

**From:** [Laura](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Veterinarians & Veterinary Staff for 1B  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:27:10 AM

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Hello,

My name is Dr Laura Purdy, I am a veterinarian that provides in home care for pets at end of life and transport of deceased pets if they have passed away at home for cremation. I am writing to you to advocate that veterinarians be considered for phase 1B of your vaccination program.

Earlier last year, veterinarians were considered essential workers due to the service they provide for animal health and public health. I and my team have continued to visit the homes of people in our community to provide euthanasia and transport the pets for cremation throughout the spring, summer, fall, and now winter wearing protective gear and taking all recommended public health precautions. We have helped many human pet owners who are elderly or immunocompromised be able to keep themselves more safe at home.

This pandemic has created a bit of an overwhelming supply and demand problem for veterinary services-- adoption of pets is at an all time high and therefore so is interest in veterinary care. Our veterinary teams throughout the state are at a level of unprecedented busyness and any exposure, illness, and/or quarantine can prove devastating when it comes to keeping up with the medical care needs of animals in their areas.

I ask you to consider us once again essential workers who bear a significant burden of exposure while providing our very necessary services to our communities. Thank you for all you in public health are doing to manage what I am sure is an extremely difficult task.

Sincerely,  
Laura Purdy, DVM  
[www.journeypet.com](http://www.journeypet.com)

**From:**

[Ed Susmlich](#)  
[DHS.SDMAC](#)

**To:**  
**Subject:** Public Comment Re: 1b Recommendations

**Date:**

Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:26:32 AM

To Whom It May Concern;

Your recent recommendations are to be commended.

One group that is conspicuously missing are veterinarians and their staff.

Veterinarians are part of the public health apparatus. They provide a front-line defense against zoonotic disease, including the transmission of COVID-19 between animals and humans.

Additionally, they improve the human-animal bond. As we encourage people to maintain social distancing and semi-isolation, this bond provides real benefit for people's mental health. Without veterinarians, this bond starts to break down as pets become sick.

Furthermore, they are part of the food supply chain. Veterinarians are integral in keeping the beef, dairy, and pork industry healthy. Without veterinarians, meat inspection and farm health deteriorates quickly.

By the very nature of our job, veterinarians and their staff MUST work within 6 ft of each other. Holding an animal for vaccinations, examinations, and diagnostics require staff to work within inches of each other, not feet. We know that masking has helped, but is not 100%.

I submit as a recommendation to include veterinarians and their staff in group 1b. We are part of the healthcare system that few people realize the impact we have AND we can not social distance while performing our services.

Thank you,  
Ed



Edward Susmlich, DVM

**Prairie Side Veterinary Hospital**

Kenosha, WI 262-694-0402

**Franksville Veterinary Clinic**

Franksville, WI 262-886-0333

**Prairie Side Veterinary Hospital**

Mount Pleasant, WI 262-633-5747

**Delavan Animal Clinic**

Delavan, WI 262-728-3303

**From:** [Alicia Sibley](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Please include veterinarians in Phase 1b  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:21:33 AM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I write to you as an Emergency Veterinarian in Dane County requesting that my staff and colleagues be added to the Phase 1b list. I have served our community for the past 15 years in a very difficult role as an ER Vet. Through holidays, weekends, and overnights, the ER team is here for some of our most beloved family members. Never has this been more true than over the past 10 months when most people have been isolating and their pets are their only companions.

As a veterinary team, we are often forced to work very closely with another person to help restrain an animal while the other draws blood or places a catheter. My support staff have to run out to cars to quickly bring patients into the building (often with owners in a panic and sometime forgetting to wear a mask or distance). We perform humane euthanasia with owners present and as they cry and sniffle all over their pet, I make sure to check that my mask, shield, and gloves are intact. We put ourselves at risk everyday to take care of important furry family members. We deserve to be protected.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), "Phase I-B includes people who play key roles in keeping essential functions of society running and cannot socially distance in the workplace, and those who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness. ... it's possible that many veterinarians and teams could be accommodated in Phase I-B."

Please include veterinarians and veterinary staff in the Phase 1b vaccination schedule.

Sincerely,  
Alicia Sibley, DVM  
VCA Veterinary Emergency Service  
1612 N High Point Rd  
Middleton, WI 53562  
(608)831-1101

**From:** [Elana Frankenthal](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Veterinarians covid vaccine phase 1b  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:29:59 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I wanted to add reach out to ask that veterinarians and vet staff be included along with the Health Care workers in Phase 1b. Veterinarians were deemed essential when Covid first hit the US:

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Veterinary Examining Board recognize that veterinary services are essential to animal and public health and, in some communities, the closure of a clinic or the quarantine of a solo practitioner can leave a community without veterinary services.

While we are following the Recommend Best Practices for Wisconsin Veterinary Clinics, we are still seeing an increased number of staff at veterinary clinics testing positive for COVID-19 or being exposed to a person with the virus. This can have a disastrous impact on a clinic and a community if one ill staff member results in asking all employees to self quarantine due to exposure.

While performing procedures on patients, we must be closer than 6' and despite wearing masks and practicing appropriate hygiene, our employees and colleagues are still getting sick.

There are other US states who are including veterinarians and staff in the early phases of vaccination, and we would appreciate it if you'd consider the same for Wisconsin.

Thank you for your consideration,

Elana Frankenthal, DVM, MBA

**From:** [Jillian Lucito](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 1b Vaccinations for Veterinary Staff  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 5:34:43 PM

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Hi there,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Jillian Lucito and I am a veterinary assistant at VCA Veterinary Emergency Services in Madison, WI. Veterinary services have been deemed an essential work in the state of Wisconsin and our hospital has continued to be open during the heights of the pandemic.

As the phase 1b eligible groups were announced, I noticed that veterinary staff are not included. I am writing to you to express the importance of the inclusion of us in this group. When retrieving pets from the cars of our clients, many clients do not understand the importance of wearing masks correctly and staying distant. Clients also come inside our hospital for euthanasia of their pets. As pets can also be fomites of the virus, this makes our risk of infection even higher. The vaccine would keep our staff safe and ensure the high quality of care that we can give the pets of Madison that we all love.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of allowing us to be included in phase 1b, and for taking the time to hear my concerns. I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,  
Jillian Lucito

**From:** [Sarah Rogers](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Veterinary Staff are essential  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 2:41:05 PM

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Dear WDH,

It has been brought to my attention that Veterinarians and Veterinary staff are not being considered essential for access to the COVID vaccine in phase 1b. I hope for you to strongly reconsider. In my role as Office Manager for one of the largest Emergency Veterinary Practices and over a decade of experience in the field I've witnessed an overwhelming increase in cases since the pandemic started. Our Hospital operated at full capacity for most of the year, our staff have experienced unique challenges and demands in both the ability to provide care to our furry family members as well as interact daily and on a repeat basis with the public in facilitating this care, making medical decisions and assisting clients in being able to be present when they need to say a permanent goodbye to their beloved pet.

We are open 24/7 365 days a year. We are often in close contact with clients and have diligently abided by health recommendations religiously to keep ourselves, our team and our families safe all while prioritizing the wellbeing of a much deserving and critical animal.

I could go on with endless examples and evidence to support our field. Our patients, though furry, come with a human at the other end of the leash. In order to remain safe and continue to provide this essential animal medical service we need to have access to the tools that will help us do so and keep us safe.

Please please reconsider.

Best Regards,

Sarah Rogers

**From:** [S Sibley](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC; Alicia](#)  
**Subject:** Please include veterinarians and veterinary hospital staff in Phase 1b  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 1:39:43 PM

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Hello,

██████████ is an emergency veterinarian who, throughout the pandemic, has worked long hours in close proximity with fellow employees (vets, veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants, and "front desk" customer service representatives). While these individuals have attempted to limit contact with pet owners, this is sometimes impractical or impossible. For example, euthanasias, which are sadly a significant portion of a veterinarian's daily workload, are still conducted in small, private exam rooms with owners present. Especially in these cases, where emotions are high, the importance of wearing masks and maintaining social distance are often afterthoughts. Furthermore, veterinarians treat cats, a species with a) known susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 infection, and b) the capacity to transmit the virus. As pointed out in August in the New England Journal of Medicine, "...there is a public health need to recognize and further investigate the potential chain of human–cat–human transmission." (N Engl J Med 2020; 383:592-594; <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejmc2013400>). For these reasons and more, please include veterinarians and veterinary hospital staff in Phase 1b of vaccination distribution.

Thank you for your work, time, and consideration.

Best regards,

Sam Sibley

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██████████  
██████████

**From:** [Lara Day](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment phase 1b  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:55:57 AM

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Hi,

I wanted to add that Veterinarians and vet staff should be included along with the Health Care workers in Phase 1b. Veterinarians were deemed Essential:

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Veterinary Examining Board recognize that veterinary services are essential to animal and public health and, in some communities, the closure of a clinic or the quarantine of a solo practitioner can leave a community without veterinary services.

While we are following the Recommend Best Practices for Wisconsin Veterinary Clinics, we are still seeing an increased number of staff at veterinary clinics testing positive for COVID-19 or being exposed to a person with the virus. This can have a disastrous impact on a clinic and a community if one ill staff member results in asking all employees to self quarantine due to exposure.

While performing procedures on patients, we must be closer than 6' and despite wearing masks and practicing appropriate hygiene, our employees and colleagues are still getting sick.

Thank you for considering my comments,

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Lara K Day, DVM CVA CVCHM CCRP  
HEAL Integrative Veterinary Center  
[www.heal-veterinary.com](http://www.heal-veterinary.com)  
608-719-2771



**From:** [Kim Banach](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Essential Workers vaccine??  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 11:26:10 AM

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Greetings,

I am the Executive Director of the Wildlife In Need Center. We provide wildlife rehabilitation to an average of 3,000 wildlife patients annually.

I wanted to reach out and enquire about essential workers receiving the vaccine - and if you have any information on how to obtain the vaccine for our staff of 7-12 people when it becomes available. Is there a specific group or person I should contact?

Below is what Wisconsin Wildlife Rehabilitation Association shared regarding essential workers.

Thank you so much for your time! Happy 2021!

*"We appreciate the quick advancement of a COVID-19 vaccine to the public and to our important first responders.*

*Wisconsin Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (WWRA) requests that wildlife rehabilitators continue to be considered essential workers and therefore be considered to receive the COVID-19 vaccination as a higher priority group, similarly to veterinarians, for the following reasons:*

- 1. Wildlife rehabilitators work directly with the public, putting them at risk with a higher potential rate of exposure to COVID-19.*
- 2. Wildlife rehabilitators are a vital resource for animal control officers, first responders, and public health officers by providing the public service of helping to address wildlife concerns and resolve human-wildlife conflicts.*
- 3. Wildlife rehabilitators are needed to provide humane services for wildlife and the people who encounter those animals; being vaccinated will facilitate the care of Wisconsin's wildlife and resources, and the people who value those resources.*
- 4. Wildlife rehabilitators are a small group of animal care professionals, who provide a significant resource and service to the state of Wisconsin. Rehabilitation service limitations and temporary facility closures in 2020 due to COVID-19 complications significantly disrupted services provided to Wisconsin residents and wildlife.*

*We hope you will consider it a priority that wildlife rehabilitators receive the vaccine as they are members of a small, but vital, professional community dedicated to providing humane services for Wisconsin's wildlife, as well as protecting human and animal health.*

*We acknowledge how complex this decision is and we greatly appreciate your time and consideration regarding this matter. Thank you and stay safe."*

Thank you for your time! Please let me know if you have any questions.

--

Kim Banach (cell) 414-702-6185  
Executive Director  
Wildlife In Need Center  
W349 S1480 S. Waterville Rd  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
262-965-3090  
fax 262-965-3098  
[www.helpingwildlife.org](http://www.helpingwildlife.org)

The Wildlife In Need Center: Connecting people and wildlife through  
rehabilitation, education, and research since 1994





# Fellow Mortals<sup>TM</sup>, Inc.

Wildlife Hospital

*"...I'm truly sorry man's dominion has broken nature's social union, an' justifies that ill opinion which makes thee startle at me, thy poor, earth-born companion, an' fellow mortal..."*  
-Robert Burns, 1785

January 15, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY TO [DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

**RE: Wildlife rehabilitators - Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan**

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

My name is Aimee Sosenko. I am a wildlife rehabilitator licensed by Wisconsin DNR, employed by Fellow Mortals Wildlife Hospital, Lake Geneva, WI. I have been a licensed wildlife rehabilitator since 2014.

Fellow Mortals has treated 60,000 animals brought to us by the public since its organization as a non-profit in 1985. In 2020, Fellow Mortals admitted 2000 animals from 123 communities across the state.

I am writing to ask you to include wildlife rehabilitation professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Wildlife rehabilitators are a small but important group of individuals who provide care for injured and orphaned wildlife brought into care by the public. Given the nature of this pandemic, research on transmissibility of this virus to animals has been limited to date. In the interest of preventing a potential reservoir of this virus in the wild I think it is imperative that this group of individuals be included for the benefit of the public, and the wild resources of the state.

Thank you for considering this request.

Aimee Sosenko  
Fellow Mortals Wildlife Hospital, Lake Geneva, WI

January 14, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY TO [DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: **Wildlife rehabilitators – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan**

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

My name is Dr. Amanda Falch and I am from Sun Prairie Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian who assists at a wildlife rehabilitation facility. I am writing to ask you to include wildlife rehabilitation professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

This is a small group of individuals who provides care for native wildlife in our state. Given the nature of this pandemic, research on transmissibility of this virus to animals has been limited to date. In the interest of preventing a potential [REDACTED] I [REDACTED] included for the benefit of all the public, just as mink farmers have been.

Thank you for considering this request.

Amanda Falch, DVM, CCRT

[REDACTED]

01/15/2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

**RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan**

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

My name is Angela Borchers and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian and veterinary educator, working for the University of Wisconsin, Veterinary Teaching Hospital. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have continued to work in the veterinary profession as an essential worker. During work, I am exposed to many clients and coworkers on a daily basis. Additionally, I teach veterinary students in a laboratory setting. Teaching exposes me directly to > 50 students in an enclosed room [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] from working remotely. While other businesses have suffered from a decreased workload during the pandemic, veterinary medicine has experienced the opposite. Our caseload has doubled with less available workers due to the pandemic. Because of this, many hospitals are unable to provide veterinary care to clients and public health in a timely fashion. Animals that need urgent care cannot be treated as readily as they should, some hospitals had to close their receiving services for above reasons. This is unacceptable for the pet owners, the animals, public health and the veterinary profession. Considering the active role that veterinary medicine plays in ONE HEALTH, protecting public and animal health as well as in surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 in non-human animals, I am very surprised and disappointed that we are not included in the vaccination plan. For above reasons, I urge you to include the veterinary profession into phase 1b vaccination plan.

[REDACTED] considering this request.

Angela Borchers, DVM, DACVECC, DACVIM

January 15, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY TO [DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: **Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan**

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

My name is Elizabeth Holt, and I am from Oshkosh, Wisconsin. I am a small animal veterinarian. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I work at Veterinary Clinic Berlin in Berlin, Wisconsin. We are a mixed animal practice with 2 full time small animal doctors, 2 mixed animal doctors and 2 full time large animal doctors. Our practice services a wide area of rural Wisconsin with clients traveling sometimes 45 minutes to seek services and care. For most of our clients, it is inconvenient for them to travel to an emergency facility should our [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] extremely busy. Most days our appointment times are full, and we are struggling where to put our clients. For those that do seek emergency services, these facilities are also overwhelmed as clinics navigate this pandemic. Further, we have numerous patients that have life-long diseases we are managing. If our clinic were to shut down for any length of time, then these patients would lose continuity of care and be unable to fill prescriptions. For small animal clients and patients, there are emergency clinics. These clinics are at least 1-3 hours away. For some of our clients who are elderly, this is almost impossible. For the large animal clients and patients, they are not able to easily load their pets into vehicles/trailers and take them to an emergency clinic. Thus, it is vital we be included in the next wave of Covid-19 vaccines. We provide an invaluable service to our community, and shuttering our clinic due to a Covid-19 outbreak would dramatically affect our community.

[REDACTED] considering this request.

Elizabeth Holt, DVM  
Veterinary Clinic Berlin  
Berlin, WI



Rebecca L. Stepien DVM, MS, DACVIM (Cardiology)

14 January 2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

[DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

**RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan**


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

My name is Rebecca Stepien and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian in an academic practice. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

In my position as a veterinary specialist (cardiologist) at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine, I care for companion animals, including horses, and food/fiber animals. Acute illness in these veterinary species requires that our clinic be open and seeing patients despite the risk of COVID-19 infections in the public-facing community. In addition, we teach veterinary students (a four year program) daily, and this teaching requires face-to-face clinical teaching as well as in-person laboratory experiences in animal handling, medicine and surgery. Although our didactic teaching has been converted to online experiences, close contact with students as we teach and care for patients in the clinics and teach in necessary laboratories is unavoidable. Although we are careful to follow all rules regarding masks, social distancing and hand-washing, care of these often critically-ill animals requires in-person management in small spaces.

As **veterinarians and teachers**, we recognize that our work is necessary despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; not only are we “essential” workers, but we are also healthcare workers, and this will not change in 2021. *I respectfully request that the status of veterinarians and veterinary personnel be designated as 1b, for the purposes of COVID-19 vaccination.*

Thank you for considering this request.

  
Rebecca L. Stepien DVM, MS, DACVIM (Cardiology)  
University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine  
UW Veterinary Care  
Madison, WI

1/15/2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

**RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan**

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

My name is Courtney Buser and I am from Stoughton, Wisconsin. I am a veterinary student, veterinary receptionist, and veterinary assistant. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

As you probably know, veterinary clinics have been considered as essential business during the COVID pandemic in the state of Wisconsin. For many businesses, the effects of COVID have slowed down business to the point of letting go of employees or shutting their doors permanently. For veterinary medicine, the impact has been the complete opposite. There isn't enough time in the day to accommodate the daily onslaught of calls that come in from people who have a wide variety of needs. Some have been experiencing or to buy a new puppy/kitten. Others may have had their main clinic close temporarily due to an outbreak, or cannot accommodate them in a timely manner so they are calling around hoping for someone, anyone to see their pet. This is all on top of normal annual visits recommended for dogs and cats of established clients and unforeseeable emergencies, and the veterinary profession is overwhelmed.

The clinic I work at has 3 locations north of Madison and a very large client base. The limitations we enforce vary based on location. At our largest and main location, we have the least amount of restrictions but are still only allowing 1 person to attend their animal's visit and only 2 people to attend pet euthanasias. At our other 2, smaller locations, we limit to one person in the lobby at any given time in addition to only 1 person only in the room and 2 for euthanasia. This creates a host of issues for families, especially those with people with special needs that need to have adult accompaniment, and those who are saying goodbye to their beloved pet but have to make the heartbreaking decision on who gets to be present. This puts a significant strain on our clients as well as the veterinary staff. We exist to help these people and their pets, but these decisions we have to make to keep everyone safe ultimately create traumatic experiences for the staff and clients in many circumstances.

No matter how stringent our policies are, we and all veterinary professionals are still faced with unavoidable situations that bring us in close contact with people, risking our exposure



from our clients and risking our clients being exposed to us. From the veterinary receptionists to the veterinarians, every staff member comes in close contact with clients and each other and risks COVID transmission. While our 2 smaller clinics are used for routine appointments and are not able to accommodate emergencies, our main location is much larger and does accommodate for several emergencies during our 24 hour emergency service. Oftentimes, these emergencies come to us as new clients from north of our location, far from Madison where the UW Veterinary Care hospital is located. These people rely on us to save their animals when a trip to Madison cannot be done, whether it be for time, money, or other reasons. If we were to have a COVID outbreak in our main hospital, hundreds, if not even into the thousands, of clients would be left without accessible veterinary care. This goes for clients with dogs and cats as well as farm clients, as we also service a large area of equine and livestock patients.

I ask today that you consider veterinary professionals be included in Phase 1B Vaccination Plan. Veterinarians and other veterinary staff serve several, very important roles in society including but not limited to pet medicine, farm animal medicine, food safety, and research. As essential employees that have been on the front lines of animal health during the pandemic of a zoonotic virus, it seems only logical that they receive vaccinations in a timely manner.

Thank you for considering this request.

Courtney Buser

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

January 14, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY TO [DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

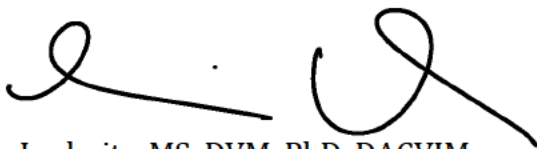
RE: **Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan**

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

My name is Erin Lashnits and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian at UW Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, and I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

We have been open and providing an essential service to the state throughout this pandemic, at significant risk to ourselves and our clients despite our best efforts at non-pharmaceutical interventions to prevent transmission. I am working in the clinic approximately two weeks out of each month, often in close proximity to students, veterinary nurses, and other veterinarians in order to provide essential healthcare services to pets, and uninterrupted teaching and training to our students and post-graduate trainees.

Thank you for considering this request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Lashnits', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Erin Lashnits, MS, DVM, PhD, DACVIM  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Small Animal Internal Medicine  
University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine  
lashnits@wisc.edu | 608.265.5800



January 17, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY TO [DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: **Wildlife rehabilitators – Phase 2b COVID Vaccination Plan**

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

My name is **Dianne Moller** and I am from **Whitewater, Wisconsin**. I am a wildlife rehabilitator and owner of Hoo's Woods Raptor Center, where we rehabilitate around **200** raptors per year. I am writing to ask you to include wildlife rehabilitation professionals in Phase 2b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I am also a licensed raptor educator and provide over 130 raptor education programs in schools, libraries, senior centers and community events. We are invited by many teachers environmental education programs to many students. I am requesting wildlife educators be included in Phase 2b of the Covid Vaccination Plan.

Wildlife rehabilitators are a small group of licensed individuals who provide care for native wildlife in our state. Given the nature of this pandemic, research on the transmissibility of this virus to animals has been limited to date. In the interest of preventing a potential reservoir of this virus in the wild I hope this group of individuals will be included for the benefit of all the public, just as mink farmers have been.

Thank you for considering this request.

*Dianne Moller*

**Dianne Moller**  
**Executive Director**  
**Hoo's Woods Raptor Center**

[www.hooswoods.org](http://www.hooswoods.org)

Hoo's Woods Raptor Center - PO Box 21- Milton, WI 53563

[falco5@ticon.net](mailto:falco5@ticon.net)

608-883-2795



January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY TO [DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: **Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan**

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

My name is Freya Mowat and I am from Madison Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I work in the busy University of Wisconsin-Madison Veterinary Hospital. I have a joint appointment (as a researcher) in the School of Medicine and Public Health and have observed many of my medical school colleagues with less human contact than me be vaccinated. In the crowded veterinary clinic, we interact with clients (in as socially distant manner as possible) and colleagues (impossible to socially distance) while providing an essential service to members of the public in the State of Wisconsin. We have a duty of care to our patients and put ourselves at risk in the workplace in order to provide this service. Our practice has been busier now than ever as persons pay close attention to the health of their beloved pets (family members) during this human health crisis. I implore you to include veterinarians in this plan, as other states such as California, Florida and Washington have done.

Thank you for considering this request.

Freya Mowat BVSc. Ph.D MRCVS

Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison

January 14, 2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services  
DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

**RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan**

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

My name is Heather Roney, I am a veterinarian in Fredonia, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask you to include veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I work for a mixed animal practice, so in addition to caring for pets, we also see large animals including horses and food production species. We provide care on a routine basis as well as a significant portion of our work on an urgent/emergent basis. For the past year we have been adjusting our practices to keep our staff safe so we can continue to serve our rural community. It has been challenging to see an ever-increasing caseload, while limiting our exposure risk as I acknowledge it has been for everyone this past year. I am proud of how our staff has continued to provide high quality medicine, while setting an example for our community on public health issues such as this pandemic. However, we are still a small business, and our resources for alleviating staffing shortages are limited. Our patients' care cannot wait. Access to vaccination for our veterinarians and staff would help us keep our doors open so we can continue to fulfill our obligations to our clients and patients.

I look forward to a future where vaccine production can meet the needs of our entire community and protect Wisconsinites from this potentially deadly disease. Veterinarians have been included with 1b, and in some states 1a, vaccinations plans. I strongly urge you to explicitly include veterinary staff, as the health care professionals we are, in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Warm regards,  
[REDACTED]

Heather E. Roney, DVM  
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