L. Simon, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of English
Director of the Writing Program
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

715.836.2026
simonkl@uwec.edu

From: [Kirsten Huth](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Priority Group 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:08:59 PM

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

Dear DHS,

I feel that livestock and dairy farmers should be included in Group 1B. We are essential workers, and many of us can't find other labor to help on our farm if we are sick. I have a 5th generation dairy farm that is kept running by family labor. We have been very cautious and have remained healthy so far. I have a bachelor farmer neighbor who is looking for help as he is injured, and is having trouble finding help. We are trying to help him. That is a tough situation to be in.

Agricultural workers are very important, and have been left to fend for themselves during the pandemic. I have been working 7 days a week since March. We are tired.

Thank you for your consideration. Thank you for the important work you do!

Sincerely,

Kirsten Huth
Gehl Acres Farm
Cameron, WI

From: [Joe Pipitone](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: GROCER STORE WORKERS PHASE 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:08:56 PM

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

You better include grocery store workers in phase 1B or you will have a rebellion!!! They deserve preference.
Think about a strike or worse violence???
No vaccinations then no one eats!!!
It's BS!!!

Thanks,

Joe

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Kate Greenway](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:08:23 PM

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

Hello -

I urge you to include **grocery store workers** in **Phase 1B** of the WI Covid19 vaccine distribution, per CDC guidelines.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, these dedicated front-line essential workers have been and still are heavily exposed each day to large amounts of people. And, they are helping to feed our communities.

They need to be vaccinated in the next round.
Please reconsider your recommendation.

Kate

Kate Greenway, MS, LPC
Licensed Professional Counselor
Cedar Creek Counseling
Mequon, Wisconsin

From: [Efford, Alison](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Please keep grocery and food workers in 1b category
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:03:48 PM

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

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.

I realize that this choice may mean it takes a little longer for me as a professor to get my shot, but I consider it only fair.

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

Yours,

Alison Clark Efford, PhD
Associate Professor of History
Marquette University

From: [Marcell Gantt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee and Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:03:11 PM

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

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.

Marcell D. Gantt

Assistant General Manager

Tre Rivali

200 NORTH BROADWAY

MILWAUKEE, WI 53202

Marcell.Gantt@trerivalirestaurant.com

DIRECT: {414} 291-3970 EX. 4760

From: [Sophie Blair](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:01:38 PM

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

It seems ridiculous not to vaccinate grocery workers. Grocery workers interact with and touch the food of HUNDREDS of people EVERY DAY. They are not only facing a terrible risk to their own health, communities across Wisconsin are facing detrimental consequences if grocery workers were to become infected. It should not be a secondary priority to vaccinate the people who are the intermediary between your food and hundreds of other people. I personally do not want to eat ANYTHING that has come into contact with so many people. By showing grocery workers that their health is unimportant, you are showing them that all they are doing to prevent the spread of illness is for naught. Regardless of whether or not someone is sick, or in contact with an infected person, they still need to eat. Meaning grocery workers almost certainly come into contact with infected people. Enjoy your dinner. Hopefully you let it sit for two days before eating it.

From: [Marcia Weisensel](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery workers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:49:47 PM

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

Please add grocery workers to the next vaccination list after medical workers. They are essential workers that are in contact with many people. They should be in the next phase per CDC guidelines.

I am 66 years old and would dearly love to have a life again. But I can wait until these essential workers have all been vaccinated. I consider this necessary for my protection as the grocery store is one of the few places I go.

Thanks,
Marcia Weisensel
Sun Prairie, Wi

From: [Lea Daly](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: State of Wisconsin Phase 1b Vaccine Subcommittee Recommendation for Inclusion
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:39:31 PM

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Updated subject line for better visibility.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lea Daly** <lealynndaly@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Jan 17, 2021, 11:25 AM
Subject: State of Wisconsin Phase 1b Vaccine Inclusions
To: <dhssdmac@dhs.wisconsin.gov>

To whom it may concern,

I am grocery department head at the Madison West location of Woodman's Food Markets. I have been an employee for the entire duration of the pandemic, and during this time I have tried my hardest to provide the best customer service possible to members of the community... to ensure that anyone has access to the essential items they need during this constant state of unknown. I did this without once questioning my role in the community, even at the hardest points-- from seeing our shelves wiped DAILY because people were panicking in March to the past couple of months where cases and deaths were spiking to their highest point. (It is especially funny to me that Gov. Evers just extended his mask mandate, but the number of people in the 1b rollout has been reduced.)

This has been scary. My coworkers and I have not been able to shelter at home, away from others. We have still shown up to work, despite the fear that we would get sick. Back in May and June, we were determined to be essential workers, so we swallowed the fear, acknowledged the service that we provide to our community, and came to work full of pride that we were ESSENTIAL... even though that didn't come with any state-sanctioned hazard pay or protections. We have continued to work through all of this, even though we are growing weary, too.

Now, suddenly, we are no longer "public facing essential workers," according to the new plan. I can assure you we are indubitably public facing. The location where I work sees over 50,000 people PER WEEK. That's over 7,000 people PER DAY. So our exclusion must mean that we as grocery workers are no longer considered essential.

The past nine months of sacrifice and hard work has amounted to nothing. We are not a priority to receive a vaccine-- why? I truly wonder why. We have worked just as hard, and we have put up with just as much hardship as others, but with less support and respect. As a manager, employees look up to me. I see their fear and uncertainty. We all try to handle things as best as we can, but we've been pushed to the breaking point.

Let me tell you some specifics about our experiences during the pandemic--

During the beginning, we had extremely limited access to PPE. We had to figure it out. We were sold out of the masks we normally carry in our first aid aisle INSTANTLY, and then we couldn't get more. In order to ensure our employees had PPE, some of us started making masks for each other. This worked, but we handled this ON OUR OWN.

We started cleaning every surface constantly, but of course we did not have extra staff on hand to cover that extra work, and it's not exactly like people were jumping to work more hours because they were (still are) scared. We hired a third party company to help with the extra work, so again we handled this ON OUR OWN.

We have not received any guidance or support or ANYTHING to help with enforcing the publicly required mask mandates and capacity limitations-- even though we would be held responsible if we did not enforce it-- so we have had to find solutions to this problem too, again ON OUR OWN. Luckily the store I work for is large enough that we have an easier time enforcing the capacity restrictions, but stopping every customer that comes into the store that isn't wearing a mask has been, and I do not say this intending to be dramatic, a nightmare. While "medical exemptions" were still allowed, customers without masks would get into your face about how it's wrong for us to ask them to wear a mask, and still others would approach and complain about how none of us were doing our job because there were people allowed to not wear a mask in the store. Once the medical exemption part was removed from the mandate, requiring EVERYONE to wear a face covering, anti-maskers only got more ornery. I have been spit on, grabbed, threatened, ridiculed, yelled at... Other coworkers have been hit or otherwise berated. We have put up with this because we all recognize that we are providing an important service, and we take pride in that. We have proudly been essential workers this entire time... until now.

We have gone out of our way to help customers get what they need-- typically we do special orders infrequently, but because most people don't want to spend much time in stores, more people have been calling asking for us to "please put aside this for me," "please can you order 10 cases of this for me," etc. This is an entirely inefficient way for us to sell product to customers, and even though it seems simple, it is incredibly inconvenient. However, one of the sincere feelings of appreciation I receive is from customers who we do this for. So, we continue to do it, even though it is much, much harder now.

In addition to that, as you may know, the amount of out of stock items is unprecedented. Most people are understanding, but there are the choice few who choose to get angry and take their frustration out on us because we cannot get the items they want. We have gone out of our way to make sure that we have SOMETHING to offer-- we always have some brand of paper towels or toilet paper, we have off brand disinfecting wipes... but this issue goes beyond that. Customers are looking for comfort right now, so when I have to tell them that I don't know when their favorite soda is coming back in stock because there is an aluminum shortage, they don't always take that well. When we are scrambling to get soup of any kind because all brands are experiencing shortages, we end up with a bunch of slower moving soup in our back room because that's what it takes to manage the time between items being available. These are just small examples of the nuances that we have to navigate during the COVID pandemic. On top of the rest of society being weird and foreign and uncomfortable, we also have our own headaches to deal with, too.

A lot has been asked of us, and I think that we have weathered things fairly well. However, being removed from the priority list for vaccination hits pretty hard. It is a slap in the face to all of the hard work that we've put in, and a mockery to all the sacrifices we have made to continue to offer our essential service to members in the community.

Please reconsider your recommendation and re-prioritize grocery workers in the COVID vaccine rollout. We are, and remain, essential workers.

Sincerely,

Lea Daly

From: [Pam Mehnert](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Kuhn, Jamie S - GOV](#); [Gau, Maggie M - GOV](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee + Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:38:15 PM
Attachments: image001.png[10].png
FirstResponderOutpostEvers.pdf

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

Dear Governor Evers and members of the Vaccine Sub-Committee,

I manage a four-store grocery cooperative here in Milwaukee. We have been in business for 50 years.

When the State lockdowns were enforced back in March, our 350+ employees as frontline workers, did not stay safely at home. Rather, they went to work – scared of the unknown, without PPE (which wasn't at all available) – and served the thousands of shoppers that come through each of our doors every week since that date.

Our first employee to contract COVID, contracted the virus at a funeral in April, and when he had trouble breathing he was hospitalized and put on a ventilator. Imagine how much more frightening this got for the rest of our staff. At this point we had volunteers in the community making handmade masks for employees, but no requirements (nor availability) yet for our customers. Just five weeks into the Pandemic and lockdown, my staff was tired, scared, and asking us to do whatever we could to ensure their safety. We put up plexiglass barriers, shortened store operating hours, and tried to manage social distancing as best we could. We began requiring masks of our shoppers in May – before the City mandate – before the State mandate. We have done everything in our power to try to keep our employees safe and working.

At this point about 10% of our total staff population has contracted the Coronavirus. While that number mirrors community infections, our employees don't have a choice but to continue to work and serve our customers. They can't work from home. They often can't keep a social distance from each other, let alone the public. They argue with customers everyday who don't want to wear masks, won't wear masks correctly, or call them "stupid sheep" for wearing masks to protect each other. They are tired, feeling hopeless, and continue to be scared to work under these extreme conditions.

I wrote to you last April, on our co-op's 50th anniversary (attached), asking you to please urgently consider the designation of grocery workers as frontline employees. I never received a response from your office to that letter.

I'm urging you now to reconsider excluding our employees (grocery workers), true frontline workers since March 2020, from category 1B in terms of receiving the COVID vaccine. Do the right thing for our treasured workers who have been doing the right thing for the residents of Milwaukee,



April 17, 2020

Dear Governor Evers,

Today marks the 50th Anniversary of the beginning of our community co-op, Outpost Natural Foods. We've grown from a tiny one-room neighborhood buying club to a \$48 million, four-store, natural and organic foods business with a central production kitchen, employing over 375 people in the Milwaukee area.

Since 1980 the majority of our employees have been members of the United Food and Commercial Workers, UFCW Local 1473. The union and the co-op share a common interest in the safety and protection of our workers every day, but specifically during this Pandemic. Our workers have been on the frontlines making sure our community has access to the organic and wholesome foods they need to keep their families well. Our co-op has provided our employees with many safeguards while they are on the job, including:

- Routine sanitation of the store surfaces
- Plexiglass dividers at our checkouts
- Routine hand-washing breaks and changing out gloves
- Social distancing markers throughout our stores
- Washable masks, many donated by our community members for our employees
- Human Resource guidance and resources for making their personal decisions to work or stay at home
- \$2/hour pay premium to assist them in covering additional costs and personal needs related to this Pandemic

Outpost is doing its part, but as we all know it's not enough, and yet our employees continue to put themselves on the frontline of this Pandemic every day, serving hundreds of patrons entering our stores. They are scared to come to work and deserve to be protected beyond what we are able to provide them.

We are standing side-by-side with our local UFCW 1473, to ask you to assign a temporary designation for our employees as "extended first responders" ensuring they have high-priority to being tested for the virus as well as access to safety supplies that would assist in their health and well-being. We also ask that Wisconsin follow suit with other states that have extended emergency childcare benefits, free healthcare coverage for Coronavirus treatment, paid leave to cover care of a family member, testing, quarantine, isolation, medicine and treatment resulting from COVID-19 diagnosis.

At the writing of this letter we have 40 employees who are unable to report to work due to their own health/compromised status, childcare, or illness. That puts even more pressure on our remaining frontline workers. I urge you to help us and others like us so we can keep our stores open and remain a viable food option for our community, and a safe and reliable place to work for our employees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pam Mehnert", written over a white background.

Pam Mehnert
General Manager

Wauwatosa, and Mequon by keeping our doors open no matter the consequences. Please include grocery store workers in Phase 1B of the State's vaccination efforts.

Respectfully,

Pam

Pam Mehnert
General Manager



Celebrating 50 years of cooperation!
Cooperative Office
3200 S. 3rd St. Milwaukee, WI 53207

From: [Emily Kinnaman](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:38:14 PM

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

Hello,

I am writing to you as an essential employee of a grocery store in Madison, WI. Since day 1 of the pandemic, myself, along with all of my coworkers, have been working with the general public. We continue to work, even though our health is at risk due to the amount of exposure we face each day of dealing with the public. **Grocery stores must remain open in order for society to continue functioning. Grocery retail employees must be next in line to receive the COVID-19 vaccine if we are expected to stay open for the public.**

Thank you for reading,

Emily Kinnaman
Produce Buyer / Shift Supervisor

Willy Street Co-Op North
2817 N Sherman Ave,
Madison, WI 53704

From: [Melissa Fordahl](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:36:49 PM

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

Baffled and, frankly, insulted that grocery store workers wouldn't be considered essential and eligible, with months and months of exposure and other stressors, to be part of phase 1B. Also

The CDC [recommends grocery store workers are vaccinated](#) in the second phase alongside other frontline essential workers.

From: [Amy Waldman](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccinations & grocery workers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:35:12 PM

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

To whom it may concern:

Since March, when the Covid-19 pandemic shut down schools and non-essential businesses, grocery workers have been on the front lines to make sure that the misery of the pandemic wasn't compounded by not being able to access food.

EVERY DAY, these front-line essential workers have risked their own and their families' health by showing up to work multiple-hour shifts inside of buildings, often forced to interact at close range with people who refuse to wear masks or who wear them improperly.

The very least we ought to do as a society is to move them to the front of the vaccine line.

Respectfully:

Amy Waldman
Milwaukee, WI

From: [Molly McKee](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:34:49 PM

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

HI,

I know that deciding who will be included in 1B is a very difficult decision. My hope is that you will consider grocery workers to be vaccinated in this group. My husband and I both work in the grocery industry. Back in March when the general population was told to stay home we went to work. The stores were crowded and we were given little protection from this virus but we still went to work. Our co-workers continue to get sick and we constantly worry that we will be next. We worry about bringing it home and infecting our family. Because grocery work tends to be lower income positions, many workers live with roommates or in multigenerational homes. I think vaccinating grocery workers will reduce community spread. Please consider grocery workers in 1B.

thank you,
Molly

From: [Cheri Enters](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee and Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:27:31 PM

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

Governor Evers and Advisory Committee members:

I was shocked to read in Sunday's (1/17/21) Milwaukee Journal that the State Medical Disaster Advisory Committee DID NOT include grocery workers in the 1b rollout of COVID-19 vaccines. Talk about a disaster! Where would all of us have been without our grocery stores and employees as we hunkered down to prevent the spread of the virus. They worked their regular schedules and overtime to provide us with curbside pickup or delivery as well as shopping in store safely. They stocked the shelves and made sure we had the necessities of good nutrition. Maybe we can go without having our hair cut or nails done, but we must eat to stay healthy. This is pretty basic.

I swear this article must be a mistake. These grocery store workers are as "frontline" as you can get except for healthcare workers, police and emergency teams. Did anyone on this committee go without food for months during all this time? NO! These workers are at the heart of the food chain for all of our families. They were there day and night while the rest of us slept and got our rest. Shame on this committee!

PLEASE Gov. Evers, do not take this recommendation any further except to stamp it "denied." We trust you will do the right thing for all of us. Thank you.

Cheri Enters

[Redacted signature block]

From: [Eric Kuikman](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: I work at a grocery store, I AM ESSENTIAL
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:20:22 PM
Attachments: attachment 1.pdf

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

I beg you, please reconsider removing grocery store workers from phase b of the vaccine rollout.

My entire family works in the food industry, my mother is in food manufacturing, my sister in food service, and I work at Woodmans food market. I have a new baby at home and am terrified everyday that I could be jeopardizing his health by going to work day in and day out because I was deemed essential when the pandemic hit, but somehow I no longer am? Yet I have remained committed to playing my vital part in society, making sure the community is able to access the essential items they require for day to day life. While millions of Americans stayed sheltered at home I went to work because I was important. Please allow your actions to prove that I still am.

Please reconsider,
Eric Kuikman

From: aengelhard@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Annamarie Engelhard](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Requesting inclusion of vaccines for frontline, essential hunger-relief workers in phase 1B of the Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory vaccine subcommittee recommendation
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:17:08 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 Vaccine Subcommittee,

Thank you for your efforts to ensure efficient and equitable distribution of vaccines. It is incredibly important and necessary that the Phase 1B recommendation for the COVID-19 vaccine include hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers. These workers and volunteers are essential to continue the unprecedented distribution of food to those Wisconsinites experiencing hunger during the pandemic and economic crisis.

Prioritization of hunger-relief frontline workers is imperative for the following reasons:

- Hunger-relief workers and volunteers are the critical force behind the wellbeing of the record number of Wisconsinites facing food insecurity. One in eight Wisconsinites, including one in five Wisconsin kids, don't know where their next meal is coming from. The hunger-relief network is mobilized like never before to meet this need. Our network is serving about 60% more individuals than last year. And Wisconsin's Feeding America member food banks and partners distributed about 90 million unprecedented pounds of food to those experiencing food insecurity from March to September of 2020, that is 25 million more pounds than was distributed in all of fiscal year 2019.
- The hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers serve individuals in vulnerable health situations. People experiencing food insecurity have a disproportionately high rate of chronic health conditions that put people at higher risk of severe COVID-19 complications. This population frequently has less access to consistent quality health care and insurance. Also, 23% of households served has at least one senior and we know that age is a good indicator for risk of severe COVID-19 complications or death. People of color disproportionately experience food insecurity and are also known to be at greater risk of severe COVID-19 complications.
- It is our duty to ensure the safety of those being served. Individuals being served and in contact with hunger-relief frontline workers have few other options but to seek assistance from food pantries and meal sites do not have a way to mitigate their COVID-19 risk. They cannot avoid the interaction with staff and volunteers and rely on the organization to help meet basic needs and provide them with the meals they need to live.
- The hunger-relief network relies heavily on volunteers to fulfill the mission, many (37%) of these volunteers are seniors. An estimated 52 percent of food pantries and meal sites report having no paid staff. Among the 46 percent of agencies with paid staff, the median number of paid full-time equivalent staff members reported is four. As a result, if staff or volunteers were to test positive for COVID-19 and potentially require other staff or volunteers to quarantine, food distribution operations would be greatly impacted.

Collaboration between our hunger-relief organizations, public health, and those administering the vaccine will be essential to planning for equitable and efficient distribution, addressing concerns, educating about and adhering to appropriate protocols.

The COVID-19 vaccine is a critical step toward ensuring the safety and health of staff, volunteers, and those accessing food resources. It also ensures that food banks have the capacity to continue distributions at this unprecedented rate to feed Wisconsinites experiencing hunger. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Ms. Annamarie Engelhard



From: [Cheryl Malko](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Re: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:13:40 PM

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

Really, you are considering putting Prisoners rather than Grocery Workers in Phase 1B of Covid vaccine recipients? Our State's grocery workers have been considered essential employees all this time and have risked their own health, and that of their families, so that State residents could feed our families. And yet you do not now consider them to be essential enough to qualify for the vaccine in the next phase. Tell me how prisoners could be more valuable to our state than grocery workers.

I urge to reconsider your current plan and recommend that instead of prisoners, grocery workers should be included in Phase 1B vaccinations.

Sent from my iPad

From: langellen@sbcglobal.net
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: VACCINE SUBCOMMITTEE: PHASE 1B GROCERY EMPLOYEES
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:13:02 PM

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I support giving grocery workers Essential Worker Priority for their Covid vaccines!

Ellen Lang



From: [John Bill](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:11:53 PM

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I think the Grocery Workers should definitely be included in 1B.

Also I would leave the age at 70. Adding too many people upfront will squeeze out those over 70 because the supply is limited.

When the supply catches up then go to 65, then 60, then 55 etc. Once past phase 1B just keep it simple by age to limit the bureaucracy

John Bill
Greendale

From: [Maria Teniente](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:05:42 PM

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

Dear SDMAC Vaccine Subcommittee Members:

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

When the Wisconsin's Safer at Home order went into effect back in March 2020, the Governor emphasized the imminent threat of COVID 19, the pandemic to all our Wisconsin citizens...

“Wisconsin, this is serious, the crisis is urgent. It’s not safe to go out, it’s not safe to have others over — it’s just not safe. And it might not be safe for a while yet”

Honestly, we were all scared, but at that point all of us, Essential Businesses and Critical Infrastructure Workers, had a job to do, and that was to take care of our community and ourselves as we went to war against this unseen enemy.

I am very proud of the bravery of my co-workers, over 500 team members here at Metcalfe’s Market along with all the other Essential and Critical Infrastructure Workers across our state, that put their own person lives on the line along with those that they love, as we pressed on to service this community during a raging pandemic.

Grocery workers have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic and are as critical to our food supply as farmers. While our company takes every safety precaution possible for our team, the reality is that this team has been exposed to members of the public every day and put at increased risk of infection for nearly a year now. Even with capacity limits in place, our team of 150 – 200 employees are exposed to 2,500-3,500 customers each & every day at each of our (3) locations. Very few other Essential businesses have this type of daily public interaction during the current Community Spread stage of COVID 19 that we find ourselves in here in Wisconsin.

Grocery workers do not have the opportunity to do their jobs from home. When their role in our community requires them to be at their workplace day in & day out. It has been stressful for many of them to come to work every day, but they have endured and continued to provide a way for families in our community to have food on their tables.

Please allow this group who serve such a vital need in our community access to the COVID19 vaccine as early as possible and do not move them to group 1C.

Sincerely,

Maria Teniente
Cake Decorator
Metcalfe’s Market
726 N Midvale Blvd
Madison, WI 53705
(608) 345-2220 (c)

From: danab5112@aol.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee priorities for Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:02:33 PM

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

Committee Members:

Grocery store employees are essential workers. Mink farmers and prisoners are not.

Dan Abendroth
Mequon, WI

From: [Robert Cigale](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase IB
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:02:23 PM

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I am providing this comment regarding the groups included in Phase IB of the COVID-19 vaccines. I do not understand how grocery workers are not included in Phase IB but mink farmers are. Without grocery workers, the rest of the population would suffer the effects of limited access to food supplies. However, I am confused as to how mink farmers are considered more essential than grocery workers.

Please reconsider and include essential grocery workers in Phase IB.

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

From: [Matt Peters](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:58:32 PM

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I would just like to comment as an employee in healthcare I am sad to see that the state of WI has not included grocery store workers in the next phase. They have supported all of us though this pandemic and yet incarcerated individuals are being given preference over these workers that have risked their health for us every day. Doesn't make a lot of sense.

Matt Peters

Sent from my iPad.

From: [lauren kelly](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee + Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:58:11 PM

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

Please include grocery and other food workers in phase 1B of the vaccine. These people are needed in order for our basic needs to continue being met. We cannot afford to lose them to covid, especially considering the new strain in Wisconsin. Imagine stores having to cut hours due to loss of staff, forcing more customers to shop in greater concentration. The ripple effect would be disastrous. Get them vaccinated!

Thank you,
Lauren Kelly



[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [LouAnne Hunt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:58:01 PM

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Dear Members,

Grocery store employees are among the most essential workers across our state. Please include them in Phase 1 B of the COVID-19 immunization schedule. They face members of the general public every single day and are vitally important to keep citizens of our state fed and healthy enough to ward off this virus. To bypass them in this phase is unthinkable as they have worked tirelessly to keep each of us stocked with items necessary for survival.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,
Lou Anne Hunt

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Leokadia Dexter](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B: Grocery workers over 50
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:55:54 PM

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Dear Vaccine Distribution Decision Group,

I understand that this decision is not made lightly. As a student-teacher, I feel thankful to see teachers on the list.

However, grocery store workers have been working in person since day of one of the pandemic with historically low pay and, in most cases, no hazard pay. My mother is a 60+ year old grocery store worker in WI and I urge you to factor grocery store workers into Phase 1B. Or perhaps impose age guidelines such as including grocery store workers over 50 into Phase 1B.

As a student-teacher in an age group less likely to be hospitalized from catching the virus, I would gladly give my vaccine dose to my mother.

Urging you to consider underpaid essential workers on the frontlines,
Leokadia Dexter

From: [Rita and Mike Capriolo](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee/Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:52:52 PM

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Grocery workers should be included.

Mike Capriolo

From: jbloy2@new.rr.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B vaccinations
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:49:44 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am a wisconsin healthcare worker, and am grateful to have received my vaccine. I'm writing to ask that grocery workers be included in phase 1B of the vaccinations.

These workers are very essential, and are have been in danger everyday, so that we all can eat. They need and deserve to be protected immediately. Please reconsider and add them to phase 1B, so we all can continue to get groceries without interruption.

Thank you,
Jesse Bloy

From: [Dana Christen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee--Phase 1B & Food Industry Workers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:47:31 PM

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To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing today to express my deep displeasure at the news that the vaccine subcommittee is considering removing grocery workers and other food industry employees from 1b for the vaccination schedule.

Though I do not work in the food industry in any capacity, I was glad to see that those essential workers on the frontlines keeping our state's food infrastructure intact throughout the duration of the pandemic would be receiving priority in getting vaccinated. I cannot think of one field that exposes workers to a wider variety of people than those who work at grocery stores. Adding in the fact that there are people who refuse to properly wear masks in stores, or wear them at all, it seems quite obvious that those who work in grocery stores should be among the first to receive the vaccine after those who work in the healthcare field. To be quite frank, grocery store employees do not make enough to be forced to deal with those "anti-mask" customers and the least your subcommittee could do is provide them with a vaccine that would ensure the safety of employees and their families, as well as customers, alike.

Please do the right thing.

Dana Z.
53213

From: [Sue And Ed Clussman](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Essential workers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:47:12 PM

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Really, since when do grocery clerks service employees, not qualify as essential workers . They have been working thru this whole pandemic. I feel you need to re- evaluate this. Someone is clearly not thinking this thru.

Sincerely,

A retired , concerned America;

Sent from my iPad

From: [Meghan Cigale](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B - Include Grocery Store Workers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:42:41 PM

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Hello,

I am writing because I am very concerned with the Wisconsin DHS' plan to not include grocery store employees in phase 1B of the coronavirus vaccine, going against the recommendations of the CDC. Grocery store workers absolutely are public-facing essential employees, and they absolutely need to be included in phase 1B of the vaccine rollout.

Grocery store employees have been deemed "essential" since the beginning of the pandemic, and grocery stores are, in fact, one of the most essential services behind healthcare/hospitals/first responders. If grocery stores were not open, where would we get our food and other essentials? Grocery store employees have not been able to work from home like so many of us have throughout this pandemic, and they have no choice but to be in contact with thousands of people throughout the day, every day, potentially being exposed to the virus. Even in areas with mask mandates, not everyone wears them correctly while inside stores, further endangering grocery store employees who have no choice but to be in contact with these people while providing all of us with an absolutely essential service.

My husband is a grocery store employee. I have friends who are grocery store employees. I have had to be concerned all throughout this pandemic that they will be exposed to the virus by a customer shopping in their store. But they have continued to go to work, do their jobs, and provide all of us with an essential service. I have been comforted by seeing that the CDC recommended that grocery store employees be included in phase 1B of the vaccine, because I thought that my husband and friends would at least soon be able to get the vaccine, which would give them protection at work. It is a slap in the face to everyone providing this essential service in Wisconsin grocery stores that DHS is planning to not include them in phase 1B and is making them wait until the general public is allowed to receive vaccines. I am able to work from home and I am completely fine with waiting until everyone else in public-facing positions receives their vaccines before I receive mine. My husband, however, goes to work every day to provide people with food for their families, and every day could potentially be exposed to the virus. He deserves to be included in phase 1B of the vaccine rollout, as recommended by the CDC.

I am asking the Wisconsin DHS to do the right thing, follow the recommendations of the CDC, and include our essential grocery store workers who risk their health every day so that our communities can continue to feed their families in phase 1B of the coronavirus vaccine distribution. Anything less would be completely unacceptable and disappointing.

- Meghan Cigale
Middleton, WI

From: [Mary R](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Please include grocery workers in phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:31:58 PM

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Hello:

Grocery workers have been at risk of contracting Covid 19 on the job for the entire pandemic. Their work is necessary for us to have food on the table. It doesn't get any more essential than that.

Please include grocery workers in phase 1b of vaccinations, in line with CDC recommendations.

Thank you.
Mary Rowe
Middleton WI

From: [Marnie McMullin](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:27:37 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

Please add grocery store workers to the vaccine priority group 1B. As a manager at the Willy Street Coop in Middleton, I am constantly reminded of the risk that my staff and fellow management take every day to provide the essential service of selling food to the public. As a public-facing essential worker, we deserve the opportunity to become vaccinated in group 1B, so that we can safely continue to provide the essential service of keeping our community safe and well fed.

Please add grocery store workers to the Vaccination Group 1B.

Thank you,

Marnie McMullin


From: [ansley knoch](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Please include grocery store workers in vaccine phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:25:28 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 include grocery store workers in vaccine phase 1B. These are very public-facing employees at significant risk of contracting COVID-19. Grocery stores are absolutely essential business for our society to function and they can't operate without grocery store workers.

I encourage you to acknowledge the crucial work that these employees do at high risk to themselves (often without any choice not to) by protecting them ASAP with the COVID-19 vaccine.

Thank you,
Ansley Knoch

From: [Wi Wahoo](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Gov Evers please force Vaccine subcommittee to follow CDC Phase 1B definitions
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:13:37 PM

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Gov. Evers or Committee,

First thank you for your hard work fighting Covid.

Please follow the CDC phased group membership definitions for your WI roll out.

1. Vaccine availability does not charge priorities, it only slows down distribution.
2. Grocery workers are front line workers and they are out in front serving everyone including at risk folks in group 1A, 1B and 1C.
3. As a 1C at risk group person I do not want to catch Covid from the grocery worker while I wait my turn.

John Breunissen



From: [Mike Eklund](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid-19 vaccine priorities
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:13:36 PM

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

I think grocery workers should definitely be in the 1B group. I am 67 and am hearing the age for 1B may be reduced to 65. I am healthy and my wife and I stay home except for going out for necessities once or twice a week. While I am looking forward to getting the vaccine I would much rather see the workers at our grocery store get it first.

Thank you for your attention.

Michael Eklund
Glendale

Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Smartphone

From: [Mary Billo](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Re: VACCINE SUBCOMMITTEE PHASE 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:11:25 PM

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

[REDACTED]

On Sun, Jan 17, 2021 at 3:09 PM Mary Billo [REDACTED] wrote:

On Sat, Jan 16, 2021 at 10:17 AM Mary Billo [REDACTED] wrote:

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 our guests, without hesitation.

It has been scary. When everyone else has sheltered at home, I still come 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 loved ones health on the line without protection?

Am I no longer the hero you referred to me as before? I come in 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 "HEROS" who have worked hard in unknown and scary times to support our communities in their essential needs.

I AM AN ESSENTIAL WORKER.....

MARY J BILLO

From: [Erica Floyd](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:10:40 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:

I urge you to strongly consider including agricultural and food processing/production workers in Phase 1B of Wisconsin's COVID-19 vaccination plan.

As the Compliance, Communications, & HR Director of a medium-sized organic mushroom farm in Wisconsin, I have been able to work from home for almost the entirety of the pandemic thus far. My husband, who is responsible for most of the farm's growing and compost/substrate operations, and I were extra vigilant about wearing masks, getting curbside pickup or delivery for retail needs, and social distancing. However, **we got COVID anyway** -- from one of our employees. My husband helped her slice and package mushrooms in our small processing area in early December. Then, I contracted COVID from my husband, because this employee did not notify us in time of her COVID positive test--my husband and I never had a chance to isolate from one another at home. By the time we found out this employee was sick, my husband had already developed a fever and I was experiencing body aches and chills.

We, two people in their early 30s with no preexisting conditions, were sick for longer than a month. I am still struggling with lung function, residual coughing, brain fog, and tachycardia.

While mushroom farming is unique because of its indoor-growing facilities, there are other greenhouse, hoop house, and food processing operations throughout Wisconsin that have suffered from COVID, too. Other employees of ours have contracted COVID, even socially distanced and masked, due to picking mushrooms together in the same room.

Food processing and production workers are typically of the most vulnerable

populations. While our employees work for our smaller business, are permanent employees, and we don't have much turnover, other big food processing companies have very high turnover and rely on migrant labor. Please consider these people, who upend their lives, attempt to learn a foreign language, and risk their lives to grow or process our nation's food, in your Phase 1B plan; agriculture is essential for Wisconsin's economy and food is, of course, essential for living.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Erica Floyd
Compliance, Communications, & HR Director
Gourmet's Delight Mushrooms
(608) 451-2701 (mobile)
gourmetsdelightmushrooms@gmail.com

From: [Mary Billo](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Re: VACCINE SUBCOMMITTEE PHASE 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:10:00 PM

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

On Sat, Jan 16, 2021 at 10:17 AM Mary Billo <mbillo1959@gmail.com> wrote:

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 our guests, without hesitation.

It has been scary. When everyone else has sheltered at home, I still come 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 loved ones health on the line without protection?

Am I no longer the hero you referred to me as before? I come in 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 "HEROS" who have worked hard in unknown and scary times to support our communities in their essential needs.

I AM AN ESSENTIAL WORKER.....

MARY J BILLO

From: [Mitchell Turino](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:07:29 PM

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

Grocery workers need to be included in Phase 1B - they are consistently exposed and putting their health and wellbeing at risk. Please treat them with the respect they deserve - they can't be "essential workers" one day and then not worthy of getting early vaccines the next.

Best,
Mitchell Turino

From: [Karen Gill](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B, attn: Vaccine Subcommittee
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:05:12 PM

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

Dear Wisconsin Vaccine Advisory Board members,

I'm writing to ask you to please vote to keep grocery workers and food industry workers IN the 1B tier of coronavirus vaccine eligibility. On behalf of the service and restaurant industries in Wisconsin, who serve millions of customers a day in our great state, I feel that it is essential that grocery and restaurant workers retain a higher priority of access to the COVID-19 vaccine, simply due to the high potential for infection and transmission via the Wisconsin food system.

This will not only reward the frontline workers who have put their lives on the line for our state to ensure people have access to nutritious and healthy food, but help prevent groceries and restaurants from continuing to function as major points of viral outbreaks and public transmission. As public transmission is the hardest type of viral transmission to trace and control, ensuring that grocery stores and restaurants keep their high-priority status will help reduce the overall spread (and subsequent deaths), and is vital to preventing more damage to our state by the already out-of-control COVID-19 pandemic.

We know that many individuals in our state will refuse the vaccine already, in large numbers, due to misinformation and distrust of vaccines. Because of this, we need to ensure that as many as possible of our major public points of vulnerability serve as firewalls to transmission, rather than amplifiers. This is the only way we will be able to ensure Wisconsin emerges from the pandemic quickly and without additional preventable loss of life.

Hospitals, prisons/jails, grocery stores, restaurants, dorm rooms, assisted living complexes, and any areas of high concentration of people, or a large concentration of high-risk individuals, must be vaccinated first. This is Pandemic Response 101, and our state is failing drastically.

When you vote on Phase 1B, vote to include grocery and food industry workers in this category.

Thank you,
Karen Gill
Wauwatosa

From: [Jeanne and Rick Hall](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:04:39 PM

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Good Afternoon,

I would like to submit for consideration that those who work in Wisconsin's food packaging manufacturing facilities be moved to Phase 1b. Although these workers are not public facing, they operate facilities that run 24/7, 363 days a year. The maintenance and production workers in these facilities hold positions where it is impossible to work from home. In addition, many of the maintenance personnel have regular situations that require them to complete tasks where social distancing is impossible.

Wisconsin factories where food packaging is manufactured can easily be a missed sector when essential workers are considered. However, if packaging is not made and able to be sent to the food manufacturing facilities, there would be a serious break down and disruption of the food supply chain. The very same food supply chain that each and every one of us depend upon when entering grocery stores and other businesses.

When such workers contract this virus, their being out and the required quarantining of those they have potential exposed while at work can easily harm the entire line. As with so many factory situations, this in turn can then easily have negative effects on other departments within the business. These are working positions for which there are no "substitute" workers when workers miss work. Many of the maintenance positions are held by workers with such specific skills that not just anyone can "fix the broken machinery", considering the technology and complexity of the machines within these facilities. The spread of the virus in these food packaging manufacturing situations could easily take place quickly and cause potentially disastrous situations for countless businesses/consumers that depend upon food packaging.

The Wisconsin workers referred to in this email are too frontline essential workers. However, they tend to be in a "behind the scenes" sector that many may not truly appreciate and/or understand the frontline essential nature of their work. Such workers deserve the opportunity to have the option of receiving this vaccine in Phase 1b.

Although not considered heroes by most, these food packaging manufacturing workers are part of our great state's essential and frontline workers. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Hall

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jamie Gutkowski](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:03:51 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,

I am submitting a public comment regarding the recent phase 1b recommendations for the coronavirus vaccine.

I am concerned that grocery store workers are not included given the necessary public service they are performing. I also do not feel this decision has been adequately explained or shared with the public. These workers are at the front lines and deserve to be prioritized. Not enough has been discussed about the personal risks experienced by grocery workers and it seems they are being sidelined.

I would also like to express support for including incarcerated persons in phase 1b. It is morally and logically right to recognize that these are people who cannot physically distance from others and are at higher risk.

Thank you,
Jamie Gutkowski

From: [Megan Mueller](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery Store Workers - They ARE Essential
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:55:54 PM

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

Hello All,

I am unsure if this is accurate or not, but I was made aware that grocery workers are to be removed from the 1b tier for vaccination in the state of Wisconsin.

They helped us through COVID, they are at risk of exposure daily. They don't have a choice to work from home. They are extremely high risk. Per the CDC, grocery store workers are defined as frontline essential workers.

I am emailing requesting that they maintain their frontline essential worker status and remain in the 1b vaccination tier.

Show them it was worth them keeping their jobs. It was worth the stress, the exposure, the fear. Show them you care about them.

Thank you,
Megan
Portage County
Born and Raised WI

From: [Sean Grady](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:53:20 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 are the last piece of the puzzle that consumers need in place to get through this pandemic. No human can go without food and without dinner time with family, the family unit is weakened at a time in which it cannot. So please reconsider placing groceries in tier 1b for vaccinations. That way we can provide what families need to get through these tough times in our country.

Sincerely ,
Sean Grady



From: [Allie McDonald](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase 1b include grocery stores!
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:47:07 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I have been a grocery worker for 4 years. During this pandemic I have been yelled at, mocked, ignored, and seen other grocery workers threatened over asking customers to wear masks properly. I have been unable to see my parents or any family members since last March. I can't risk their lives like I do my own everyday because people refuse to listen to simple guidelines. And now after the indignities we have suffered at the hands of the public up to and including essential workers being shot over masks. After all that the government has the gall to say that we are not public-facing essential workers. How dare you presume to ignore the danger that we go through everyday. How dare you say that the people who have been keeping food on your shelves and toilet paper readily available as possible are suddenly unimportant. Grocery workers deserve vaccinations and we are public-facing essential workers. Fix the problem you created. Grocery stores are as essential as workplaces outside a hospital as you get. People could not live without us. I haven't worked on the frontline for almost a year now to be told to wait for this lifesaving COVID-19 vaccine when I was and should still be in group 1B. This is outrageous and needs to be fixed now! Put Grocery store workers back on the list. We handle your food.

Sincerely
A pissed off essential Grocery Co-op Supervisor

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Phyllis Wax](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee - PHASE 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:47:02 PM

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

Dear Vaccine Subcommittee:

The decision not to include grocery store workers in Phase 1B of vaccine distribution denies the facts. Grocery store workers are definitely essential workers. They risk their health (and their lives) every day so that we can obtain the necessities of life.

Please reconsider. As it now stands you have made a mistake. Correct your mistake. Include grocery store workers in Phase 1B of vaccine distribution.

Thank you,

Phyllis Wax

[REDACTED]

From: [Kathy Humiston](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Coronavirus Vaccine Distribution Phase1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:40:42 PM

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

I would like to register a comment regarding the recently published coronavirus vaccine distribution categories for Phase 1B. I think it is criminal that mink farmers are on this list but the dedicated grocery workers around the state are not!

I am a former employee of a grocery store in Madison and still have many friends working there, including my 37-year old son, who has typically worked 60-70 hours a week since the beginning of the pandemic. I have watched and listened as these brave people have put themselves on the line of exposure every day for the last ten months. Some have become physically ill, either with Covid or other illnesses; all are suffering deep emotional pain and anxiety. Virtually all of them have been holding on to that now vanished hope of earlier vaccination as essential employees. Many of these workers are young, they have no savings accounts, no fallback. And the state of Wisconsin is now telling them that they are less important than mink farmers! How cruel! How inhumane! How foolish! This are the people who feed us —unless you eat mink.

Please do the right thing and get Wisconsin's grocery workers vaccinated in Phase 1B.

Thank you.

Kathryn Humiston
Columbus, WI

From: greg@amilinda.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:37:01 PM

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

Message sent.

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.



Gregory León
Chef/Owner Amilinda

414-369-3683 415-940-5404 315 E Wisconsin Ave. - Milwaukee

amilinda.com

Stay in Touch



From: jakigee45@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jacqueline Eno](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Requesting inclusion of vaccines for frontline, essential hunger-relief workers in phase 1B of the Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory vaccine subcommittee recommendation
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:33:23 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 Vaccine Subcommittee,

Thank you for your efforts to ensure efficient and equitable distribution of vaccines. It is incredibly important and necessary that the Phase 1B recommendation for the COVID-19 vaccine include hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers. These workers and volunteers are essential to continue the unprecedented distribution of food to those Wisconsinites experiencing hunger during the pandemic and economic crisis.

I want to keep all the people we serve and help safe. Please consider the following information!

Hunger-relief workers and volunteers are the critical force behind the wellbeing of the record number of Wisconsinites facing food insecurity. One in eight Wisconsinites, including one in five Wisconsin kids, don't know where their next meal is coming from. The hunger-relief network is mobilized like never before to meet this need. Our network is serving about 60% more individuals than last year. And Wisconsin's Feeding America member food banks and partners distributed about 90 million unprecedented pounds of food to those experiencing food insecurity from March to September of 2020, that is 25 million more pounds than was distributed in all of fiscal year 2019.

- The hunger-relief network relies heavily on volunteers to fulfill the mission, many (37%) of these volunteers are seniors. An estimated 52 percent of food pantries and meal sites report having no paid staff. Among the 46 percent of agencies with paid staff, the median number of paid full-time equivalent staff members reported is four. As a result, if staff or volunteers were to test positive for COVID-19 and potentially require other staff or volunteers to quarantine, food distribution operations would be greatly impacted.

Collaboration between our hunger-relief organizations, public health, and those administering the vaccine will be essential to planning for equitable and efficient distribution, addressing concerns, educating about and adhering to appropriate protocols.

The COVID-19 vaccine is a critical step toward ensuring the safety and health of staff, volunteers, and those accessing food resources. It also ensures that food banks have the capacity to continue distributions at this unprecedented rate to feed Wisconsinites experiencing hunger. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Jacqueline Eno



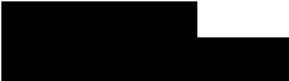
From: [Solomon Jenkins](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:32:39 PM

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 should be considered essential workers to

Sincerely,
Solomon Jenkins



From: [Mindy Dolnick](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery Workers in Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:32:08 PM

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

I am asking that you please reconsider and reinstate grocery workers to the Phase 1B vaccination schedule.

I have been in the grocery business for over 13 years. Working with the general public during a pandemic has been extremely worrying and stressful, but we show up and do the work because it is our livelihood. We owe it to people to continue to show up. But not all customers have been as understanding or compassionate of our situation. Customers sometimes refuse to wear masks, or will wear them incorrectly on purpose out of spite or politics. When asked to wear masks or keep distance in mind, some customers get angry and will invade workers space, even spitting at them. In many cases, it is extremely difficult if not impossible to do our jobs while physically distanced from one another as directed by the health department. With the newest variant of covid even more transmissible, we are more at risk of becoming sick ourselves, and of grocery stores become super spreader points within our community.

Please, keep our essential workers safe so that they can continue to keep the community fed. Put them into Phase 1B and get them vaccinated ASAP.

Thanks
Mindy Dolnick

From: [Elizabeth Schoone](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B - Vaccine Subcommittee
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:31:34 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 include grocery and food industry workers in the Phase 1 B vaccine roll-out. They have been instrumental in feeding our state throughout the pandemic and have risked their lives doing so. Thank you for your consideration,

Liz Schoone
Hayward, WI

From: [Carrie Edgar](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B include grocery workers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:30:54 PM

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

Dear Subcommittee,

Please reconsider and include grocery workers in Phase 1B.

We all rely on these essential workers to keep stores open and all of us fed. They have continued to work and serve the public throughout this pandemic and deserve to have access to the vaccine in phase 1B.

Thank you,

Carrie Edgar

Madison, WI

From: [Barbara Lenz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:26:37 PM

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

I just read a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article about grocery store employees not being included in the next phase of vaccinations known as phase 1b. Two days ago I learned that two friends have received their first shots of the vaccine. She volunteers **one morning a week** at a local hospital (helping people find their way around, etc.) Her husband **is available one day a week** to drive veterans when needed to and from VA appointments at Zablocki Medical Center. If they can be vaccinated even before 1b takes effect, why would grocery workers who meet the public for hours at a time and nearly daily not be included in 1B?

Grocery store workers should definitely be included in the next phase of vaccinations. They are definitely essential workers.

Barbara Lenz

From: [Carrie Ninneman](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b vaccinations - Vaccination Subcommittee
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:20:30 PM

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

To: State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Re: Phase 1b COVID – 19 Vaccinations

Please consider grocery store workers as you complete your recommendations for Phase 1b of vaccine distribution.

It appears that Wisconsin's planned 1b list does not currently include grocery workers. Although individuals in emergency service occupations such as police work and firefighting are absolutely essential workers and must be prioritized, the next tier of vaccine recipients should be carefully considered. Teachers, child care workers, and a few others are included but grocery workers are not.

We can – and should – do better.

Retail Grocery workers do not have an option to perform their work remotely. They come into contact with thousands of people on a weekly basis. They risk their health – and by extension, the health of their families and communities - every hour of every workday, in order to provide an essential service to all of us. Let's not continue to take them for granted. We do so at our peril. Thank you.

Carrie Ninneman
Woodruff, Wisconsin

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Bradford Ermel](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:19:09 PM

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

Dear Wisconsin Vaccine Advisory Board members,

I'm writing to ask you to please vote to keep grocery workers and food industry workers IN the 1B tier of coronavirus vaccine eligibility. On behalf of the service and restaurant industries in Wisconsin, who serve millions of customers a day in our great state, I feel that it is essential that grocery and restaurant workers retain a higher priority of access to the COVID-19 vaccine, simply due to the high potential for infection and transmission via the Wisconsin food system.

This will not only reward the frontline workers who have put their lives on the line for our state to ensure people have access to nutritious and healthy food, but help prevent groceries and restaurants from continuing to function as major points of viral outbreaks and public transmission. As public transmission is the hardest type of viral transmission to trace and control, ensuring that grocery stores and restaurants keep their high-priority status will help reduce the overall spread (and subsequent deaths), and is vital to preventing more damage to our state by the already out-of-control COVID-19 pandemic.

We know that many individuals in our state will refuse the vaccine already, in large numbers, due to misinformation and distrust of vaccines. Because of this, we need to ensure that as many as possible of our major public points of vulnerability serve as firewalls to transmission, rather than amplifiers. This is the only way we will be able to ensure Wisconsin emerges from the pandemic quickly and without additional preventable loss of life.

Hospitals, prisons/jails, grocery stores, restaurants, dorm rooms, assisted living complexes, and any areas of high concentration of people, or a large concentration of high-risk individuals, must be vaccinated first. This is Pandemic Response 101, and our state is failing drastically.

We have had as many deaths in Wisconsin (5,906) due to COVID-related causes as the entire population of Cuba (166), Vietnam (35), Venezuela (1,101), and China (4,635) put together, which accounts for 263 times as many people as our state (approximately 1.534B people in those four countries, to 5.822M people in Wisconsin). We need to continue to prioritize transmission points to isolate clusters of breakouts so they do not spread rapidly across the state. We cannot remove these vital gathering points from Phase 1B.

When you vote on Phase 1B, vote to include grocery and food industry workers in this category.

Respectfully yours,

Bradford Ermel

From: [Kyle Gundlach](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery Worker Vaccinations
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:18:27 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I would like to request that grocery store workers be provided with vaccinations in the next phase of administration in Wisconsin. We have all been working in the stores since the beginning of the pandemic and it has caused a lot of stress among co-workers everyday. We are scared of catching the virus. We have no way of knowing if our customers are spreading the infection and it has people on edge. We have received praise for working through this difficult time now back us up by vaccinating us next. Please!

Kyle Gundlach
Driver at the Willy Street Co-op

From: [Nick Iannone](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B - Keep grocery workers in Phase 1B!
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:12:00 PM

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

Dear Wisconsin Vaccine Advisory Board members,

I'm writing to ask you to please vote to keep grocery workers and food industry workers IN the 1B tier of coronavirus vaccine eligibility. On behalf of the service and restaurant industries in Wisconsin, who serve millions of customers a day in our great state, I feel that it is essential that grocery and restaurant workers retain a higher priority of access to the COVID-19 vaccine, simply due to the high potential for infection and transmission via the Wisconsin food system.

This will not only reward the frontline workers who have put their lives on the line for our state to ensure people have access to nutritious and healthy food, but help prevent groceries and restaurants from continuing to function as major points of viral outbreaks and public transmission. As public transmission is the hardest type of viral transmission to trace and control, ensuring that grocery stores and restaurants keep their high-priority status will help reduce the overall spread (and subsequent deaths), and is vital to preventing more damage to our state by the already out-of-control COVID-19 pandemic.

We know that many individuals in our state will refuse the vaccine already, in large numbers, due to misinformation and distrust of vaccines. Because of this, we need to ensure that as many as possible of our major public points of vulnerability serve as firewalls to transmission, rather than amplifiers. This is the only way we will be able to ensure Wisconsin emerges from the pandemic quickly and without additional preventable loss of life.

Hospitals, prisons/jails, grocery stores, restaurants, dorm rooms, assisted living complexes, and any areas of high concentration of people, or a large concentration of high-risk individuals, must be vaccinated first. This is Pandemic Response 101, and our state is failing drastically.

We have had as many deaths in Wisconsin (5,906) due to COVID-related causes than the entire population of Cuba (166), Vietnam (35), Venezuela (1,101), and China (4,635) put together, which accounts for 263 times as many people as our state (approximately 1.534B people in those four countries, to 5.822M people in Wisconsin). We need to continue to prioritize transmission points to isolate clusters of breakouts so they do not spread rapidly across the state. We cannot remove these vital gathering points from Phase 1B.

When you vote on Phase 1B, vote to include grocery and food industry workers in this category.

Respectfully yours,

Nicholas A. Iannone



From: dandeecouple@wi.rr.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:07:48 PM

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Dear Madam/Sir;

My husband and I were very surprised and disappointed to learn that grocery workers may not be included in the early distribution of the Covid 19 vaccine. We are hoping that steps are taken to give those workers priority status for the vaccine.

We are NOT grocery workers and have no grocery workers in our family. However, because of grocery workers my husband and I have not had to go into a grocery store since March in order to get our groceries. Grocery workers at Walmart or Woodmans pull our groceries from the list that we submit online. They proceed to pack those groceries, notify us when they are ready for pickup, deliver them to and put them in our car upon our arrival at the store. Both my husband and I are seniors with underlying medical conditions. If we had had to do our own grocery shopping the chances of us contracting Covid 19 would have been much greater than they have been. So far, we have stayed healthy and chances are good it's in part because of those grocery workers. They have allowed us to stay home. Meanwhile, they go off to work and probably meet hundreds of people on a daily basis. People that they don't know but could very well be carrying Covid 19.

Grocery workers were told from the beginning that they are essential workers and they had to go to work. Let's not turn our back on them now. They have been here all along keeping us fed and safe. Let's show them our appreciation and try to keep them safe by immunizing them early!

Thank you for your consideration.

Delores and Daniel Brunner

[REDACTED]

From: [castillofamily](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee: Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:07:23 PM

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

It has come to my attention that there is discussion to vote to move grocery workers, and other food industry people, out of the phase 1b of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Millions of American workers have lost their jobs in this past year. Many of them work in the food industry. Our grocery stores and restaurants, while often not considered essential, are the backbone of this country's industry. People need to eat, and many of them do not choose to cook at home for every meal. We need to not only work actively toward ending this pandemic, but also to move toward creating a situation where these folks can return safely to work, and provide the services that our country utilizes, in a safe manner.

In order to move toward ending this pandemic, it is critical to provide vaccines for ALL the people that are working with the food and other products that come into homes on a daily basis. Please reconsider, and allow these people to be vaccinated as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Martha Castillo

From: [Meredith Geidel](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee, Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:06:51 PM

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

I have several family members and friends who work in grocery. Since the day since we were declared to be in a pandemic and everything shut down there has been one constant. The grocery stores were open. They were declared to be essential among s well as health care workers and other exceptions. While everyone else was told to stay home because it was too dangerous to go out, grocery stores were open. The employees worked extra hours, overtime, had vacations and days off canceled because everyone else needed to go to the stores and hoard supplies! 10 months into this, there are still groups of people who are hollering they can't go to work because it is still too dangerous. Some public school teachers and state employees (both of which are still drawing their pay) can't work. It's too dangerous. But yet I will bet all of the mentioned have been eating the entire time. Most have probably gone to the grocery store.

I would like to know why they are being moved to the front of the line but not the grocery store workers. The article in the 1/17/21 Milwaukee journal says that education workers and non frontline health care personnel are planned to be in the next group vaccinated. Along with prisoners and mink farm workers!! HOW DARE YOU!

Grocery store workers have been on the front line since day one. They have direct contact with hundreds of people on a daily basis. The article says tough decisions must be made who receives it next. It also says that 1.2 million people shop at just the Kroger chain in Wisconsin every week! The workers can be exposed multiple times on a daily basis.

If you don't want to go to the store you have that choice. Have your groceries delivered or do pick up. But guess what...someone in that store still has to work so you can do that. The consumer has the option to stay home. The grocery store worker does not. Not without losing their job.

How dare Evers lackies (many of whom are working from home)suggest that mink farmers and prisoners should get it first. How dare the public school teachers many of whom are refusing to go to work get it first. It's bad enough that the governor is trying his best to keep the state shut down but let the people who have kept it up and running as much as it is, get the protection they deserve by getting vaccinated.

I know what I am speaking of as I have been also working the entire time. I work in child care. We work so others can go to work. We do not have the option of not working without going on the government dole. We have been getting up every morning and going to work doing our part. The only way the economy will get restarted, is to quit paying people to stay home and open up!

By the way, we are also landlords, who apparently have no say in how we run our personal property. For the better part of a year now and it looks like it could be months more now, we have not been able to evict tenants who don't pay rent. In our properties, it has not been a covid issue, just a "you can't evict me" issue and the judges have been to spineless to recognize this. No one has yet to give us a CDC declaration. And the judges don't even care.

Wake up and smell the coffee. Thank the grocery store workers who go in everyday that you have coffee to make.

Meredith S. Geidel

From: [John Worzala Dumke](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee: Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:04:13 PM

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

Dear Committee Members -

I am writing to you today since it was requested that the next phase of vaccine distribution be open to public comment.

One of the groups that seems to be left off of the distribution list appears to be grocers/co-op employees. This group of people in our community have been on the frontline of this pandemic from the get go. They are indeed essential workers and should be treated as such, hence my request that they be added to this phase of distribution.

I understand that these allocations of who receives the vaccine in what order are not easy choices to make (esp. with limited resources), so I thank you for work and wish you the best in your discernment.

Thank you for your consideration, as well as for your time in reading my comments on the matter.

Sincerely,
Rev. John A. Worzala Dumke

Luther Memorial Church,
Madison

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Natalie Gruentzel](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:02:54 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. We have been required to work the entire time and have put ourselves at risk every single day. We deserve to get the vaccine prior to the general public. We are still out there working, please consider us a priority. We are asking your committee to include grocery workers as part of Wisconsin's Phase 1b distribution plan. Feeding the general public is essential.

Sincerely ,
Natalie Gruentzel



From: [Stacy Vogel Davis](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee, phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:59:54 PM

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

Hello, I am writing today to implore you not to remove grocery workers from phase 1B of vaccine distribution. These workers have been putting their health on the line every day for nearly a year so we can have essentials such as food and gas. Consider my mother: She is more than 60 years old and works full time at a gas station. Every day she has to deal with customers in close quarters who refuse to even wear masks, often claiming they have some sort of condition that prevents them from wearing it. She is afraid and stressed all the time. Why would we not protect these workers who are constantly at risk? Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Stacy Davis



From: wiscoharrigan@gmail.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [GOV Info](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee, Phase 1B Comments on Recommendations
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:59:18 PM

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

Dear Committee Members,

First, thank you for your work and service to our State.

I am writing today to express my concern about your failure to **include Grocery workers** as members of the Essential Workers group as well as **persons over age 65** who should, in my view, be given priority status as part of the 1 B group.

These groups have been recommended by the CDC for inclusion across the country. I don't know why we, as a State, can't simply follow these clear guidelines. I especially hope you will reconsider the grocery workers... we must all eat ! These people have been dedicated to meeting that need at great risk to themselves throughout the pandemic.

Please reconsider your current draft recommendation and include these people in Phase 1 B !!

Thank you

Michael C. Harrigan
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: spieferlaw@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [sally piefer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Requesting inclusion of vaccines for frontline, essential hunger-relief workers in phase 1B of the Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory vaccine subcommittee recommendation
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:59:03 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 Vaccine Subcommittee,

Thank you for your efforts to ensure efficient and equitable distribution of vaccines. It is incredibly important and necessary that the Phase 1B recommendation for the COVID-19 vaccine include hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers. These workers and volunteers are essential to continue the unprecedented distribution of food to those Wisconsinites experiencing hunger during the pandemic and economic crisis.

Prioritization of hunger-relief frontline workers is imperative for the following reasons:

- Hunger-relief workers and volunteers are the critical force behind the wellbeing of the record number of Wisconsinites facing food insecurity. One in eight Wisconsinites, including one in five Wisconsin kids, don't know where their next meal is coming from. The hunger-relief network is mobilized like never before to meet this need. Our network is serving about 60% more individuals than last year. And Wisconsin's Feeding America member food banks and partners distributed about 90 million unprecedented pounds of food to those experiencing food insecurity from March to September of 2020, that is 25 million more pounds than was distributed in all of fiscal year 2019.
- The hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers serve individuals in vulnerable health situations. People experiencing food insecurity have a disproportionately high rate of chronic health conditions that put people at higher risk of severe COVID-19 complications. This population frequently has less access to consistent quality health care and insurance. Also, 23% of households served has at least one senior and we know that age is a good indicator for risk of severe COVID-19 complications or death. People of color disproportionately experience food insecurity and are also known to be at greater risk of severe COVID-19 complications.
- It is our duty to ensure the safety of those being served. Individuals being served and in contact with hunger-relief frontline workers have few other options but to seek assistance from food pantries and meal sites do not have a way to mitigate their COVID-19 risk. They cannot avoid the interaction with staff and volunteers and rely on the organization to help meet basic needs and provide them with the meals they need to live.
- The hunger-relief network relies heavily on volunteers to fulfill the mission, many (37%) of these volunteers are seniors. An estimated 52 percent of food pantries and meal sites report having no paid staff. Among the 46 percent of agencies with paid staff, the median number of paid full-time equivalent staff members reported is four. As a result, if staff or volunteers were to test positive for COVID-19 and potentially require other staff or volunteers to quarantine, food distribution operations would be greatly impacted.

Collaboration between our hunger-relief organizations, public health, and those administering the vaccine will be essential to planning for equitable and efficient distribution, addressing concerns, educating about and adhering to appropriate protocols.

The COVID-19 vaccine is a critical step toward ensuring the safety and health of staff, volunteers, and those accessing food resources. It also ensures that food banks have the capacity to continue distributions at this unprecedented rate to feed Wisconsinites experiencing hunger. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mrs. sally piefer

[Redacted signature block]

From: [ERIC T MICHELSON](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B Grocery Employees
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:53:02 PM

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

Please include Grocery Store Employees in 1B !!!

Thanks!!!

From: [Jennifer Moore](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:51:09 PM

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

Dear Vaccine Subcommittee members,

I urge you to include grocery workers in Phase 1B of the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, as the CDC recommends.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Moore

From: [Kay Weisman](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B Say yes to grocery workers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:46:32 PM

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

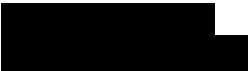
Dear Vaccine Subcommittee,

I strongly urge you to include grocery store workers in the next phase of vaccinations. When I think back to early days of the pandemic, the grocery store was a little island of normalcy in those confusing times, and they really are doing heroic work in constantly meeting the public.

I mostly stay home, and the grocery store is the only place I go. Why should I, just because of my age, take precedence in vaccination, when I don't take as many risks as grocery workers? I can wait; they can't. They are doing the most necessary job for the most people.

Please!

Kay Weisman



From: [Suzanne Stedl](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:42:40 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. I am the Front End Operations Coordinator for T.A. Solberg Co., Inc. We do business as Trigs and Village Market - a group of 8 grocery stores. Our stores have done everything possible to keep our associates safe and to stay open for the public, providing a vital link in our food supply chain. We have increased our delivery and pick up shopping platform along with maintaining our level of excellent customer service. Daily our teams come in direct contact with the general public, and while we try to keep our associates safe we have no way of determining nor regulating whether our guests are following the same practices.

Daily our teams put themselves at risk of contacting COVID and bringing it home to their families. We are essential workers and we deserve the protection that the vaccine can provide to us. Please reconsider removing grocery workers from tier 1b.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Stedl



From: [Brooke Zacher](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee + Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:40:28 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 keep grocery workers in the 1B vaccine category to keep our public safe.

Sincerely,
Brooke Zacher
Public school teacher

From: [Loretta Shumate](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:37:46 PM

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

Dear Committee Member,

During the pandemic, I have been one of the most fortunate people who are able to work from home. The only people I consistently see out in the world as I limit my shopping are at grocery and supply stores.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Loretta Shumate



From: [June Brown](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:37:18 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. They are frontline workers and deserve to be protected!

Sincerely ,
June Brown



From: [Linda Benes](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B Grocery Employees
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:32:16 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 definitely think that "Grocery Store Employees" are "Essential Workers" and should be listed as such and vaccinated accordingly.

They come in contact with the public each and every day and all day that they work. They have to look at the idiots that show up with no mask for some idiotic reason.

Please reconsider their place on the list.

Thank you for any help you can give them to stay safe while they do a very essential job!

Linda Benes
spike5709@att net
5709 N Sievers Pl
Glendale, WI 53209

From: [andrew.hawley](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee: Phase1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:28:41 PM

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

Salutations 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 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.

Happiest and healthiest regards,
Drew

From: [Ellen Paulus](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccination Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:27:12 PM

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

Dear Subcommittee,

As an essential non-healthcare worker and bakery food truck owner, we have continued serving our customers throughout the pandemic. Our customers stand outside to get bread, rolls, dessert and treats to celebrate birthdays, births, anniversaries and even deaths of loved ones.

One customer ordered cookies to be delivered to the ICU Unit at a local hospital to memorialize her husband who passed away from Covid 19 at the age of 53. She wanted to thank those workers who tried so hard to save him. If that is not essential, I don't know what is. We helped a family work through their grief by making cookies. That may not seem important, but I assure you, it absolutely was to that family, and to that unit of healthcare workers who received them.

That is only one of the dozens of stories we have experienced over the past 10 months as we navigated the pandemic hand-in-hand with our customers.

We follow all the CDC guidelines and safety protocols, including wearing masks, requiring customers to social distance and offering curbside pickups. We are essential, as are all food workers, in keeping the supply chain open and accessible.

As a small family owned business, we hope you will consider keeping food workers in Phase 1B so that we may be offered protection by the vaccination to continue providing our customers with locally sourced baked from scratch products.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ellen Ghery Paulus
Owner

The Cupcake-A-Rhee
1270 Mineral Springs Drive
Port Washington WI 53074
(414) 403-4934

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cheryl Catenacci](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B Vaccination
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:26:46 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 asking you to reconsider the decision to remove grocery workers from the list of essential workers. We have worked throughout this pandemic. We did not have a choice. We can not work from home. We cannot close our stores. We put ourselves at risk on the frontlines, facing customers everyday, so they can purchase groceries and necessities. Some of us have even paid for purchases because someone lost their job, but still need to eat. Occassionally we face customer's who wear their masks improperly, or not at all. There are those who do not practice social distancing. We have been yelled at, insulted and verbally abused. In too many instances it has escalated to physical abuse. Grocery workers are not immune to this disease. We diligently wear our masks, wash our hands, and use hand sanitizer. We disinfect our stores throughout the day. However, we are still at risk. There are grocery workers who have health issues, such as the; immuno-compromised, insulin dependent diabetics, and older adults. I personally work with a woman who needs heart valve replacement surgery, and another whose two year old son is on the heart transplant list. So, it is not just us at risk, it is our families, our loved ones. If I were to unknowingly contract the virus and go to work, I could pass it on to my customers. I could pass it on to you, or your spouse. We have been there for the duration, even after our "hazard" pay was discontinued. In the beginning, we were heroes, and now you think we are not even essential. Perhaps we should close all our stores, then would you believe we are essential?

"Non essential employees are not required to maintain business functions during a pandemic because their duties do not affect health and safety infrastructures."

Betterteam.com

From: [Lana Daly](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B Public Comment
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:23:50 PM

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

Dear WI officials,

Please consider adding in for this phase of vaccinations grocery store personnel. They have been working tirelessly and closely with the public since the beginning of the pandemic. Why they have been removed from the 1B status seems wrong since they have been considered first responders and continually available throughout the time of COVID-19. They are the one retail position that like the healthcare workers the public has depended on to provide the goods and services necessary to survive this worldwide crisis. Please reconsider the elimination of grocery store workers from the 1B tier for immunization. No other classification of worker has as much contact with all of the public as this essential group.

Lana Daly
Beloit, WI

From: [Sean Lanphier](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:22:55 PM

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. Follow the CDC guidelines. Grocery clerks are underpaid and under appreciated but essential.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Marika Winkler](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee, phase1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:22:49 PM

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

Shame on this committee for suggesting that grocery workers need to wait for their doses!!!
If it weren't for them, how would the rest of us have been able to put food and supplies on our tables and in our homes!!
Shame!!!
Tough decision?!
Whatever

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail
Get the new AOL app: mail.mobile.aol.com

From: [Lisa Martensen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:22:08 PM

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

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,

Lisa Martensen



From: [Sadie Tuescher](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase 1b comments
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:18:53 PM

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

I feel strongly that grocery workers should be included in the next phase of vaccines. They are people who often make minimum wage, often have to work multiple jobs, And they are absolutely essential workers. What we learned during the pandemic is that we can live without a lot of things but we can't live without food. These grocery workers have put their lives and their families and the line so that we can eat. For most people respecting quarantine protocols, grocery workers are their only access points. We can protect a lot of people by protecting grocery workers.

And for heaven sake, do the teachers!

--

Sadie Tuescher
[Wisconsin Health Insurance Advocate, LLC](#)
phone: 414-797-3408
fax: 414-435-9631
sadie@wihia.com

Privacy Policy: <http://wihealthinsuranceadvocate.com/client-privacy-policy.html>

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Sadie Tuescher
[Wisconsin Health Insurance Advocate, LLC](#)
phone: 414-797-3408
fax: 414-435-9631
sadie@wihia.com

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From: [Lisa Sottile](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:17:42 PM

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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.

Thank you for your time.

Lisa Sottile

--

Lisa Sottile


From: [Terry Pavletic](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:17:37 PM

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Dear Committee Members:

We feel very strongly that grocery store workers should be included in the 1B covid vaccine phase. We are both over 68 years of age. The public indoor places we spend the most time in now are grocery stores. Protecting grocery store workers from covid 19 will also protect the elderly residents of Wisconsin from covid 19. Plus, we feel most grocery store workers are not highly paid. Thus, their financial situation lends itself to their going to work when they are feeling ill.

sincerely

Terry and Gail Pavletic

[Redacted signature]

From: [terri_w](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:17:13 PM

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Please reconsider and include grocery workers in Phase 1B.

My husband and I are in our 70s and very anxious to get the vaccine, but it simply doesn't seem fair that people who have been risking their health for months, facing huge numbers of people every day, should have to wait.

Thank you for considering this suggestion.

Terri Walters
Wauwatosa, WI

From: [Rachael Booth](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B Public Comment
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:15:55 PM

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

Hello,

I am writing this email to voice I strongly believe grocery store employees should be included in the Phase 1B Covid19 Vaccination Plan. They are highly valued and absolutely crucial members of our community. They also have high exposure to general public AND those high risk within our community. Please consider these essential workers to be included in the recommendations for the 1B phase.

Thank you,

Rachael Booth

Sent from my iPhone

From: ccofell@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Cathryn Cofell-Mutschler](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Requesting inclusion of vaccines for frontline, essential hunger-relief workers in phase 1B of the Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory vaccine subcommittee recommendation
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:10:13 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 Vaccine Subcommittee,

Thank you for your efforts to ensure efficient and equitable distribution of vaccines. It is incredibly important and necessary that the Phase 1B recommendation for the COVID-19 vaccine include hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers. These workers and volunteers are essential to continue the unprecedented distribution of food to those Wisconsinites experiencing hunger during the pandemic and economic crisis.

Prioritization of hunger-relief frontline workers is imperative for the following reasons:

- Hunger-relief workers and volunteers are the critical force behind the wellbeing of the record number of Wisconsinites facing food insecurity. One in eight Wisconsinites, including one in five Wisconsin kids, don't know where their next meal is coming from. The hunger-relief network is mobilized like never before to meet this need. Our network is serving about 60% more individuals than last year. And Wisconsin's Feeding America member food banks and partners distributed about 90 million unprecedented pounds of food to those experiencing food insecurity from March to September of 2020, that is 25 million more pounds than was distributed in all of fiscal year 2019.
- The hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers serve individuals in vulnerable health situations. People experiencing food insecurity have a disproportionately high rate of chronic health conditions that put people at higher risk of severe COVID-19 complications. This population frequently has less access to consistent quality health care and insurance. Also, 23% of households served has at least one senior and we know that age is a good indicator for risk of severe COVID-19 complications or death. People of color disproportionately experience food insecurity and are also known to be at greater risk of severe COVID-19 complications.
- It is our duty to ensure the safety of those being served. Individuals being served and in contact with hunger-relief frontline workers have few other options but to seek assistance from food pantries and meal sites do not have a way to mitigate their COVID-19 risk. They cannot avoid the interaction with staff and volunteers and rely on the organization to help meet basic needs and provide them with the meals they need to live.
- The hunger-relief network relies heavily on volunteers to fulfill the mission, many (37%) of these volunteers are seniors. An estimated 52 percent of food pantries and meal sites report having no paid staff. Among the 46 percent of agencies with paid staff, the median number of paid full-time equivalent staff members reported is four. As a result, if staff or volunteers were to test positive for COVID-19 and potentially require other staff or volunteers to quarantine, food distribution operations would be greatly impacted.

Collaboration between our hunger-relief organizations, public health, and those administering the vaccine will be essential to planning for equitable and efficient distribution, addressing concerns, educating about and adhering to appropriate protocols.

The COVID-19 vaccine is a critical step toward ensuring the safety and health of staff, volunteers, and those accessing food resources. It also ensures that food banks have the capacity to continue distributions at this unprecedented rate to feed Wisconsinites experiencing hunger. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Ms. Cathryn Cofell-Mutschler



From: [Ellen Pfeiffer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:06:13 PM

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

It would be completely disgraceful if the grocery workers were not included in Phase 1B. They are on the frontline with hundreds of people and tons of food and other store products every day.

For goodness sake, include these people up front!. I am over 65 years old and stay home a lot these days, like so many others. Grocery workers need the vaccines more than many others. Give it to them now in Phase 1B. I can wait a while longer and so can my friends.

E. Pfeiffer
Milwaukee, WI

From: [Karen Nowak](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:03:28 PM

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

Hello,

I find it unconscionable that grocery workers would not be in the phase 1b COVID vaccination group! To many of us they are essential workers and kept us all going during this pandemic. Please reconsider and include our grocery workers in phase 1b.

Thanks for listening.

Respectfully,

Karen Nowak

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Julie Buxton](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:57:54 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. The grocery stores have remained open throughout the pandemic. Everyone needs access to food. These hard working employees are front line essential employees. Please put them in 1b.

Sincerely ,
Julie Buxton



From: [Tara Herreid](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:54:19 PM

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As a supervisor of the front end, I witness the amount of exposure and risk my cashiers and I take on. I believe we should be in the next group to be vaccinated. We've pushed through the pandemic this long, it is insulting that we are not considered.

Hundreds of customers come through our store daily. Hundreds of people who carry unknown risks.

Please reconsider allowing grocery store workers to be vaccinated sooner in Wisconsin.

Tara Herreid
Front End - Shift Supervisor

she/her/hers

Willy Street Co-op North

2817 N. Sherman Ave.

Madison, WI 53704

(608) 471-4422

From: [Susan Gramling](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee..phase 1B include grocery workers!!
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:51:14 PM

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

Grocery workers have been on the job for all of us..risking exposure to Covid! Not only are they paid far below others who protect us, but they show up day after day and often listen to the complainers. They must be protected from covid as soon as possible!! Thank you!

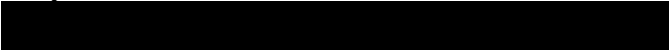
From: [Stephanie Bartz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:49:11 PM

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

Dear Wisconsin vaccine advisory board,

Please add my voice **in favor** of moving the food industry: grocery store workers and the restaurants to be put into the **1b vaccine phase**. They have put themselves at high risk and have kept all of us fed in one way or another.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Bartz



Stephanie Bartz

Photographer & Location Scout, Stephanie Bartz Photography

414 640 7976

<https://www.sbartzphotography.com/> | <http://www.sbartzlocations.com/>



From: [Tyler Stank](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B Comment
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:48:45 PM

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It seems to me grocery store workers should be included in Phase 1B as “Public-Facing Essential Workers,” and yet I see them missing from the list. One such person I know personally has had to repeatedly deal with customers who wear facemasks incorrectly or not at all and who have gone so far as to spit at her when asked to comply with store policy. A grocery employee who contracted Covid-19 thusly could easily spread it to a huge number of people. Please consider adding grocery employees to this list for inclusion in Phase 1B.

Thank you.

Tyler A Stank

From: [Laura Maigatter](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Food Service Workers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:47:02 PM

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

Message sent.

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,
Laura Maigatter
Owner, Hot Dish Pantry

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Strother, Amber](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:46:51 PM

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

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 considering their continued risk and contact with the public.

I would also ask you to consider included those who are currently incarcerated in Wisconsin's jails and prisons. These folks are in high-risk situations that can lead to the uncontrolled spread of the virus and are particularly vulnerable given their living conditions. Even though they are a suggested group for 1b, I just wanted to voice my support for vaccinations for this group as well.

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

Amber Strother, Ph.D.

Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of English
Marquette University
Marquette Hall 245

pronouns: she/her/hers

From: [Danielle McIntosh](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:41:28 PM

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

Hello,

I am writing to encourage those in charge of vaccine distribution to include grocery workers in phase 1B. I am thrilled to see teachers and child care workers included, but fear for my own safety in WI grocery stores due to poor mask adherence by shoppers. I cannot imagine the exposures the employees have on a daily basis. WI communities have done little to enforce wearing masks, even encouraging non-compliance. The least we could do is offer vaccinations to those essential workers forced to deal with adamant non-maskers.

Danielle McIntosh
WI resident

From: [Beth Harenda](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:40:40 PM

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

DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov

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.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mark Robinson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public comment to State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee's (SDMAC) Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee,
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:24:42 PM

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

The state of Wisconsin-Phase 1B vaccination roll-out needs to include the grocery store industry, as they are considered essential, frontline workers. Scanning groceries and keeping food in pantries is what grocery store workers continued to do amid the pandemic. Grocers didn't stop checking out customers as COVID cases increased across the state. Without essential workers in the state's food industry, there aren't grocery stores, and there isn't food at your table.

The Centers for Disease Control recommends grocery store workers be vaccinated in the second phase, alongside other frontline essential workers. The state of Wisconsin needs to follow this federal CDC guidance, or over 60,000 grocery workers across the state will be negatively impacted.

The inclusion of vaccinating the grocery store industry in Wisconsin's Phase 1B rollout can be accomplished by removing the inclusion of vaccinating people in congregate settings, such as jails, homeless shelters, and employer housing, since that group is not frontline, essential work.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Robinson

From: [Jenny Lee](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: To vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B; Keep restaurant workers in 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:24:25 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 keep restaurant workers and grocery workers in Phase 1B! They are essential workers who come in contact with customers who may not wear masks properly. We all know customers can be rude.

Thank you for listening.

- Jenny Lee-Adrian

From: [Melissa G](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:21:10 PM

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

Dear Subcommittee members,

Please reconsider the grocery store industry for phase 1b.

I have been working throughout the pandemic. Often times scared. When the stay at home order was given I saw the panic, the shelves were emptied, people hoarded not just toilet paper.

We worked countless extra hours. We had to because "We were essential."

I go to work every shift wearing a mask, gloves, and behind plexiglass.

Metcafes has done the best at keeping us all safe.

Yet costumers are still afraid to come in and shop. We have costumers calling to see if the store is busy because they don't want to be exposed to too many people. I have seen costumers come in with gloves and wearing two masks at once just to be safe.

The best way the grocery store industry can keep all the costumers safe is to be vaccinated.

I can't emagine how horrible I would feel if I were exposed and potentially put hundreds of coworkers and costumers at risk. This could be prevented if we were provided the vaccine.

Again please reconsider.

Melissa Gentz

From: [Aimee Murphy](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B/ Vaccine Subcommittee
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:20:58 PM

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

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.

Thank you

Aimee Murphy

Director of Operations
Thief Wine Shop & Bar

http://secure-web.cisco.com/101bOLnQkEE97D2RGtz321dvO2ro815ugouxQR2xk-z388ZynuLjsdUMxc8jsXkTNHsfaneQ9P3PU-ndQ6UxIY8EWblNkUxtOMxkv9PnxkJCEgQuf6F-wMpIw70P-nX6jz0UwzvnvTas5DNWt4rzaQXwIFtpUtmM3Tr8XnxWM7YkCa60NILQ-y-9fKsYnRi7B8HTEd2lDrmnnX47QUWQTtYP4Vzy_QgczVXfqJdXpZPXyktIAIzfbthB8MGv2tsIHbSXDVOMIIn-N01jlSreGkfD8JuCaBX-MQd0RtwVafMEw2e7rflgGPjk3OygGGxKBnc2G7UTtFEehCARY4FTVUsvThtvUCDAvsnX7aInBzrMo/http%3A%2F%2Fwww.thiefwine.com

@ the Milwaukee Public Market
400 N. Water St. Milwaukee, WI 53202
414.277.7707

From: [Morgan Aten](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Include grocery workers in Tier 1B!!!
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:19:54 PM

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

I am writing to ask that all retail grocery store and pharmacy workers be included in the Tier 1B vaccine distribution group. While many non-EMS first responders can and have been working from home, safe from exposure, retail grocery and pharmacy workers have been coming to work and providing essential services to their communities throughout the pandemic. Some retail grocery workers are exposed to hundreds of customers a day, their PPE supplies are not always reliable and their efforts to stay safe by asking customers to mask are often ignored. These workers serve our society in a fundamental and important way, often for low wages and with unreliable schedules. They need and deserve the protection the vaccine can provide, please show some respect for their hard work and courage in the face of this pandemic and get them the vaccines they need to stay safe and protect their families from COVID exposure.

Sincerely,

Morgan Aten
Sun Prairie, WI

From: [Heather Schuh](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:18:08 PM

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

Grocery store workers must be included in phase 1B. Everyone needs food and these workers face way more contact of people everyday than any other group of workers that have been vaccinated or are scheduled to be vaccinated in phase 1B. They are our most ESSENTIAL workers yet to be vaccinated and must be protected by vaccination in phase 1B.

Please add them to phase 1B. The citizens of Wisconsin are dependent on having their basic needs met during the pandemic and grocery workers make it possible.

Thank you,

Heather Schuh
Milwaukee, WI

From: [Linda Cannizzo](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:17:34 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I strongly encourage including grocery workers in the next group of those eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. They have been coming to work every day since the beginning of the epidemic and are the epitome of “essential workers”. (They would seem to be more at risk than non-frontline health care workers.) I think grocery workers and teachers should definitely be in the next group, and if that means not including 65-70 year olds, that should be the plan.

Linda Cannizzo

Sent from my iPad

From: [Stacey McWilliams](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Tier 1B - Grocery Industry
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:17:14 PM

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

January 17, 2021

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

Dear Vaccine Subcommittee Members,

I write today as a loved one of someone who works in the grocery industry.

I ask that there be reconsideration and that you include the food supply industry in tier 1B of the COVID-19 vaccination plan. CDC guidance on the COVID-19 vaccine distribution was released even before the announcement of a vaccine, and had the food supply 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 the food supply 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, my loved one now doesn’t have the same hope these other front-line heroes are getting.

Please reconsider your revised plan for Tier 1B to include grocery workers and others critical in the food supply.

Food is essential to the survival for all mankind, regardless of age. Employees in the grocery industry 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. My loved one and their co-workers need to remain healthy. Without them we will have a much larger issue on our hands in keeping food available to all Wisconsin residents.

To watch my loved one leave the house for 10 months and put themselves at risk out in the public to ensure all of us have food on the table has been so hard. For them to have this glimmer of hope for a timely vaccine ripped out of their hands is a shame. Please reconsider.

Sincerely,

Stacey McWilliams



From: [Morgan Haschke](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:15:23 PM

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

To whomever it may concern,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I'm taking the time to write you today in hopes that you will include retail/food service workers in the next phase of vaccination. I've worked for 5 years going on 6 years as a barista for Colectivo Coffee. I can't express how unprotected we are as workers, and as human beings, before the pandemic, but especially now. We have no job security. People have been asked to take pay cuts but continue working. People have been given the option to resign or come back to work. So instead of taking responsibility and firing people, the responsibility and consequences are placed on the employees. If you *choose* to leave, you lose your unemployment benefits. It's a win, win situation for businesses. The people hit heaviest by COVID are so called "essential workers".

My personal experience with this mess aside, the food service/grocery and retail industry employ the highest percentage of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People Of Color). Food service and retail industry are among the lowest paid as well. May I remind you that minimum wage in Wisconsin is still **\$7.25/hour** and has been for at least a decade while housing prices, transportation, vehicle registration fees, parking tickets, everything else has gone up! One hour of work barely covers a meal and it's definitely not a nutritious meal either. You would be hurting a population of people that are already suffering and receive little to no aid at all. We are considered essential, yet we are treated with such little respect and looked down on. We are perceived as lazy or lacking motivation for making food service/retail jobs a career. We are sick of words of affirmation and getting told you're doing a great job, we want action. If we are that essential, then treat us like it, protect our lives and include the food service/grocery and retail workers in the Phase 1B vaccine.

Thank you for taking the time to read my recommendation.

Milwaukee Wisconsin resident of 8 years and retail/food service worker for nearly a decade,

Morgan Haschke

From: [Anne Steinberg](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B recommendations
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:14:09 PM

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

I urge the subcommittee making recommendations to include grocery store workers in the frontline essential workers who will be eligible for Phase 1B COVID vaccinations.

Because of the importance of their work, making food available to the rest of us, we've asked them to work around many people every day all day throughout the pandemic crisis.

I would not include all retail workers, but grocery stores are quite essential and they are close to many people each day. If they can't be in Phase 1b, they need assurances of how soon they will be eligible for the vaccine.

Thank you for doing this difficult work.

Anne Steinberg


From: [Timothy Parks](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery Staff for 1B vaccinations
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:11:08 PM

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To whom it may concern,

Grocery store staff are on the front line and critical to beating this pandemic. Please put them in the 1B vaccination priority. They have it tough enough by being being paid substandard cost of living, having medical costs associated with COVID-19 health issues is like a death sentence, financially...and it doesn't help to decrease the spread. Please do us all a favor and help these people out. We need them.

Thank you for all your efforts, so far.

-Timothy Parks

Sent from my iPhone

From: dmncake@aol.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: jessica@wibakers.com
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:10:26 PM

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

Please consider including the baking industry in Phase 1B of the Covid-19 vaccine. We currently are following all guidelines but deserve to be included in Phase 1B as we continue to provide a service to the public. I am a 77 year old member of WI. Bakers Assoc. and work part-time in the food industry. Any consideration to this request is appreciated.

DMNemecek
Kimberly, WI 54136


From: [willie.gonwa](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:05:04 PM

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I understand that grocery store workers are not prioritized as essential workers for Phase 1B vaccines unlike non-ems first responders, teachers, childcare providers, and non-frontline, public facing health care providers, and mink farmers. I believe food is just as important as education for one's sustenance. I know many people who have cut off all physical contact with others except for grocery store workers. Does this not indicate that getting food to eat is perhaps the most essential of all activities?

The Recommendations for the Wisconsin DHS for COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b justify why the selected groups are included, but provide no justification for why grocery store workers are not included. Since grocery store workers are clearly at risk due to performing public-facing positions with considerations of frequency, intensity, and duration of contact, and ability to mitigate, the only reason I can figure out for them not being prioritized is the "difficulty identifying trained replacements, or other unique circumstances of employment". Could it be that the state considers grocery store workers easier to replace than teachers or childcare providers? Perhaps that is true, but it seems to me to indicate that grocery store workers are disposable to society. That I do not agree with. No one lives a disposable life.

Dr. William Gonwa



From: [Paul Knox](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: COVID Vaccine plan
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:01:33 PM

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Where is your planning and agenda are Food Pantry Workers? The local Food Pantry's depend on Volunteers to help distribute food to the needy, which has significantly increased during this pandemic. Also most of these volunteers are retirees, but not all are over 65. I believe these people should be on the 1B list

From: [Nancy Bird](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine priority for grocery-store workers and bus drivers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:01:24 PM

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

Dear Wisconsin Vaccine Advisory Board,

First, thanks for your concerted efforts to bring the Covid-19 vaccine to the Wisconsin public.

I am contacting you to urge you to prioritize/keep grocery store and food industry workers in phase 1b, and also prioritize bus drivers. These workers are essential and this would be a fine way to thank them for being on the frontlines.

Sincerely,
Nancy Bird

From: [bruce kruger](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccination priorities
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:01:08 PM

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

I recently became aware via the media that grocery workers are not going to be eligible for one of the high priority groups for the Covid vaccine. Although I am in the age group that would be eligible in one of the early priority categories, I believe that individuals serving the public in our grocery stores are essential and need to be a very high priority. . From my experience, most of the workers are in high risk categories either through their physical condition(s) or their race and ethnicity. They have faithfully served us under very difficult conditions and should be receiving the protection they so richly deserve. Essential to me means just that and these individuals have earned a higher priority status and have, at risk, served us and kept a sense of "normalcy" for us during this difficult time.
Bruce Kruger



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [Kelly Rauwerdink](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Please add grocery store staff for 1b vaccinations
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:59:53 AM

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

Grocery stores have been open for this entire pandemic, rain or shine. These people have been on the frontline and deserve to be vaccinated as soon as possible. My best friend is a manager at Willy street coop and has busted her butt providing for the community. She has family that would suffer if she would contract covid. Please consider thinking about all of the staff that works in grocery stores. They have been making sure we have been feed for months now and it is our job now to protect them.

Thank you

Kelly Rauwerdink

--

Kelly Rauwerdink

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Sue Leister](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:59:43 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 was dismayed to read in today's Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that our front line grocery store workers have not been included in the 1B category for the COVID vaccine. These folks were expected to keep us fed this past year, designated as "essential" workers.

They must be included in the 1B category. When I run to the grocery, I see customers who don't know how to follow mask guidelines. The workers are exposed to those careless people on a daily basis, which puts them and us at risk.

Please protect our front line workers. Include them in category 1B.

Sue Leister
Milwaukee WI 53221

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Patricia A. Lynch](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:59:31 AM

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

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.

We have been able to shop in person only a couple of times since March, but it was easy to see how exposed these workers are day in and day out. We rely on the pick-up service at our local store, where those same workers are exposed over and over to people who are not wearing masks and not wearing them correctly.

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.

Patricia A. Lynch
Hales Corners (Greendale), Wisconsin

From: [Mike Doble](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:56:57 AM

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

Please keep food workers in the Phase 1B group! My staff contacts 100s of people a day and they need to get vaccinated.

If you like I can offer more info, please contact me!

Thanks,

Mike



The **EXPLORIUM BREWPUB**
EST. 2016 🍷 GREENDALE, WI

Mike Doble, Proprietor
The Explorium Brewpub
Milwaukee & Greendale, Wisconsin
mike@exploriumbrew.com
Cell: 414-553-7702
Social: @ExploriumBrew
Explore. Taste. Discover.

From: [Randall Daut](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Patricia Ryan](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee, please include food workers in phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:56:41 AM

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

Dear Committee,

I am a 74 year old man in good health, though I do take 3 blood pressure medications and atorvastatin. I would be at higher risk if I were to be infected with the SARS-Cov-2 virus. Yet I am also fortunate in being able to mitigate my risk by staying at home much of the time. This is not the case for people in the food delivery chain, who must work with others and whom we rely upon for necessities of life. The main purpose of this letter is to urge you to give those in the food delivery chain, including grocery workers as well as such workers as meat packing plant employees, priority at least as high as mine.

I appreciate setting priorities is a difficult, even perhaps heartbreaking, task. If the process is seen as fair to all, it might be better accepted. I have heard a suggestion that a lottery might help. For example, it might be announced in advance that a given Tuesday would be food service worker day, while Wednesday would be Senior Citizen day. These days could change, and some flexibility would be needed to avoid wasting vaccines. I'd hope people could have priority for needed second doses as well. You could even institute a lottery by date of birth, like the draft lottery of the past.

Thank you for your attention to my views. Again, my main purpose it to urge priority for essential workers, specifically food service workers, but others as well.
Sincerely,

Randall Daut



From: [Karen Reinhardt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Phase1B status
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:55:25 AM

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

Imperative that GROCERY WORKERS be included... (What are you thinking??)
Karen Reinhardt, Williams Bay, WI

From: [ashley reynolds](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: 1b Vaccine Subcommittee
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:54:38 AM

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>
> Grocery store workers should be included in phase 1b of the vaccine distribution.
>
> Thank you,
> Ashley Reynolds
>
> Sent from my iPhone

From: [Michael Schall](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee/Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:47:33 AM

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

SHAMEFUL!

Not including grocery workers in Phase 1B is just shameful. Have you not been eating for the past 10 months? Let's thank these essential workers by getting them the vaccine ASAP!

The VA thanked me for my essential military service just today.

Michael Schall

From: [Julie Seidlitz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: ["Julie Seidlitz"](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B - Include Grocery Employees
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:47:21 AM

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

As an employee of a small, family-owned grocery store in West Allis, Wisconsin, I urge you to follow CDC recommendations and include Wisconsin's grocery store workers in Phase 1B of the COVID-19 vaccination plan.

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,
Julie Seidlitz

[Redacted signature block]

[Julie Seidlitz](#)

[Redacted signature block]

From: [Dan Jacobs](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:45:20 AM

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

The state legislature has shown their intention to not financially assist the hospitality industry. Furthermore, restaurant and bar owners have been told that we should lobby our democratic city and county officials to open 100% capacity. In order to do that the safest possible way would be to get our workforce vaccinated.

We can't be forced to open to meet our financial obligations and not be given the tools to do that safely.

Thank you,

Daniel Jacobs

Co-Founder MIRC (Milwaukee's Independent Restaurant Coalition)

Leadership Committee Member IRC (Independent Restaurant Coalition)

Chef/Owner JVR Group:

JVR Catering, DanDan, EsterEv, Batches, Fauntleroy

360 E. Erie

Milwaukee, WI 53202

414-526-2632

From: [Deanna Savage](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Keep grocery workers in 1B tier of vaccine eligibility
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:44:43 AM

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

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.

Thank you,
Deanna Savage



From: [Cam Settler](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Include Baking Industry in Phase 1B - Vaccine Subcommittee
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:44:37 AM

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

Dear Wisconsin Vaccine Subcommittee,

It has been brought to our attention that the food industry has been overlooked for inclusion in Phase 1B of the Covid Vaccine. We agree with the CDC recommendations and support the distribution of vaccines in first phases to health care workers, seniors, medical first responders, etc.

However, the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has also recommended vaccine prioritization for the food and agriculture sector essential workers, which includes bakers. Our members have been operating on the front lines of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Since the start, they've worked tirelessly to protect their workers & keep production operational to provide Wisconsin families access to safe, nutritious, and wholesome baked goods.

We appreciate CDC's prioritization recommendations recognizing bakers in phase 1b and encourage Wisconsin's Vaccine Subcommittee to adopt this critical recommendation. The vaccine prioritization of the food and agriculture sector's essential workers is vital to ensure a safe, steady supply of food throughout the state.

Sincerely,
Cameron Settler (a full-time baker & baking student at MATC in Milwaukee, WI)

From: [Mary I Martinez](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:42:09 AM

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

Phase 1b should DEFINITELY include grocery store workers

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [alliemac1311](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Put Grocery Stores back in 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:41:08 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 have been a grocery worker for 4 years. During this pandemic I have been yelled at, mocked, ignored, and seen other grocery workers threatened over asking customers to wear masks properly. I have been unable to see my parents or any family members since last March. I can't risk their lives like I do my own everyday because people refuse to listen to simple guidelines. And now after the indignities we have suffered at the hands of the public up to and including essential workers being shot over masks. After all that the government has the gall to say that we are not public-facing essential workers. How dare you presume to ignore the danger that we go through everyday. How dare you say that the people who have been keeping food on your shelves and toilet paper readily available as possible are suddenly unimportant. Grocery workers deserve vaccinations and we are public-facing essential workers. Fix the problem you created. Grocery stores are as essential as workplaces outside a hospital as you get. People could not live without us. I haven't worked on the frontline for almost a year now to be told to wait for this lifesaving COVID-19 vaccine when I was and should still be in group 1B. This is outrageous and needs to be fixed now! Put Grocery store workers back on the list. We handle your food.

Sincerely
A pissed off essential Grocery Co-op Supervisor

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [Spellbound Willow](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery workers are essential!
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:40:37 AM

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

Please reconsider your choice to remove grocery store workers from your list of essential public-facing workers. We interact with hundreds of people every week, many who often do not practice social distancing or proper mask etiquette. We expose ourselves everyday to the public and to this virus, with little respect and little pay. As one of the few places crowds still form, despite CDC warnings not to gather in groups, grocery stores are a Petri dish in which social interaction is unavoidable and easily spreads COVID-19, even in spite of masks, plastic barriers, sanitation protocols, and constant hand washing.

I have personally been yelled at, sworn at, ignored, and disrespected since this pandemic began, while the supportive comments calling us grocery store employees “heroes” have long since stopped completely. So please, reconsider your choice to remove us from the list of essential public facing jobs, we need the vaccine just as much as any other kind of essential worker, and as soon as possible to minimize our personal exposure and community spread.

Thank you.
Allegra Larson

From: [John](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee, phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:39:56 AM

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

Hello

Realizing that you have to make difficult decisions regarding appropriation of a finite resource, I urge you to reconsider and place grocery store workers in the 1b phase, as recommended by the CDC. I don't have friends or family in these positions, but have a deep appreciation for the sacrifices they've made and the risks they take in fulfilling a vital service. They deserve protection. While I realize that prisoners are at increased risk of exposure, they should not be placed ahead of our essential grocery workers.
Thank you for considering this.

John Perryman, MD

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: kim.wetzel@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Kim Wetzel](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Requesting inclusion of vaccines for frontline, essential hunger-relief workers in phase 1B of the Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory vaccine subcommittee recommendation
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:32:38 AM

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 Vaccine Subcommittee,

Thank you for your efforts to ensure efficient and equitable distribution of vaccines. It is incredibly important and necessary that the Phase 1B recommendation for the COVID-19 vaccine include hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers. These workers and volunteers are essential to continue the unprecedented distribution of food to those Wisconsinites experiencing hunger during the pandemic and economic crisis.

It is imperative that frontline hunger relief workers be vaccinated as soon as possible. Without them, food distribution to the hungry will be slowed. This cannot be allowed to happen when so many are struggling with hunger and the stress and mental anguish that is caused by not knowing how you'll feed your family.

Prioritization of hunger-relief frontline workers is imperative for the following reasons:

- Hunger-relief workers and volunteers are the critical force behind the wellbeing of the record number of Wisconsinites facing food insecurity. One in eight Wisconsinites, including one in five Wisconsin kids, don't know where their next meal is coming from. The hunger-relief network is mobilized like never before to meet this need. Our network is serving about 60% more individuals than last year. And Wisconsin's Feeding America member food banks and partners distributed about 90 million unprecedented pounds of food to those experiencing food insecurity from March to September of 2020, that is 25 million more pounds than was distributed in all of fiscal year 2019.
- The hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers serve individuals in vulnerable health situations. People experiencing food insecurity have a disproportionately high rate of chronic health conditions that put people at higher risk of severe COVID-19 complications. This population frequently has less access to consistent quality health care and insurance. Also, 23% of households served has at least one senior and we know that age is a good indicator for risk of severe COVID-19 complications or death. People of color disproportionately experience food insecurity and are also known to be at greater risk of severe COVID-19 complications.
- It is our duty to ensure the safety of those being served. Individuals being served and in contact with hunger-relief frontline workers have few other options but to seek assistance from food pantries and meal sites do not have a way to mitigate their COVID-19 risk. They cannot avoid the interaction with staff and volunteers and rely on the organization to help meet basic needs and provide them with the meals they need to live.
- The hunger-relief network relies heavily on volunteers to fulfill the mission, many (37%) of these volunteers are seniors. An estimated 52 percent of food pantries and meal sites report having no paid staff. Among the 46 percent of agencies with paid staff, the median number of paid full-time equivalent staff members reported is four. As a result, if staff or volunteers were to test positive for COVID-19 and potentially require other staff or volunteers to quarantine, food distribution operations would be greatly impacted.

Collaboration between our hunger-relief organizations, public health, and those administering the vaccine will be essential to planning for equitable and efficient distribution, addressing concerns, educating about and adhering to appropriate protocols.

The COVID-19 vaccine is a critical step toward ensuring the safety and health of staff, volunteers, and those accessing food resources. It also ensures that food banks have the capacity to continue distributions at this unprecedented rate to feed Wisconsinites experiencing hunger. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kim Wetzel



From: [alliemac1311](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery Store Workers are essential workers and deserve to be in 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:29:50 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 have been a grocery worker for 4 years. During this pandemic I have been yelled at, mocked, ignored, and seen other grocery workers threatened over asking customers to wear masks properly. I have been unable to see my parents or any family members since last March. I can't risk their lives like I do my own everyday because people refuse to listen to simple guidelines. And now after the indignities we have suffered at the hands of the public up to and including essential workers being shot over masks. After all that the government has the gall to say that we are not public-facing essential workers. How dare you presume to ignore the danger that we go through everyday. How dare you say that the people who have been keeping food on your shelves and toilet paper readily available as possible are suddenly unimportant. Grocery workers deserve vaccinations and we are public-facing essential workers. Fix the problem you created. Grocery stores are as essential as workplaces outside a hospital as you get. People could not live without us. I haven't worked on the frontline for almost a year now to be told to wait for this lifesaving COVID-19 vaccine when I was and should still be in group 1B. This is outrageous and needs to be fixed now! Put Grocery store workers back on the list. We handle your food.

Sincerely
A pissed off essential Grocery Co-op Supervisor

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [Ann Fernan](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:29:38 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 An Essential Worker

I work at Woodmans Food Market and have worked thru the entire pandemic. While people were panic buying and staying far from each other, I was putting in extra hours to fill as much product as we could find, on to the shelves.

When there were riots, I drove to work at 3am in fear, but got there to accept product, so it could go on shelves.

While a huge part of the country has sheltered at home, I still came and continue to come to work.

Now I am told I am not Essential, what if one of these new strains is immune to the vaccine? Will I be Essential again then?

I come in contact with hundreds of people a day and ensure they have access to their food and other essential needs. How am I not considered to be a "Public Facing Essential Worker"? I don't understand.

I ask you to reconsider your recommendation and prioritize all of the "Heroes", who have been working in these scary times to support our community.

Ann Fernan

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Yvonne Wu](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee, Phase 1B—please include grocery, transit, utilities, food processing, mail workers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:27:44 AM

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

Dear Members of the Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee of SDMAC,

I am a 39-year-old Assistant Professor at Beloit College in Southern Wisconsin. I had a mild case of covid in October.

I am writing actually to ask you to pull back on your plans to include educators in Group 1B. Of course I understand the need to re-open schools. Here is **my argument AGAINST including educators in Group 1B:**

If vaccinating Group 1B takes a few months, **then getting teachers back in the classrooms during the Spring semester is already a lost cause.** If the vaccine rollout continues to be hindered, it makes more logistical sense **to include educators in subsequent groups** so that we can be vaccinated over the **late spring and summer, in time for the Fall semester.**

Instead, I advocate that you include in Wisconsin's 1B **those essential workers who have kept our infrastructure functioning throughout the pandemic,** including, but not limited to the following:

- **Grocery workers**
- **Public transit workers**
- **Food processing workers (especially those meat-packing plants)**
- **Utilities workers**
- **USPS**

The above are people who have had to **physically** be at work all throughout the pandemic. If we value our essential workers, we need to show it now. The pandemic has **exacerbated the economic and racial disparities** in this country, and we cannot continue to penalize our hardest working and lowest paid laborers.

IF the Subcommittee thinks that vaccinations of Group 1B can be done relatively quickly, then I propose that you **prioritize K-12 educators over higher ed.** While higher ed is certainly suffering financially as an industry—I am painfully aware that my own college may not survive the next five years—educators in higher ed are able to **teach remotely.**

We need to honor those who have actually risked their lives for the last 10 months, those who have shown up in person day after day to keep the state running.

Thank you for opening your deliberation process to public comment. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Best regards,
Yvonne Wu



From: [Lea Daly](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: State of Wisconsin Phase 1b Vaccine Inclusions
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:25:40 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 grocery department head at the Madison West location of Woodman's Food Markets. I have been an employee for the entire duration of the pandemic, and during this time I have tried my hardest to provide the best customer service possible to members of the community... to ensure that anyone has access to the essential items they need during this constant state of unknown. I did this without once questioning my role in the community, even at the hardest points-- from seeing our shelves wiped DAILY because people were panicking in March to the past couple of months where cases and deaths were spiking to their highest point. (It is especially funny to me that Gov. Evers just extended his mask mandate, but the number of people in the 1b rollout has been reduced.)

This has been scary. My coworkers and I have not been able to shelter at home, away from others. We have still shown up to work, despite the fear that we would get sick. Back in May and June, we were determined to be essential workers, so we swallowed the fear, acknowledged the service that we provide to our community, and came to work full of pride that we were ESSENTIAL... even though that didn't come with any state-sanctioned hazard pay or protections. We have continued to work through all of this, even though we are growing weary, too.

Now, suddenly, we are no longer "public facing essential workers," according to the new plan. I can assure you we are indubitably public facing. The location where I work sees over 50,000 people PER WEEK. That's over 7,000 people PER DAY. So our exclusion must mean that we as grocery workers are no longer considered essential.

The past nine months of sacrifice and hard work has amounted to nothing. We are not a priority to receive a vaccine-- why? I truly wonder why. We have worked just as hard, and we have put up with just as much hardship as others, but with less support and respect. As a manager, employees look up to me. I see their fear and uncertainty. We all try to handle things as best as we can, but we've been pushed to the breaking point.

Let me tell you some specifics about our experiences during the pandemic--

During the beginning, we had extremely limited access to PPE. We had to figure it out. We were sold out of the masks we normally carry in our first aid aisle INSTANTLY, and then we couldn't get more. In order to ensure our employees had PPE, some of us started making masks for each other. This worked, but we handled this ON OUR OWN.

We started cleaning every surface constantly, but of course we did not have extra staff on hand to cover that extra work, and it's not exactly like people were jumping to work more hours

because they were (still are) scared. We hired a third party company to help with the extra work, so again we handled this ON OUR OWN.

We have not received any guidance or support or ANYTHING to help with enforcing the publicly required mask mandates and capacity limitations-- even though we would be held responsible if we did not enforce it-- so we have had to find solutions to this problem too, again ON OUR OWN. Luckily the store I work for is large enough that we have an easier time enforcing the capacity restrictions, but stopping every customer that comes into the store that isn't wearing a mask has been, and I do not say this intending to be dramatic, a nightmare. While "medical exemptions" were still allowed, customers without masks would get into your face about how it's wrong for us to ask them to wear a mask, and still others would approach and complain about how none of us were doing our job because there were people allowed to not wear a mask in the store. Once the medical exemption part was removed from the mandate, requiring EVERYONE to wear a face covering, anti-maskers only got more ornery. I have been spit on, grabbed, threatened, ridiculed, yelled at... Other coworkers have been hit or otherwise berated. We have put up with this because we all recognize that we are providing an important service, and we take pride in that. We have proudly been essential workers this entire time... until now.

We have gone out of our way to help customers get what they need-- typically we do special orders infrequently, but because most people don't want to spend much time in stores, more people have been calling asking for us to "please put aside this for me," "please can you order 10 cases of this for me," etc. This is an entirely inefficient way for us to sell product to customers, and even though it seems simple, it is incredibly inconvenient. However, one of the sincere feelings of appreciation I receive is from customers who we do this for. So, we continue to do it, even though it is much, much harder now.

In addition to that, as you may know, the amount of out of stock items is unprecedented. Most people are understanding, but there are the choice few who choose to get angry and take their frustration out on us because we cannot get the items they want. We have gone out of our way to make sure that we have SOMETHING to offer-- we always have some brand of paper towels or toilet paper, we have off brand disinfecting wipes... but this issue goes beyond that. Customers are looking for comfort right now, so when I have to tell them that I don't know when their favorite soda is coming back in stock because there is an aluminum shortage, they don't always take that well. When we are scrambling to get soup of any kind because all brands are experiencing shortages, we end up with a bunch of slower moving soup in our back room because that's what it takes to manage the time between items being available. These are just small examples of the nuances that we have to navigate during the COVID pandemic. On top of the rest of society being weird and foreign and uncomfortable, we also have our own headaches to deal with, too.

A lot has been asked of us, and I think that we have weathered things fairly well. However, being removed from the priority list for vaccination hits pretty hard. It is a slap in the face to all of the hard work that we've put in, and a mockery to all the sacrifices we have made to continue to offer our essential service to members in the community.

Please reconsider your recommendation and re-prioritize grocery workers in the COVID vaccine rollout. We are, and remain, essential workers.

Sincerely,

Lea Daly

From: [Jenn Fishman](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:25:37 AM

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

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.

Dr. Jenn Fishman
Associate Professor of English
Marquette University

From: [Ginnie Sherer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: rep.hintz@legis.wi.gov
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee-Phase 1 B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:23:51 AM

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

Good Morning,

I urge the vaccine subcommittee to include grocery store employees and volunteers at food banks in Phase 1B. These people are all on the front lines of the essential service to ensure that people are receiving food in a safe environment. They interact with the public, some who refuse to wear masks, and are exposed to hundreds of individuals in their employment. For those of us who have adhered to the “safer at home” policy, these employees have been the only individuals with whom we have had regular person to person contact. They are at great risk, thus putting others at risk too.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ginnie Sherer



From: [Ruth Schreiber](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:22:37 AM

Please vaccinate grocery workers immediately. They are exposed to large numbers of the general public and many people are not compliant with masking.

Thank you

Ruth Schreiber RN, MS

From: [Samantha Remsik](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: VACCINE SUBCOMMITTEE PHASE 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:22:06 AM

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

To whom it may concern,

Please ensure that grocery store workers are included in phase 1B as they are required to work with the public, which we know have not all been willing to do what it takes to keep them safe.

I myself am classified as high risk and an essential worker but have the ability to work from home and feel as though we owe it to the true frontline; grocery store workers included to vaccinate them first.

Thank you.

From: [Maira Donovan](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:20:18 AM

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

After reading the article in the Milwaukee Journal today I am feeling quite bewildered with the decision not to include grocery workers in the Phase 1b for the COVID-19 vaccine. I can't state it strongly enough how disconcerting it is to know that the people who basically risked their lives so many of the rest of the population could " shelter in place " are now not being considered for the shot during this phase. Where would ANY of us be if they stayed home these last 10 months? I understand that you have a difficult job of deciding who should have the opportunity to receive this vaccine but considering the fact that they put themselves in the " line of fire " every single time they go to their job, should certainly put them at the front of the line. I am a 60 y.o with health concerns but I have the luxury of keeping myself safe in my home and only venturing out when necessary while these grocery store employees do not! They should be moved to Phase 1b if there's any fairness at all in this process. Please do not forget the sacrifices that they made for us and continue to make. Sincerely, Maira Donovan

Sent from my iPad

From: [Michael Osthelder](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee, Phase 1B, grocery store workers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:19:18 AM

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

Dear Vaccine subcommittee,

We strongly urge that grocery store workers be INCLUDED in Phase 1B as originally indicated. We believe this should be based upon the exposure of the class and the vulnerability. As a cashier, our son has been and is now being exposed to a high volume of rebellious non-mask wearing people daily. These grocery workers are definitely essential workers who have no choice in whom they serve. It is their job.

Sincerely, Mike and Maria Osthelder

From: [Jessica Hoover](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Include Baking Industry in Phase 1B - Vaccine Subcommittee
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:18:17 AM
Attachments: Outlook-1516453911.png

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

Dear Wisconsin Vaccine Subcommittee,

It has been brought to our attention that the food industry has been overlooked for inclusion in Phase 1B of the Covid Vaccine. We agree with the CDC recommendations and support the distribution of vaccines in first phases to health care workers, seniors, medical first responders, etc.

However, the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has also recommended vaccine prioritization for the food and agriculture sector essential workers, which includes bakers. Our members have been operating on the front lines of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Since the start, they have worked tirelessly to protect their workers and keep production operational to provide Wisconsin families access to safe, nutritious, and wholesome baked goods.

We appreciate CDC's prioritization recommendations recognizing bakers in phase 1b and encourage Wisconsin's Vaccine Subcommittee to adopt this critical recommendation. The vaccine prioritization of the food and agriculture sector's essential workers is vital to ensure a safe, steady supply of food throughout the state.

Sincerely,
Jessica



From: [Mimi H](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee-phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:18:07 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 Covid vaccine recommendations. As a 67 year old retired registered nurse, I believe these essential workers on the front line need protection from Covid before I and other seniors do.
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Margaret A Herrick, RN, BSN, MBA

From: [Gayle Ihlenfeld](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine guidelines
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:14:49 AM

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

I am extremely disappointed that grocery store employees have been bumped from 1 B to 1 C! This is appalling! Grocery workers are absolutely essential- they have been risking their lives to provide us with food since the beginning of the pandemic. They obviously can't work from home! Please reverse this shortsighted decision and protect grocery workers like other essential workers! They deserve our thanks and our support!

I also ask that you reverse the equally shortsighted decision to raise the age requirement of 1 B from 65 to 70. The CDC, the president-elect and most of the nation recommend that people 65+ be included in 1 B. Let's protect all of our seniors and let's get this right, Wisconsin!

Thank you!

Gayle Ihlenfeld

From: [Lisa](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Distribution
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:12:09 AM

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

Please consider adding food manufacturing employees to the 1b group. These employees have been essential workers and working throughout the pandemic to ensure our food supply remains stable and available. Without the manufacturing of our food, there is no supply to go to grocery store or restaurants.

Thank you for your consideration of this dedicated and somewhat unsung hero group.

Lisa Cornell
Wisconsin Resident

Sent from my iPad

From: [Kyle Hart](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: 1B and Grocery workers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:03:11 AM

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

I have been a grocery worker for 9 years. during this pandemic I have been yelled at, mocked, ignored, and seen other grocery workers threatened over asking customers to wear masks properly. I have been unable to see my grandparents who have both had multiple bypasses this year and are not in a good way health-wise, because people refuse to listen to simple guidelines. And now after the indignities we have suffered at the hands of the public up to and including essential workers being shot over masks. After all that the government has the gall to say that we are not public-facing essential workers. How dare you presume to ignore the danger that we go through everyday. How dare you say that the people who have been keeping food on your shelves and toilet paper readily available as possible are suddenly unimportant. Grocery workers deserve vaccinations and we are public-facing essential workers. Fix the problem you created.

Kyla Hart (She/Her)

From: lhofensperger@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Lynn Hopfensperger](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Requesting inclusion of vaccines for frontline, essential hunger-relief workers in phase 1B of the Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory vaccine subcommittee recommendation
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:59:41 AM

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 Vaccine Subcommittee,

Thank you for your efforts to ensure efficient and equitable distribution of vaccines. It is incredibly important and necessary that the Phase 1B recommendation for the COVID-19 vaccine include hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers. These workers and volunteers are essential to continue the unprecedented distribution of food to those Wisconsinites experiencing hunger during the pandemic and economic crisis.

Hi guys, I know there are so many things in front of you right now. I think allowing vaccinations of our group that ensures that our families in the community especially our low wealth families have food on their tables, as many of them don't have paychecks in their accounts. Hope that you can make this happen. Thanks. Prioritization of hunger-relief frontline workers is imperative for the following reasons:

- Hunger-relief workers and volunteers are the critical force behind the wellbeing of the record number of Wisconsinites facing food insecurity. One in eight Wisconsinites, including one in five Wisconsin kids, don't know where their next meal is coming from. The hunger-relief network is mobilized like never before to meet this need. Our network is serving about 60% more individuals than last year. And Wisconsin's Feeding America member food banks and partners distributed about 90 million unprecedented pounds of food to those experiencing food insecurity from March to September of 2020, that is 25 million more pounds than was distributed in all of fiscal year 2019.
- The hunger-relief frontline workers and volunteers serve individuals in vulnerable health situations. People experiencing food insecurity have a disproportionately high rate of chronic health conditions that put people at higher risk of severe COVID-19 complications. This population frequently has less access to consistent quality health care and insurance. Also, 23% of households served has at least one senior and we know that age is a good indicator for risk of severe COVID-19 complications or death. People of color disproportionately experience food insecurity and are also known to be at greater risk of severe COVID-19 complications.
- It is our duty to ensure the safety of those being served. Individuals being served and in contact with hunger-relief frontline workers have few other options but to seek assistance from food pantries and meal sites do not have a way to mitigate their COVID-19 risk. They cannot avoid the interaction with staff and volunteers and rely on the organization to help meet basic needs and provide them with the meals they need to live.
- The hunger-relief network relies heavily on volunteers to fulfill the mission, many (37%) of these volunteers are seniors. An estimated 52 percent of food pantries and meal sites report having no paid staff. Among the 46 percent of agencies with paid staff, the median number of paid full-time equivalent staff members reported is four. As a result, if staff or volunteers were to test positive for COVID-19 and potentially require other staff or volunteers to quarantine, food distribution operations would be greatly impacted.

Collaboration between our hunger-relief organizations, public health, and those administering the vaccine will be essential to planning for equitable and efficient distribution, addressing concerns, educating about and adhering to appropriate protocols.

The COVID-19 vaccine is a critical step toward ensuring the safety and health of staff, volunteers, and those accessing food resources. It also ensures that food banks have the capacity to continue distributions at this unprecedented rate to feed Wisconsinites experiencing hunger. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lynn Hopfensperger



From: doug.haag@yahoo.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:57:19 AM

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

Folks,

I strongly believe the 60,000 grocer employees should be included in 1B vaccine shots. They have contact with the general public including older folks who need to eat and shop weekly.

Regards,
Doug Haag

 -

From: [Kristine Jensen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery workers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:53:05 AM

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

I am a 74 year old with an 81 year old companion. We would love our normal lives to resume but we are not essential to getting the country on track. Grocery store employees have provided the most necessary services outside of healthcare workers, police and first responders. We need to protect them and all School employees prior to vaccinating seniors who can afford to stay home. The elderly living in facilities, multigenerational households or crowded housing should also have priority. Our masked up trip to the grocery store is our essential weekly trip. Independent seniors can keep themselves safe. They can wait a little longer if necessary. We have witnessed some seniors entering local bars and restaurants where no Covid safe behaviors are being practiced. Grocery store workers deserve to be vaccinated. They have consistently provided service since the onset of the Pandemic.

Sincerely,
Kristine Jensen

Sent from my iPad

From: [Fred Heffling](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: "vaccine subcommittee" " Phase 1B"
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:50:44 AM

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

We object to the subcommittee's recommendation NOT to include grocery workers in the Phase 1B vaccination schedule. My Lord, these folks were at the forefront when the virus first started and ensured citizens could at least purchase food supplies! And they are still at the forefront grinding it out everyday.

My wife and I are 65 and 70 years old respectively and would gladly have these people receive the vaccine before us. We are former DHS employees and understand how the system works, the need to consider all groups and the difficulty of making these decisions. But not to include these workers is just wrong.

Thank you.

Fred and Cheryl Heffling

[REDACTED]

From: [Allie McDonald](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Grocery workers are essential and need the Covid-19 vaccination in group 1B!
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:43:04 AM

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To whom it may concern,

In the current recommendation , the categories are age related, congregate living staff and residents, and "public facing essential workers." I am concerned with this last category. Grocery workers have been removed from this category, although grocery stores have been determined to be essential business and up until now, grocery workers have been called essential workers until now.

The store I work at sees over 50,000 customers a week. Enforcing customers to wear masks while in the store has been a challenge-- as we all see, people wear masks incorrectly FREQUENTLY or refuse to wear them at all. When you confront a person for not wearing a mask, you do not know how they are going to respond. We have been yelled at, grabbed, threatened, spit on, and hit. All over attempting to enforce public mask policy (with no real guidance or assistance from public entities.) But grocery workers are no longer public facing essential workers??? Grocery stores are an essential service, providing food and other essential goods to individuals in our community.

We do not have the option to work from home, at times we have had poor access to PPE, and we still have come to work to provide for people. The past year has been scary and tiring for everyone, but trust me when I say its worse when you can't avoid coming into contact with thousands of people per day.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Barbara Holt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:38:05 AM

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

Dear Subcommittee:

Please include the grocery workers as essential and provide them with vaccines ahead of less-critical groups. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara J. Holt



From: [Nicole Sudhoff](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B PUBLIC COMMENT
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:36:39 AM

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

Hello, I am a resident of Madison, WI and I would like to register my public comment about phase 1B. In addition to my previous email about A PLAN for independent daycare providers, I would like to register my official request that GROCERY STORE EMPLOYEES be included in Phase 1B. These folks are Frontline workers, grocery stores remained open (and SHOULD CONTINUE) through the very most restrictive phases of the pandemic response. They have served the good people of Wisconsin and should be prioritized in the vaccine rollout.

Thank you for all the hard work you are doing.

Nicole Sudhoff
Madison, WI

From: [rick glamann](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:32:35 AM

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.

Thank you, Rick

Sincerely,
rick glamann



From: pjones@wi.rr.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:30:27 AM

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

After reading an article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, I am disappointed in the decision not to include grocery workers in phase 1B. These low paid workers have been considered essential workers throughout this pandemic but are now being placed with the general population. Due to their high contact with the public jobs they should be among those in the next round of vaccinations. They have sacrificed and should be rewarded with vaccine eligibility.

Thank you,
Patrick Jones
Milwaukee WI 53219

From: [Jason Lowery](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee and Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:29:28 AM

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

Hello,

I am writing to ask that you include the essential front line grocery store workers in Phase 1B of the covid vaccine. As someone who is included in the 1B vaccine and is teaching remotely, I would gladly step aside for my underpaid and overworked grocery store brothers and sisters. Please prioritize those who risk their lives day in and day out so that everyday people like you and me can feed ourselves and our families.

Kind regards,
Jay Lowery
Shorewood, WI

From: [Maitlyn Betts](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:14:43 AM

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

Good Morning Vaccine Subcommittee,

I am reaching out to you to advocate for grocery store workers to be readded to the phase 1B of the vaccine distribution.

As a grocery store worker we are all essential to the daily lives of all Wisconsinites as we must remain open for our fellow citizens to receive their food. While my store has made appropriate accommodations to protect us nothing is as protective as the vaccine. I know myself and my coworkers would feel much safer at work with the vaccine. I hope that you reconsider removing grocers from phase 1B so we can have added protection and continue to serve our community with the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Thank you,

Maitlyn Betts
Metcalf's Market Cashier

From: [Stewart Randall](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phrase B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:11:48 AM

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

Vaccine Subcommittee

You have to be kidding! A mink famer over a grocery clerk? It would be very funny if not so serious. Get the grocery available as soon as possible!

Stewart Randall
Delafield

From: [Judy Burnick](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccine public comment
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:09:21 AM

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

I think they should include seniors who are 70 or over, anyone working in a grocery store or business that was deemed essential during the pandemic and outreach to anyone who has been home bound because they are immune compromised. Essential workers who have are in low wage jobs have been at increased risk since the beginning. All of us depended on them and still do. They need to have a place at the front of the line.

I like the idea of mobile vaccine clinics where those who are afraid to go anywhere could be vaccinated without exposure to the general public. I think it would be great if they could go to places like Walmart, Target, Menards, etc, vaccinate employees and then offer it to others in the appropriate group. Make sure at least larger clinics have vaccine available so that when people make an appointment to see their doctor or have tests done they know that they will be getting the vaccine. The only exceptions should be valid medical reasons.

I think another rule that should be put in place eventually by the federal and state governments as well as stadiums etc. is that you cannot use public transportation or fly or attend large events unless you have been vaccinated. People should be issued a card or add a box on their driver's license to show that they have been vaccinated.

I am fed up with those who won't wear masks or follow the recommendations for Covid. They have hurt everyone and won't stop until it costs them if they don't comply.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Linda Wachowiak](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee and Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:07:20 AM

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

I ask that you please reconsider including grocery workers in the 1B vaccine group. They are a very important part of the food chain. What we would do without them to provide the availability of food for our families? They are definitely essential workers and should be protected.

I'm 69 years old and am looking forward to being vaccinated, but I don't face the public every day and will patiently wait my turn.

Please reconsider and include them in the 1B Phase. Thank you for your consideration,

Linda Wachowiak


From: [Yuri DeLoach](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: grocery workers
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:06:24 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image004.png

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

Hi,

I am the store manager of Woodmans on the west side of Madison. I was disappointed to hear that we were being pushed down the list for vaccinations. Our employees have been here every day for Madison and the surrounding area during this pandemic. We provide food and other essentials that everyone needs and expects to have access to during this time. It has been an extremely stressful time for our employees trying to not only adjust to the pandemic on a personal level, but also deal with how every person that walks through our doors feelings. We have tried to adjust our business to your standards and to our customers so that they may feel as safe as possible to get their essentials. Food, toilet paper, water, etc. are essential. Therefore the service we provide is essential. This store averages 7500 transactions per day, which means our employees are exposed to more potential cases than anybody else. Buying food is not a choice. I have customers that don't believe in Covid and try to enter without a mask. I have customers that use poor personal hygiene practices. I have customers that know they are sick or don't believe in or won't quarantine. We have difficult situations daily because people believe the mask mandate is political. I've had an incident where one of my employees collapsed and EMS asked if we could bring that patient outside to them because they didn't want to enter the store. Our employees are here to provide an essential service to the community and we have done so happily and proudly. But it is times like this that it feels like it is not appreciated that no matter what is going on, protests, riots, pandemic, political and social unrest, or just plain bad weather we are here. There are so many variables that we cannot control, that puts our safety in the hands of customers. The vaccination would at least give us some feeling that our safety was in our hands.

Thank you,

Yuri

Yuri DeLoach

Store Manager - #20
Woodman's Food Markets-Madison West, WI
Phone (608) 274-8944
Fax (608) 274-8884
yuri.deloach@woodmans-food.com

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [Joe Nolan](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:05:13 AM

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Vaccine subcommittee-

As a grocery store owner, I have seen first hand the stress and fear our employees have had as they serve the public.

Like healthcare workers, being in the frontline of an essential business means that everyday there is a significant risk of coming into contact with someone with Covid, and that stress has caused employees to be ever on edge, with many showing PTSD symptoms and depression.

Employees Turnover has also been unusually high as concern about contracting COVID-19 has caused many to look for other employment with less or no public engagement.

The idea of using vaccinations on our prison population before grocery workers who are putting their lives at risk on a daily basis is absolutely unconscionable. Prison guards, yes, prisoners no.

Please revisit placing grocery workers back into this next wave of vaccines for the health and welfare of not just our staff but our customers as well.

Thanks,
Joe Nolan
Good Harvest Market
Waukesha

From: [Susan Schall](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee/Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:59:59 AM

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Grocery store employees should absolutely be in Phase 1B!!!!!! I'm a pre-school teacher, but they have been out there on the front line for 10 months!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Susan Schall

Sent from my iPad

From: [Trevor James Iglinski](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public comment on phase 1B vaccine
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:59:58 AM

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Hello,

I believe grocery workers should be included in the essential worker category with regards to vaccine distribution plan. Food is essential and customers frequently do not wear masks, thus presenting a public health risk which could be mitigated with vaccines.

Thank you,
T. I.

From: [Jeffery Robbins](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:59:52 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.
My daughter is really counting on you.

Sincerely ,
Jeffery Robbins



From: teri@canterwineandspirits.com
To: DHS 3DMAC
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:56:57 AM

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

Good morning. Please reconsider and add grocery store and liquor store essential workers to Phase 1B. We have been on the front line throughout the whole pandemic. We have dealt with employees scared for their life but so dedicated and loyal to their work, they have showed up every day. We have taken all of the safety steps and followed all of the sanitation protocols and, of course, require face coverings of all staff and customers. We also offer our customers curbside pick up and as a small business, we are easily able to limit the number of people in our store at one time (unlike many big-box stores that seem packed most of the time). We are a small business taking all the right steps since mid-March when everything changed for us and the whole country/world. Please give us the opportunity to be vaccinated earlier, and in Phase 1B, as originally publicized as a possibility. We have been so excited and anxiously awaiting our turn. Please give us some peace of mind to get through this and reward our employees with this valuable opportunity to get in the queue earlier than later. I wonder if you put back-office people at health care organizations on hold until Phase 1C, you may have enough vaccine to fit us in.

Thank you for your consideration. And, thank you for the important work you are doing. I fully realize this is very difficult work.

Warm regards,

Teri Van Tassel
Canter Wine and Spirits, Co-Owner
1120 West Main St.
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
608-318-0595, store
608-695-4259, personal cell

http://secure-web.cisco.com/1v3HvHY79YUBGfQhg2jSR8h03dNTBEjwZK2DDvfBqNVxvbtfp6-mRGXbAkZC0EyKz3zB3wCMrJEQ40wqRCWimMhfi2siHnZjaws7d4qjCLzD6CCeK8kp4nnqK_0HpA5JJ2Cd0OUFAsDENBv8mTxYckXOGdoL5rSPzn3y0g8IJAbE7m0RifKJt6hjCntwFMbp9yapud5httHNBMRHMSn1mbp2M-ypTQX_GMdBQB1XcyFP6dAWIAdSKl-sR9Q4GMwT_Nn7l-ys_lg1FSfjcATWA/http%3A%2F%2Fwww.canterwineandspirits.com
<https://www.facebook.com/canterwineandspirits>

From: [Jeff Hebert](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine sub committee Phase 1b
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:55:13 AM

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

I urge you please to consider vaccinating grocery workers as part of phase 1b. We face countless customers all day some not even wearing masks as well as trying to get employees properly wearing them. I saw an associate struggling to perform her job unknowingly suffering from COVID and then hear she died the next morning as well as plenty of co workers being stricken as an example. Thank You! Jeff 18 year Kroger employee as I speak from many in our store.

Sent from my iPhone

From: 6083545178@mms.uscc.net
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:54:58 AM
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

I am writing to appeal to you to include grocery store workers in phase 1b of the covid vaccination schedule, as per federal guidelines. I am retired but due to financial reasons had to take a job at Walmart mainly in the grocery department where we are exposed to hundreds of customers daily, many of which think they have to remove their masks to talk or wear them as colorful chin straps. Then there are a few customers who don't wear any mask, I assume because they're claiming a medical reason. Those of us working there have an important medical reason for everyone's cooperation with mask wearing but also for receiving the covid vaccine asap. I don't understand why grocery store workers have been excluded from 1b. If we're not essential workers then perhaps the grocery stores should close their doors too.

I hope this is given serious consideration and that the only fair and right conclusion is reached.

Barbara Camarota

From: [Lucy Bloedorn](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:52:53 AM

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Dear Committee Member,

Please include grocery workers in tier 1b for vaccination. Since the beginning of the pandemic we have been served by these people on a daily basis. Please consider that trips to the grocery store are for some people the only places that they visit as older adults who are vulnerable are not going out to other venues. Thank you for reconsidering this move.

Sincerely ,
Lucy Bloedorn



From: [Mike Kornemann](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:49:11 AM

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

Please use common sense and include grocery workers deemed as essential for the past 9 months in the next vaccine phase!

They have stepped up and kept us all safe and fed.

Take care!
Mike Kornemann
Madison, WI

From: lzelm@charter.net
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:46:13 AM

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

Dear Committee Members,

As a resident of Washington County, WI I feel that it is very important to open Phase B to the 70 and over demographic group followed closely by the 65 and over group.

This is a very large and viable group that has a high risk of hospitalization and death but with vaccination could be more active in the community instead of largely being confined to home.

I also feel that it is important to include the Mink Husbandry workers in order to stem the spread of any mutation of the virus.

This group is not large but with vaccination could prevent a lot of dangerous variants reaching the general public.

Thank you for this consideration.

Lynn Zelm

From: [Krys Wachowiak](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee, Phase 1 B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:44:58 AM

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

Subcommittee Members,

I am emailing you today to advocate for including members of the food service industry in phase 1B of the COVID vaccine. For close to three decades I have been a part of the restaurant community and have weathered several economic downturns, but I can provide that this pandemic has had a far greater impact upon this industry than the combined effect of those previous events.

Current estimates anticipate closure rates of restaurants to be 65% by the end of the second quarter of 2021. The Department of Labor is showing that over 10 million restaurant employees are unemployed, but that number doesn't tell the whole story. Even though that number is staggering it doesn't account for the huge quantity of under-employed, or the unemployment that has not been filed for by individuals who utilized this industry to gain secondary income. In my own experience I have seen workforces cut by 50-60%, operating hours diminished by anywhere from 20-30%, and sales depressed between 50 – 70%.

The hospitality industry is disproportionately harmed by COVID in a couple of ways. The first, capacity restrictions and social distancing mandates are one very apparent piece. It is just harder to make money when you can have the efficiency of filling a space. But a second, less evident aspect is the significant financial impact that one person contracting COVID can have upon operations. In a situation where one employee tests positive there is the chance that an entire staff is forced to quarantine and operations suspended. In that event, a restaurant can sustain thousands of dollars' worth of product loss. This doesn't even consider the damage that a closure could do to consumer confidence in an establishment.

On a personnel level, workers have a far more difficult time in maintaining the prescribed social distance than other industries. Due to the nature of our business, we cannot perform our services though telework, nor can we schedule or staff in a way where they avoid contact with one another. The guest facing employees must interact with people who necessarily remove masks to eat and drink; and, culinary professionals are unable to space themselves far enough apart when the footprint of kitchens are minimized to create efficiency and maximize guest seating area.

The benefits to getting service professionals vaccinated quickly is not just limited to rebuilding these businesses alone. Restaurants have a huge multiplier effect on the economy. They utilize products from thousands of purveyors across hundreds of industries. When guests recognize that the individuals serving them have been prioritized for inoculation, it will rebuild the confidence in this industry, which will in turn facilitate rebounds for others. Additionally, providing a vaccine to service professionals benefits the general population, as the possible outward spread of COVID from

workers in this industry will be diminished.

I thank you for taking the time to consider my remarks and welcome any questions that you may have for me.

Sincerely,

Krys Wachowiak
Managing Partner
(608) 345.4371

~~~~~

Food Fight Restaurant Group  
5111 Monona Drive  
Monona, WI 53716

**From:** [Michael Doyle](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** vaccine subcommittee phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:44:04 AM

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

I'm writing to encourage the Vaccine Subcommittee of the State Medical Disaster Advisory Committee to place grocery store workers in phase 1B of the vaccine rollout in Wisconsin. These employees have been rightly deemed as essential workers. They have worked tirelessly during the past year and placed their health and safety on the line on a regular basis. They were working the front lines before many of the safety protocols that we now take for granted were fully in place.

Do the right thing and place these employees in phase 1B of the vaccine rollout in Wisconsin.

Michael Doyle  
Milwaukee, Wis.

**From:** [tomlynnplaczkowski@att.net](mailto:tomlynnplaczkowski@att.net)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine subcommittee Phase1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:39:56 AM

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

I would like to comment on the recommendations for who should be included in an early phase of COVID-19 vaccine administration. I am a pharmacist who works at a retail pharmacy in a grocery store and I would like to see grocery store employees be included in an early phase of vaccine administration. These essential employees have been extremely dedicated in doing their jobs for the community and have worked hard to safely keep the grocery stores open to serve their customers and, to this day, continue to deal with large crowds of customers. Grocery store employees have been considered essential workers since the beginning of the pandemic and to not consider them essential enough to be one of the first eligible to receive the vaccine undermines the danger they are continuously put in and all of the work they have done to support their community.

Lynn Placzkowski

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [brice3057@charter.net](mailto:brice3057@charter.net)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1b  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:33:15 AM

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

To subcommittee members: Please include grocery store workers in Phase 1b. They are essential workers who stayed on the job while the rest of us were safe at home. They also have considerable exposure to the public.

Thanks for your diligent work in trying to control this public health emergency.

Becky Rice  
Fitchburg WI

**From:** [Richard Trageser](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:29:03 AM

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**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. The Food Industry worker has been frontline and Food Distribution is essential to all. This is without question.

Sincerely ,  
Richard Trageser



**From:** [Mike Wahlen](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Public comments re: next phase of vaccines  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:27:28 AM

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

I urge you to strongly consider including grocery store workers in phase 1b of the vaccine implementation. I am a healthcare worker and during stay-at-home orders, one of the only other workers that was working during that time, and since, was grocery store workers. Food stores never shut down, and these people are exposed to the virus throughout their workday, coming into contact with hundreds of people every day as they cashier, restock shelves and assist customers. They should definitely be offered vaccinations in the next phase.

Sincerely,

Stephanie J. Wahlen



**From:** [Christopher Curry](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:25:11 AM

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**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. I've worked in fear for months that I could bring this home to my at risk fiancée and my mother that I have been bringing Groceries to since this started. Please help us.

Sincerely ,  
Christopher Curry



**From:** [Emily Robbins](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:18:17 AM

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

Dear Committee Member,

I work at a market in Beloit, WI called Bushel and Peck's; we make canned goods like jams and hot sauces while also selling local produce and goods to the public. I am writing to ask for your re-consideration of those in the grocery industry as you prioritize populations for COVID-19 vaccinations. It would make our staff feel safer while supporting our local community. Thank you for being open to communication and taking the time to read. All of us grocery store workers would appreciate your support and actions. Thanks again for your time and energy! Much love and peace to your community and families.

Sincerely ,  
Emily Robbins



**From:** [Deborah Conta](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee/Phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:17:08 AM

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

I offer my support for grocery store workers to receive the Covid vaccine in Phase 1B. I am 73, in good health, and I rarely venture into the public. I am happy to wait my turn and give my place in line to essential workers, including grocery store employees.

Deborah Gardner Conta

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Scott M. Plantz](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:14:34 AM

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

How are you not considering grocery workers for phase 1b? They have more face to face contact with the public than teachers do, and could infect a much larger group. They were considered imperative during the lockdown, even teachers were sent home. Grocery workers interact with sensitive populations multiple times per day and have to be in close contact with people to do their jobs. Even the CDC is recommending that grocery workers are in phase 1b, but this committee knows better?

Scott M. Plantz

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Mark Ball](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Covid  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:09:18 AM

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

We as Grocery Employees are definitely essential. As we should be for the next round. Please take this in too account. If you don't feel I'm write i bet if we can't show up too work your thoughts would change

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)



**From:** [Brad Brayshaw](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:04:29 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 work with thousands of customers everyday. It would be shameful and harmful not to include these workers in phase 1b

Sincerely ,  
Brad Brayshaw



**From:** [MR Taylor](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** vaccine subcommittee phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 8:56:47 AM

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Good morning,

I am writing in support of grocery store workers being included in phase 1B of the vaccine roll out. Our grocery store workers have been on the front line of the pandemic since Day 1 and I am so incredibly thankful for their service. Please make sure that all grocery store workers have access to being vaccinated as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Mary Schubert  
Brookfield, WI resident