

From: [Little, Amanda](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Support for draft 1B recommendations
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:52:10 PM

Dear DMAC,

Thank you for including post-secondary educators that are face-to-face with students in your recommendations for phase 1B. I teach laboratories in biology at UW-Stout. Many of our students are first generation students who do not do well in online environments and I teach them in-person labs because that is the only way that they will learn the necessary skills for their degrees. I have no choice but to get close to them to help them with microscopes or teach them pipetting. I am also 43, pregnant and terrified that I will get COVID from one of our many students who will inevitably get it this semester. Thank you for considering us in your 1B recommendations.

Sincerely,
Dr. Amanda Little

	<p>AMANDA LITTLE <i>Professor of Biology</i> <i>Program Director, Environmental Science</i></p> <p>715.232.1148 office little@uwstout.edu</p> <p>331G Jarvis Hall Science Wing Menomonie, WI 54751</p> <p>University of Wisconsin-Stout Wisconsin's Polytechnic University http://www.uwstout.edu</p>
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From: [Debi McIntyre](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Educators must be in Covid Vaccine group 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:16:59 PM

All educators working in K-12 buildings must be in the group 1B and a priority to get the vaccine ASAP.

We should be a priority, we are putting ourselves at risk daily by being exposed to children that could be asymptomatic.

I work as a Teacher's Assistant in a kindergarten class with 31 students in person 5 days a week since September 1st. I also suffer from asthma which puts me in a high risk category but I have been at my job working with the kids in my class everyday since Sept 1st. I have already been quarantined 2xs due to classroom exposures. I have been fortunate to not have gotten Covid but other teachers and staff in our building have gotten Covid and have been very sick. Please allow us to be in the Phase 1B and protect ourselves while educating the future of this state.

Please help keep all educators and staff safe by allowing us to be in phase 1B and get priority for the vaccine.

Thank you!

Debi McIntyre

From: [Judy Stangel](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B Public Comment
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:15:00 PM

I agree it is important to immunize school staff so we can get schools open and people back to work! We realized just how important schools were when they went virtual last year. Many students need to be in school.

I also agree with the other recommendations in phase 1B.

I think that if a person has two of the 1B criteria, they should be moved up.

The elderly who live in their own homes, especially those over the age of 85 should be included, too.

From: [Christina Hotchkiss](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine distribution comments
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:13:23 PM

I am writing in support of educators being part of phase 1B. We have gotten so much pressure to teach face to face with many children and adults in buildings that are outdated and crowded. I am lucky to teach with a small class, but my fellow teachers are not so lucky. Please keep teachers in this category. Not only to protect face to face essential workers but so we can continue to serve our community's children.

Sincerely,
Christina Hotchkiss
Viroqua, WI

From: [Gabriel Loiacono](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: comment on Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:07:17 PM

Dear Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

This is just to say thank you for including our 70+ neighbors and educators like me in Phase 1B. As a faculty member teaching partially in person I appreciate that.

I hope that you can be sure to include university staff who work in residence halls, as well as custodial staff in all education settings. These individuals probably have more exposure to many students than I do in the classroom.

Thanks for all your work!

Gabriel Loiacono

From: [Jill Dillon](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:03:11 PM

I have written previously but after hearing that all firemen and policemen (and women of course) are being vaccinated before teachers, I think this is not the way to get the students back into in person schooling. I am a retired teacher who has taught all levels of students from pre-K through detention center adults (who need to earn their h.s. diplomas while incarcerated). I have also worked with Officer Friendlys and other police and firemen when they came to drop an egg for my 3rd grade science class from a fire truck ladder (rop) for a gravity experiment so I know how important firemen and policemen are to students' learning. I just believe that to get all the students back in school, the teachers should be receiving the vaccine at the same time as the firemen and policemen. Many students carry the covid virus asymptotically sp and I think teachers are near the students on a daily basis- more than the communtiy workers (firemen and policemen).

Also, as far as 1B, it was reported on the local (Milwaukee stations) that office workers, front desk workers, and other hospital workers and administrators in WI are being vaccinated before elderly and others first on the 1B list and I think that is not good for the elderly. Thank you.

Jill Roderick Dillon Kenosha, WI 53143

From: [Brenda Morris](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B COVID vaccination
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:02:01 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to urge you to ensure all school and child care employees (including teachers, paraprofessionals, aides, school nurses, counselors, social workers, bus drivers, food service, custodians, maintenance, secretaries, etc.) are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1B. Many school and child care employees have been working in-person since September, and all school districts are being pressured to return to in-person instruction as soon as possible. It is vital for the safety of these employees, their families, and their communities that they have access to the vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.
Brenda Morris



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Brenda Morris
Madison, WI
Currently Reading



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From: [Matt and Wendy Campbell](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Priority Group 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:58:45 PM

I agree with the recommendations, especially those 70+ and school teachers.
Wendy Campbell

From: [Kathy Bott](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:57:18 PM

To Whom it may Concern,

Please vaccinate all school personnel in 1B. Many districts are using case studies that say schools aren't super spreaders to prompt reopening. Many of these schools that do not have the funds to properly mitigate the risk. I, personally, have been working in a school since late August and am anxiously awaiting my turn. I have teacher friends and colleagues that were not as lucky as me and have already dealt with covid19. Please get to us before the more easily transmissible variant starts spreading throughout Wisconsin. Thank you for your consideration.

From: [Kathryn Pierce](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: COVID vaccine recommendations
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:54:11 PM

Please include teachers and other school staff, as well as student teachers in Tier 1B.
Also, people with diabetes.
Thanks for all you do!
Kathy Pierce

Sent from my iPad

From: [Leslie Niedfeldt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Priority Group 1 B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:32:46 PM

First and foremost, thank you for the incredibly important job that you are doing to help navigate out state through this pandemic.

I would highly recommend that teachers and childcare workers be part of the 1B phase for vaccine distribution. The safer at home order showed us that we are incredibly reliant on teachers and childcare workers in order to keep our economy going and so that parents are able to work.

Teachers are in close contact with many children for 8 hours per day. It is very difficult for children to adhere to strict social distancing guidelines and many schools don't have enough space to ensure that distance. Children deserve to be in school face to face, but teachers deserve to be protected so they can continue doing the vital work that they do.

I also agree that people with underlying health conditions should be a priority as well.

Thank you for your time.
Respectfully,
Leslie Niedfeldt

From: [Lucy Arendt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Comment on Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee's recommendations for COVID19 Vaccine Priority Group 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:32:44 PM

Greetings,

I have read the recommendations for COVID19 Vaccine Priority Group 1B and I support them. I am a professor at St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI where I have been teaching in person since we reopened in August. Many of the students I had in the fall contracted Covid (~12% of the College's students overall). Thankfully, as far as I know, all have recovered. I worry for myself, however, as I will be exposed to no fewer than 80 students on a regular basis this coming spring semester, starting February 1. I also worry for my fellow faculty and staff colleagues. While we are all doing our best to socially distance, it is challenging given the classroom space situation at the College. Still, we know that in-person teaching and learning best serves our students, most of whom are aged 18-22, both intellectually and emotionally.

I'm 56, soon to be 57, and am one of many faculty members who are considered at risk of serious complications from Covid. I'm also a severe asthmatic. My youngest son, who lives with me, is also a student at the College. While he has been very careful, like other young people he simply has more social contact with people and is therefore more likely to contract and spread Covid to me and his other faculty members.

I hope it will not be too long before everyone who wants to be vaccinated can be vaccinated. Count me among that number!

Sincerely,
Lucy Arendt



From: [Jeffrey Dischler](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Comment regarding vaccination group 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:27:55 PM

Hello,

I am writing to voice my support for the group 1B proposal and for vaccinating teachers as soon as possible. Many school districts are pushing to resume in-person instruction in February and March. My child's district, for example, is bringing all grades back on February 9 and is requiring all teachers to be physically present.

I disagree with their decision to rush reopening, but regardless, a number of districts seem determined to reopen even before vaccines have been distributed. Therefore, I believe it is imperative that we vaccinate Wisconsin teachers as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Jeff Dischler

From: [Kristen Mabie](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: "vaccine subcommittee" and "Phase 1B"
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:20:38 PM

Hello!

I am a pharmacist and parent of 4 school aged children. I beg of you to include teachers in Phase 1B. So many teachers are unwilling to go back to work. We are failing our kids at this point!

We have access to vaccine and are willing to vaccinate at schools where needed.

Please consider

--

Kristen Mabie, RPh, Owner
Forward Pharmacies
c 608.347.5419
f 608.839.3336

From: [Diane Voit](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Tier 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:06:30 PM

Please consider releasing vaccine for the School District of Waukesha. We voted last night to open our schools for full face to face instruction 4K-12 at the start of second semester.

During this transition period, it would bring such peace of mind to our public school staff: teachers, aides, food service workers, custodians, and substitutes!

Thank you for your consideration!

Diane Voit
Waukesha School Board

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From: [A. Griffin](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B/vaccine subcommittee
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:50:02 PM

Please vaccinate all Wisconsin teachers asap.

From: [David Monday](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B public comment - vaccinate EDUCATORS now
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:47:05 PM

Should go without saying, teachers should be at the front of the COVID-19 vaccine line!!

Classrooms are cramped and not well-ventilated with dozens of potential asymptomatic children without ability to social distance. Parents overwhelmingly want some normality for kids in school, then protect the educators.

And fast(er)!! Every day we continue to wait for bureaucracies, we are risking spread and lives of the educators that we expect to foster our next generation.

From: [Dave and Kathy Larson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Distribution of Covid 19 Vaccines
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 5:59:04 PM

Hello – I am writing to express my concerns over how Wisconsin government is handling the distribution of COVID19 vaccines to Wisconsin residents. I have two particular concerns:

1. The fact that my 91 year old mother with existing conditions cannot get vaccinated simply because she lives on her own. I am especially upset because there are vaccines sitting, ready to be administered, but not being used. She has not been able to get needed supplies, visit with family, etc. on her own due to Covid safety concerns. We drop groceries and supplies off, but little face to face conversations, no hugs. Obviously people in their 90's have limited years left. Wouldn't it be humane to allow them some joy? Many states are allowing anyone over 65 years of age to be vaccinated, the CDC has also made that recommendation. It is sad that my mom and her friends are in this position when vaccines are ready for use. If there is any way, my mom could be vaccinated, please let me know. It is the kind, caring and right thing to do!
2. I also feel strongly that educators should move up in the injection schedule. It is vital to get and keep our students in school because they have already missed so much. In order for that to happen, schools need healthy and safe educators. The prioritization of K-12 teachers/staff for COVID-19 vaccines could have a significant impact on children's health and well-being by allowing for in-person instruction. This in turn could help to mitigate the escalating pediatric mental health crisis,⁴⁶ improve detection of child abuse, and improve nutrition and obesity, in addition to positively impacting educational outcomes and addressing disparities. Parents concerned about allowing their children/adolescents to return to school may have some of their fears alleviated if teachers/staff are protected. The ability of children to attend daycare, preschool and K-12 classes will allow parents to be more productive and bolster the economy appreciably. The current negative impact of closing schools has disproportionately affected indigenous populations and communities of color, further unbalancing the long-term inequities suffered by these groups. With teacher shortages and substitute teacher shortages an absolute reality, the vaccination of teachers/staff with continued infection control mitigation efforts would make in-person schooling possible and help return our communities to normalcy sooner.⁴⁷ Vaccination should be offered to any individual faculty, staff or administrator in child care/preschool, K-12 and post-secondary educational settings, for whom direct interaction with students is required for achievement of appropriate educational outcomes. It is obvious that vaccinating educator, day care providers, etc. is vital for our children, our economy, and our future.

Please consider changing the vaccination phases – get those vaccines into the arms of people that need them the most. I would appreciate a response from our state that considers these people! Thank you for giving my ideas your best and honest consideration.

Sincerely,

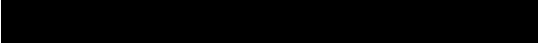
Kathy Larson

From: [Melissa Siewert](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine prioritization comment
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 5:40:55 PM

Hello Mary or whom it may concern. I feel very strongly our teachers should be included in Tier 1b cohort of COVID vaccine recipients. Further, I feel very strongly that prisoners should NOT be included in this group or any group before our general non- incarcerated populations. Teachers are front line workers and vital to getting our economy and society back to “new normal”. Prisoners have relinquished privileges like this by committing a crime against our society. Please take this approach to deploying this precious resource.

Thank you.

Melissa Siewert



From: [Catherine Jorgens](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Cindy Gnadinger](#); [Gina Ehler](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 4:20:45 PM
Attachments: Carroll University Public Comment Phase 1b.pdf

Please accept this public comment, below and repeated in the attachment, on behalf of Dr. Cindy Gnadinger, president of Carroll University. Thank you, Cat Jorgens

Members of the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC) Vaccine Subcommittee,

On behalf of Carroll University, Wisconsin's first four-year institution of higher education, I write to ask that post-secondary instructors be included with K – 12 instructors in Phase 1b of individuals in Wisconsin prioritized for COVID vaccination based on guidelines from the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC).

Including post-secondary educators in Phase 1b is permissible under CDC guidelines. ACIP guidelines call for essential workers, including workers in the education sector, to be included in the second phase, Phase 1b. While states' individual needs differ, a spokeswoman for the CDC, Kristen Nordlund, recently confirmed that states should ensure "college, university and professional school teachers, support staff, and daycare workers are included in 1b." See, *Higher Ed Workers Get in the COVID Vaccine Line*, Inside Higher Ed, January 13, 2021. Because of unique demands here in Wisconsin, explained below, the state's needs are best met by including higher education educators as the vaccination program moves to Phase 1b.

Higher education is crucial to the success of our state. The Wisconsin Technology Council in its 2015 White Paper entitled "Investing in Next-Generation Jobs" reports that "demographic trends show that Wisconsin faces a growing talent shortfall across all fields" and that higher education "is an investment in human capital and Wisconsin's competitiveness." Additionally, Competitive Wisconsin in its first "Be Bold" report recommends that Wisconsin "raise the percentage of four-year degree holders in the state to a level that puts Wisconsin in the top tier of states, based on the number of working adults who have at least a baccalaureate degree." It also recommends "preserving Wisconsin's tradition of maintaining affordability and access to college through targeted investments that provide adequate capacity at college campuses." Competitive Wisconsin also called for Wisconsin to "produce 175,000 additional degree holders to place Wisconsin in the top 10 states in the country." See, <https://www.waicu.org/issues-advocacy/our-key-issues>, accessed January 14, 2021. The Higher Education Regional Alliance (HERA), a collaborative of 18 southeastern Wisconsin public and private, two- and four-year colleges and universities and a network of partner organizations, has identified crucial achievement gaps and future workforce needs in Wisconsin that can only be through investment higher education. Moreover, the pandemic has heightened the need for credentials necessary for displaced workers to find new positions in the workforce.

Post-secondary education in the health sciences is particularly important for the success of our state. Nursing is a prime example. There is a critical shortage of nurses in Wisconsin, and an even more pressing shortage of nurse educators. A recent forecast by the Wisconsin Center for Nursing (WCN)

CARROLL UNIVERSITY



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Post-secondary education in the health sciences is particularly important for the success of our state. Nursing is a prime example. There is a critical shortage of nurses in Wisconsin, and an even more pressing shortage of nurse educators. A recent forecast by the Wisconsin Center for Nursing (WCN) projects a shortage of 1,000 nurses beginning in 2020 with demand continuing to outpace supply into the future. According to WCN, the projected nursing workforce gap in 2040 will be approximately 35%.

An alarming finding from the 2016 Survey was that 42% of the RN workforce expressed an intent to leave direct patient care positions within the next nine years. According to the Department of Workforce Development 2016 RN Workforce Survey, there are 825 nurse educators employed in Wisconsin. Their average age is 51 and 46% are 55 or older. In the next 7 years, 475 faculty positions will be vacated due to retirement exacerbating the shortage. Deans and Directors of Wisconsin's schools of nursing that prepare the future registered nurse workforce, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse educators, nurse administrators and nurse researchers report a lack of qualified faculty applicants and insufficient funds to hire faculty. A Fall 2018 Administrators of Nursing Education (ANEW) survey identified over 80 vacant faculty positions across the state. Even before the pandemic, the present number of nurse faculty in Wisconsin are not enough to maintain the current production of new graduates, much less the numbers needed to expand nursing programs to meet the future demand for registered nurses. Unfortunately, the pandemic has further exacerbated these shortfalls.

The pandemic has impacted the ability of Wisconsin's institutions of higher education to graduate needed health care professionals. Post-secondary education in the health sciences is uniquely difficult to accomplish online. Bound by accreditation standards, programs training needed health care professionals in Wisconsin require psychomotor, didactic and clinical components which require face-to-face instruction. Health science accrediting agencies offered some flexibility in 2020 and Carroll University was able to graduate most health care students on time. Graduation may be more challenging for Carroll University's 2021 graduates, as students are already behind in psychomotor, didactic and clinical instruction. If the semester is successful, Carroll University will graduate approximately 90 nurses, 80 doctors of physical therapy, 30 occupational therapists and 20 physician's assistants.

Pandemic related risks to instructors is increased by the nature of higher education instruction. While Carroll University has invested a tremendous amount of time and resources making its instruction as safe as possible, faculty often spend extended periods of time with students. For example, lab instruction is often 3 hours. Faculty may teach 200 students in a day. Additionally, over 50% of Carroll University's instructors are practicing professionals who come to campus to teach for Carroll part-time, further limiting the university's ability to control risk.

For these reasons, we request that you include post-secondary educators in Phase 1b. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Cindy Gnadinger
President, Carroll University

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For these reasons, we request that you include post-secondary educators in Phase 1b. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Cindy Gandinger
President

Office: 262-524-7247
carrollu.edu



100 N. East Ave. | Waukesha, WI 53186

She, Her, Hers

From: [chris flesher](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Comment on COVID Vaccine Plan
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 4:11:16 PM

Teachers should be ahead of prisoners so that our schools can reopen face-to-face fully and permanently. Prisoners should be in the last group. Although I understand that prisoners live in group settings, they currently have more rights and privileges than law-abiding citizens. It is not fair to all the regular citizens who are paying for their privileges.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kaye Ryan](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 4:05:31 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a teacher *and* an educational assistant. Our youngest learners will be returning to the school building soon. Not all students are returning, many will remain virtual. The administration surveyed teachers and after individual input from teachers in my building (and district), they were either assigned to teach face to face or teach virtually. The face to face teachers will return to in-person instruction soon.

On the other hand, educational assistants, office staff, and custodians were not asked for input about returning to the building to work and be around students. They were just expected to return when the students do.

When determining which K-12 staff gets the vaccine first, I encourage you to look at which staff will be working directly with students. These people should be prioritized over teachers and staff that are teaching from home or having no direct contact with students. Prioritized over districts that are not immediately returning or have returned to face to face instruction.

Many of these staff were not given a choice to work from home. The staff will be exposed to more students and people. I implore you to consider vaccinating staff that will have direct contact with students first.

Thank you,
Kaye Ryan

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From: [Nancy Anderson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee 1b
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:25:47 PM

I am a substitute teacher and would like to be included when teaching staff get their vaccines. I have not been able to work since last March and would like to but without the vaccine I can't. Our District is going back in stages and the need is great for substitutes. Please consider including me and other subs as education essential workers.
Thank you



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [Breunig, Vincent](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee and Phase IB public input
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:15:18 PM

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

Thank you for your hard work in advising the Wisconsin Department of Health Services regarding the fair and equitable delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine. I appreciate the time and effort you are putting into making this process work for the State of Wisconsin.

I wanted to provide public comment on your finalized **draft** for Tier 1B vaccine distribution. As an educator, I appreciate that those serving daycare, preschool, K-12 and higher education are included in this Tier. I am concerned about a couple of notable exceptions that were made in the area of educators:

1. The requirement that staff have to be in person to receive the vaccine seems to be counterintuitive. I have staff who are not working onsite due to pre-existing medical conditions and the impact that COVID may have on them if they were to contract it. If they were able to get the vaccine, they would be able to return to teach and interact with students in person. I have several staff who are in this situation. With our lack of substitutes and inability to find support staff to fill positions, allowing educators who are currently not in person to be vaccinated would be greatly appreciated and would help us as a district serve our students.
2. The other requirement is that staff need to have direct interaction with students to qualify for the vaccine. In a normal situation, I would understand this caveat, but not during this pandemic. My entire district office staff job duties do not require direct interaction with students in normal times. However, each staff member in my district office is now on a schedule to be substitutes in our buildings so we can keep the doors open and students in school. Typically these people would not have interactions with students, but with our all hands on deck approach to keeping our buildings open, this is not the case. I also strongly believe that for us to continue to function as a district all custodians, food service, and office staff must be included on this list.
3. I would also ask that you include substitute teachers on this list as well, whether they are working in person or not. We have many substitutes who have told us that they will come back and sub when they have a vaccine. We need to include them as well to help us staff our buildings and serve our students..

Thanks for taking time to read my public input. If you have any questions or need clarification on anything that I have shared, please feel free to contact me at the number below.

Sincerely,
Vince Breunig, District Administrator
School District of Lodi

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Vince Breunig, District Administrator
School District of Lodi
(608) 592-3851 x5481

From: [er](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase "1B" public comment
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:08:25 PM

January 14, 2021

To Whom IT May Concern:

First: I find it very concerning that decisions have been this long in coming! It wasn't like "yesterday" that we were told to have a plan!

Second: I also do not understand the reasoning behind vaccinating only teachers who are PHYSICALLY in the building... Please explain the rationale for that...I think that language should be removed. It even sounds discriminating to me -- "picking and choosing" . Or, could it be a vindictive move for those "on leave" - either way, it breeds nothing but disrespect for the teachers in our community.

Third: My thinking is that the these teachers are the care takers of our children -(OUR FUTURE) - whether on leave for illness or otherwise - and they deserve more respect in being protected from Covid. If the public policy felt it important enough to close down the schools - then they should also feel it is just as important to have ALL professionals vaccinated and feeling more safe for the good of everyone! After all, what has changed?

I, like others, will look forward to the Public Policy decisions regarding this committee. I understand the saying, "It takes a village", but sometimes it takes strong leadership and people willing to make tough decisions. All this time is going by, while citizens are still not in line - but instead, anxiously awaiting committee decisions.

**Sincerely,
Carol Mullen**

From: [Kelly Szesterniak](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:55:28 PM

Dear Committee,

Thank you for your continued efforts to make vaccines available as early as possible to those who need it most. As a mother and a school principal, I have seen first hand the impact of the pandemic on our education system, including on the social emotional health of staff and students, and on the academic engagement and achievement of our students.

I am proud to say that my school has implemented rigorous health safety protocols, and have been successfully running in person school with 600 kids in the building since August. One of my greatest challenges to staying open is staff quarantine and infection rates. We need all of our staff here to run our school successfully and safely, including teachers, food service workers, bus drivers, teaching assistants, custodians, and administrators. All of these people are absolutely essential to keeping our school open and safe for students. I implore the committee to move all K12 employees into Tier 1B. Keeping schools open is so important to our students' academic, social and emotional health, and is also key to keeping the workforce at their jobs instead of home supervising their virtual learners.

I hope you agree that K12 employees are essential. These employee groups are directly providing services to kids, and are putting their own health at risk to ensure our students have a quality educational experience. They have shown grit, courage and determination throughout this pandemic and have never given up on giving all students the best experience possible. Thank you for all that you are doing and for your consideration on this request to put all K12 employees in the 1B group for vaccination.

-Kelly



Kelly Szesterniak

Principal, Pilgrim Park Middle School

1500 Pilgrim Parkway, Elm Grove, WI 53122

Phone: 262.785.3920

 [@PPMS_SDE @kszesterniak #WeRPPMS](#)

 [PPMS Website](#)



From: [Benjamin Heninger](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Phase 1b COVID-19 Vaccinations
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:35:54 PM

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

Dear Subcommittee Chairperson,

As a public-school administrator and professional educator at a small, rural school district in Northeastern Wisconsin, I am somewhat disheartened to see a continued lack of information and meaningful guidance from the DHS regarding a definitive timeline for vaccinations against COVID-19.

As you are aware, the political pressures that are being placed on school districts (and their leadership) to resume 'normal' operations, in spite of being in the throes of a global pandemic, have been immense and unrelenting. To say that educators and other professionals who work with children should receive priority vaccine administration cannot be overstated.

We have had many students, staff, and community members suffer direct and indirect impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The staffing shortages that were all-too-prevalent before this global health crisis have been further exacerbated over the past year.

Please work as expeditiously as is humanly possible to address the ongoing crisis in our institutions of public education. Our students and the communities that we serve cannot afford to wait another day for meaningful action.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Heninger, Ed.D.

From: [Corey Allen Feller](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid Vaccine
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:19:36 PM

I would like to see non-teacher coaches included with teachers. I don't teach, but I coach golf for Appleton Xavier and come early spring I will be driving 5 student athletes around the state in a van in close quarters to matches. Thanks!

Corey Feller

From: [Brian Johnson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B Public Comment
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:18:18 PM

Thank you for your work and dedication to the individuals in the state of Wisconsin!

I would just like to advocate for *all* educators (administrators, sub teachers willing to be in-person, coaches, secretaries, bus drivers) to be part of Tier 1B. I would also like to advocate that educators who are virtual with the plan to return in-person be part of Tier 1B. In the district, I work and in the district my children attend school (two different districts) many educators are taking leave until they get the vaccine. Let's end this done ASAP and get the kids back into school!

Thanks for the care and dedication you are taking! I greatly appreciate it.
Brian Johnson

From: [John Heinrich](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public Comment Covid Vaccine
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:18:09 PM

To whom it may concern,
I believe educators should be among the essential workers who get vaccines early. I am an educator who has been working with students, in person, daily since September of 2020. In my opinion, health care workers are the only group of people I would say should be given shots before educators. I believe with the lack of PPE provided in school and the unwillingness of many high school students to wear masks properly and follow other infectious disease mitigation precautions, we are extremely high risk for possible exposure and transmission of Covid. For those reasons I believe we should be prioritized when decisions are made concerning who gets the vaccine and when. If getting the spread of Covid under control is the goal of vaccination, a logical place to start would be with educators when you consider the risks associated with being around large numbers of people in an enclosed space who aren't always able or willing to follow the CDC precautions.

Thank you,
John M. Heinrich

--

John Heinrich
H.S. Social Studies Teacher
JV Baseball Coach

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From: [Shaun Finley](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:17:03 PM

Greetings,

For public comment, I would love to see all teachers included in Phase 1B to have them the vaccinated ASAP as many return to or already are in school. These individuals are deserving of some peace of mind as they make their way back into the classrooms to provide critical instruction to our youth/students.

Thank you!

Shaun Finley, PGA
Director of Golf
The Oaks Golf Course
4740 Pierceville Road
Cottage Grove, WI 53527
Telephone: 608.837.4774

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From: brucep53037@charter.net
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC) Vaccine Subcommittee
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:15:24 PM

Martha McCamy,

I fail to see anywhere in the public meetings notice mentioning public feedback how, where or when the public is afforded the opportunity to provide feedback. Maybe you could enlighten me on the process or forward my feedback.

Previously I have been emailing both the Governors office along with the DHS multiple times and besides receiving automated emails confirming receipt I have not received any indication my emails have been read by a live person.

Let me start off by saying I have remained quarantined at home now for the last year and felt like I am in the group most in danger from this virus but seemingly forgotten. I should also add I have also reached out to the White House, Dr. Fauci and the US Surgeon General in the last year. I was pleased to see the CDC updated their proposed vaccination roll-out lists but disappointed the State of Wisconsin failed to follow them with this most recent advisory.

My concerns are as follows. You have made all inclusive lists of those to be vaccinated instead of targeting those who actually need the vaccine. I whole heartily endorse vaccinating frontline hospital workers and first responders that have not been diagnosed with Covid. What I think is a waste is holding vaccines for medical personnel who have decided not to take the vaccine. In addition medical workers and first responders who have been diagnosed with the virus but not had symptoms should be moved to the back of the waiting list if they already have immunity. Finally I know of young healthy medical workers who work remotely from home (since before the virus) who have been vaccinated when they should have been moved further back in the list. Most certainly anyone on your new proposed list of 1b citizens to be vaccinated who has the virus but is immune should be moved further back in the list to get to those more in danger from the virus.

Now my suggestions I would like to see you consider for the updated 1b list are as follows. Per the CDC lower the age to anyone 65 or over who wants the vaccine. In addition per the CDC anyone under 65 who has multiple risk factors that have been identified as making them at a greater risk from the virus. While everyone should get the vaccine I question why the state has prioritized the following people in group 1b who many might think should be later. Prisoners who are confined. I understand feeding, housing and providing them with general medical care but in the case of a pandemic why are they any higher priority than any other tax paying American not incarcerated? Especially as many of them are well under the age of 70 and healthy. Provide them masks, encourage social distancing or here is an idea, put them under quarantine and locked in their cells until the vaccine is readily available. I endorse vaccinating the prison workers who work with those confined but not the general population. As far as the teachers go I would say yes to vaccinating them in school systems where the school systems have returned to in class teaching or will do so after the vaccinations. If the teachers will not return to in class instruction then move them back further in the timeline for vaccinations.

So you understand where I am coming from I am 64 and 5 months old. I have multiple risk factors and was working full time until the virus ended my position. I would appreciate a response (other than automated) letting me know my feedback was received and actually read by someone.

Regards,
Bruce Porlier

Jackson, WI.

From: [Annali Smucker-Bryan](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Support for school staff to access vaccine in group 1b
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:14:21 PM

Hello, I am writing as a friend and relative to many educators. I think school staff should be prioritized for the covid vaccine in the earlier 1b group due to many schools going in person. These are our frontline workers for our children and should be prioritized.

thank you,

Annali Smucker-Bryan

Northside Madison resident

From: [Meredith Mitchell](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Tier 1a
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:06:31 PM

Hello,

I am writing to recommend a change to your Tier 1a requirements for the COVID-19 vaccinations.

I see that teachers are currently marked in Tier 1b, but school nurses and health personnel are marked in Tier 1a.

I'd like to request that teachers working in schools with live teaching- those who have direct contact with students on a daily basis- are moved to Tier 1a as well.

Thank you,

Meredith Mitchell

7th Grade Teacher at UCC Acosta Middle School

Reading and Language Arts

mmitchell@uccacostams.org

From: [Erin Freiberg](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Comment on vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B Recommendation
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:58:47 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png[59].png
image003.png

Hello,

First, thank you for your tireless work to get as many Wisconsinites vaccinated as quickly as possible. I am the head of a small independent school in Middleton, WI that serves children age 2-14.

I strongly agree with inclusion of the education and child care sector in Tier 1B for all of the reasons cited in your recommendation. Our largest struggle this year in serving our students is with staffing. We are serving students virtually and in person, but for a number of our staff, lack of vaccination is the only barrier to them returning to work; one-third of our classrooms are not able to operate normally as far as staffing and operations because our teaching staff in those classes are in a high risk category and have been accommodated, or otherwise have refused to teach in person, and no acceptable substitute can be located. Our administrative staff is working with students in person every day to provide staffing coverage for these outages. Student outcomes are suffering, and all of our staff have agreed to work in person once they are vaccinated.

For this reason, the language in the recommendation that states “Vaccination should be offered to any individual faculty, staff or administrator in child care/preschool, K-12 and post-secondary educational settings, for whom **direct interaction** with students is required for achievement of appropriate educational outcomes” is unnecessarily confusing, and I request that it be clarified in the final recommendation. I believe this reading is intended to include all school staff who interact with students *so that more staff will be willing and able to serve students in person*, but without a definition of “direct interaction” some may assume that staff who are **currently** not working in person with students are not eligible. Reading SDMAC’s goals for vaccinating this population, it is clear that SDMAC understands vaccination of teachers and administrative staff is a necessary step to provide for a return to more in-person education, which has been shown on a broad scale to have much better educational outcomes and a huge impact on working parents and society at large. If Tier 1B vaccination is limited only to those currently working in-person, that goal cannot be attained. Additionally, tying the recommendation to educational outcomes presumes some sort of statistical analysis of outcomes in virtual vs. in-person environments, by school, that is unnecessary and likely unattainable in the Tier 1B timeline – how do I know if my front office person, who interacts with all students regularly and is necessary for school safety and operations is tied to educational outcomes, for example?

Again, my reading of the recommendation as written does include those who would be working in person and have student interaction “but-for” the pandemic, but I do not think it is clear. I would ask the committee consider rewriting the portion of the recommendation that is cited above to state **“Vaccination should be offered to any individual faculty, staff or administrator in child care/preschool, K-12 and post-secondary educational settings for whom, under non-pandemic circumstances, in-person interaction with students is required in their position.”**

Finally, not as a school administrator but simply as a Wisconsinite, I would ask for reconsideration of vaccination of all inmates in Tier 1B. I understand the rationale for inclusion, in particular to prevent needing to go back multiple times to vaccinate inmates at a different time as staff. However, prison populations should be the most manageable population to prevent disease from the outside *once all correctional facility staff are vaccinated*. Visitors can be limited or held behind glass and new inmates can be held in separate cohorts during the disease incubation period prior to joining the general facility population. To address the issue of having extra doses, perhaps the recommendation could be amended to allow for high-risk inmates to be vaccinated at the same time as staff, while those not at high risk could be in a later tier. I am not opposed to vaccination of inmates before other groups based on their status as incarcerated people per se, just that the risk of spread in a correctional facility should be able to be effectively mitigated with relatively simple measures, since those individuals have very little outside contact beyond correctional facility staff, whose inclusion in Tier 1B I strongly support.

Thank you for considering this comment, and for all that you do.

Erin Freiberg, JD (she/her)

Interim Head of School

Madison Community Montessori School

(608) 827-MCMS

www.madisoncommunitymontessori.org

Our Mission: Respecting children and their natural joy of discovery



From: [Thorpe, William](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee--Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:48:54 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Educators in K12 schools are in contact with multiple students throughout the course of each school day. That contact often occurs within small areas where social distancing is not possible and in situations where mask compliance is difficult/impossible to fully enforce. While I realize there are many workers endangering their safety to serve the community, I hope that consideration is given to educators being included in Phase 1B.

Thank you,

Billy Thorpe
Waukesha South English Department
wthorpe@waukesha.k12.wi.us

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From: lbergst@charter.net
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Tier 1b
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:37:45 PM

For Public Comment:

I am advocating for the inclusion of bus drivers in Tier 1b. As a school district leader I know that we cannot provide the critical services our students need without people to drive the buses. Many of our bus drivers are older and are fearful of driving until they are vaccinated. My concern is that this becomes a stumbling block in opening schools across the state. I know that in our district, the adults who drive the school buses are essential to operations.

Sincerely,
Leslie Bergstrom

From: [Kate Hawley](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinary Health Professionals – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:25:21 PM

VIA EMAIL ONLY TO DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

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

My name is Kate Hawley and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am the assistant director of UW Veterinary Care, on the UW-Madison campus, and I am writing to ask you to include veterinary health professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

We are a large tertiary referral and emergency care center with over 200 staff and clinicians. We work closely with various learners, including 4th year veterinary students, veterinary residents and interns. I am requesting that all veterinary health professionals, who have been deemed essential employees by the AVMA: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/veterinary-practices-are-essential-businesses>, be allowed to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in phase 1b. Our hospital has remained extremely busy throughout the pandemic, and our staff have not failed to continue to support our clients and patients. We ask that you do not fail them.

Thank you for considering this request.

Kate Hawley
Assistant Director
UW Veterinary Care
School of Veterinary Medicine
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Phone: 608-263-9905
Email: kate.hawley@wisc.edu

From: [Elaine Russell](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Abigail Fifer](#)
Subject: Vaccinations
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:19:05 PM

My daughter is a teacher in the K-6 level at the Verona Public Schools. I am very concerned about the fact that she is required to go back to in-person teaching in a week's time.

It is essential that she be at the top of the list of people to get the next round of Coronavirus vaccines.

Please make this a priority!

Thanks so much,
Elaine

Elaine Russell



Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it. ~Rumi

From: [Meyer, Ms.](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee; phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:17:54 PM

Hello,

My name is Anne Meyer, and I am an English teacher at Waukesha South High School, a public high school of approximately 1200 students and 100 staff. Our school board voted last night to send us back to school full face to face five days a week beginning January 25. This means that I will come into contact with approximately 130 students in my six classes each day in addition to the hundreds of other students who will be in the hallways, restrooms and other common areas where I also need to be. I do not have the capacity in my classroom to maintain social distancing, and students sometimes struggle with masking. This presents obvious concerns for my own health as well as for my elderly parents with whom I often interact.

I am making a plea that teachers who are required to go face to face with students full time be included in the phase 1B of the vaccine roll out in order to protect our own health and to help keep the school buildings open for students.

Thank you for considering teachers as part of the phase 1B vaccine group. I look forward to hearing more information from you.

Respectfully,
Anne Meyer



--

Ms. Meyer
English 9, AP Language & Composition, AVID 9
GSA Advisor
Waukesha South High School
262-970-1197

"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives once." -- George R.R. Martin

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From: [Cheryl Schenk](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:14:32 PM

Committee Members,

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to make a vaccine available to our community. I also appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the vaccine planned roll out. As a high school administrator, and someone who had COVID this fall, I have personally experienced the impact of the pandemic on the K-12 system, social emotional health of staff and students, and the economic downsides. We have staff who are here every single day, despite their fears and concerns of contacting COVID or carrying it to family members with compromised health issues.

I encourage the committee to move all K12 employees into Tier 1B as we are uniquely positioned to rapidly accelerate vaccine deployment. Additionally, keeping schools open is a pivot point for our economy. Prioritizing educators will help us keep schools open, educate kids with in person learning, and chip away at vaccine deployment more rapidly.

K12 employees are essential. Employee groups that are directly providing services to kids include the bus drivers that get kids to school, teachers that teach kids, teaching assistants that support kids, food service workers that feed kids, custodians that serve kids and clean schools, administrators that support kids in crisis, and special education providers that help our most vulnerable learners. All of us working in education are on the front lines every day working to ensure our students have the best educational opportunities available to them. Our staff has seen a significant workload increase that has impacted them physically and emotionally. Providing them the opportunity to get the vaccine sooner rather than later will help alleviate some of that anxiety and emotional stress that they feel entering our buildings every single day.

It is for these reasons that I ask you to strongly consider making the vaccine available to K-12 employees in Tier 1B.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Schenk

Cheryl Schenk
Associate Principal
Brookfield East High School
262-781-3500 ext. 1002

"That's at the core of equity: understanding who your kids are and how to meet their needs. You are still focused on outcomes, but the path to get there may not be the same for each one."

Pedro Neguera

From: [Kaelyn Martin](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Priority Group 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:13:52 PM

Dear State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee,

I am writing to express my support in keeping those in child care and education settings as part of the committee's vaccine priority group 1B.

I have been teaching in person since the beginning of September and think that it is imperative that school staff members receive the vaccine as soon as possible. Since our jobs require us to work in close proximity to people who are not eligible to be vaccinated (children), we need to be a priority.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kaelyn

--

Kaelyn Martin
2nd Grade TWI Teacher
Sugar Creek Elementary School
Verona Area School District
(608) 845-4162
martinkm@verona.k12.wi.us

From: [Becky C](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:10:06 PM

Thank you for the work you're putting into the phased vaccine process!

Please consider adjusting your recommendations to match the new CDC guidelines of 65+ and people with underlying conditions. Grandparents often provide childcare, many of whom fall in that 65-69 age range.

On a personal note, both of those changes would benefit my family. After giving birth last February I developed a related heart condition that makes me high risk. We chose to pull our kids from school and daycare at the recommendation of my specialist and were dependent on my parents to help so I could continue to work (from home). Since November it hasn't been safe for them to help since my husband still has to go into work. It is getting increasingly hard for me to continue to work while virtual schooling and parenting. Getting my parents vaccinated would be a huge help to our family, as I'm sure it would many others. Choosing between risking the health of a family member and continuing to work is a choice no one should have to make. And as a bonus it matches the CDC recs!

Thanks for your consideration,
Becky

Sent from my iPhone

From: glen.allgaier
To: DHS.SDMAC
Cc: allgaieg@elmbrookschoools.org; [Mark Hansen](#)
Subject: Vaccine for teachers?
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:09:44 PM

I am writing in support of establishing a higher priority for teachers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Primary reasons in our District are:

- * When a teacher gets COVID-19, the entire class (~25 students) is quarantined and moves to virtual for the entire quarantine period. In some cases, an entire school has been transitioned to virtual.

- * Substitute availability is limited. As I understand it, approximately one third of our "substitute pool" has opted to not provide services during this COVID period.

As a result of the above, we have moved entire schools to virtual and, on one occasion, moved the entire district to virtual for a period of approximately two weeks.

I feel very strongly that in-school education is much more effective than virtual. We need our teachers and students together in the classroom.

Please help us do so by providing a higher level of access to the vaccine for teachers.

Thank you very much.

Glen R. Allgaier
School Board Member
School District of Elmbrook
161-825-2737

From: [Foy, Kristi](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:09:36 PM

To whom it may concern,

With regard to Covid-19 vaccinations, my understanding is that there is currently discussion about whether teachers are the only school district staff members who have "direct interaction" with students. I am writing to urge you to expand that understanding to reflect the staffing needed to offer face to face instruction for students.

Specifically, the following job categories also have daily, direct interaction with students:

1. Paraeducators - paraeducators are instructional support staff who work with students with disabilities (often in a one-on-one or small group setting) and the District's youngest learners (early childhood and 4K students). Students with disabilities and young children are also the ones who have the most difficulty in adhering to health and safety protocols, particularly wearing of face coverings. Paraeducators have as much direct interaction with students as teachers.
2. Administrative Assistants - administrative assistants frequently work in school health rooms and isolation rooms as needed to assist students, and they supervise sick students who are waiting for parents to pick them up. They also have daily interaction with parents/guardians in the front office setting and coordinate the distribution of instructional materials for quarantined students. Administrative assistants have direct contact with potentially Covid positive students on a daily basis.
3. Custodians - custodians are in school buildings for the entire instructional day and are around students during the lunch hours when masks are not worn. Custodians are also responsible for deep cleaning and disinfecting, and particularly when a Covid positive student or staff member has been identified. Given a custodian's exposure to airborne particles and bodily fluids, they should be included in the definition of "direct interaction."
4. Food service - food service staff members are responsible for providing meals to students each day, and they prepare and handle food. They come into direct contact with hundreds of students every day during the course of their duties.

Each of these categories of employees plays a critical role in a district's ability to provide face to face instruction. Each of these types of employees also has as much direct student interaction as teachers. I respectfully urge you to include them in the 1B vaccination schedule.

Sincerely,
Attorney Kristi Foy

--
Kristi Foy, Esq.
Staff Attorney and Director of Employee Services
(262) 968-6300 x 5365

From: [GREGORY P DEMURI](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine 1b guidelines
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:05:40 PM

I am writing to you to ask to clarify phase 1b vaccine allocation for educators. School districts that I work with as an expert advisor have informed me that some local health departments(LHD) are interpreting committee Phase 1b recommendations to mean that vaccine should be offered to *only those educators who are working at schools currently with in-person learning*. One LHD is saying that the committee recommendations on this are “murky” and may not apply to k-12 educators in certain districts since they are not currently in-person. I am very concerned about this interpretation of the guidelines. As you know, a major factor that we are hearing from teachers is concern over safety and availability of vaccine for all educators will help alleviate that concern and support returning to in-person instruction.

Please make a clear statement that vaccination should apply to all educators listed in the guidelines regardless of current in-person status. This is really a key element in moving forward with school opening which is in the best interest of Wisconsin children.

Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

Gregory P. DeMuri M.D. F.A.A.P.
Professor
Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases
Department of Pediatrics
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
600 Highland Ave H6/570
Madison, WI
53792-4108

608-265-6050
Fax 608-265-9243

From: [Alex Felland](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee, Phase 1 B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:08:56 PM

Hello,

I'm writing to advocate for restaurant employees to be included in phase 1B of the vaccination process for the following reasons:

1. Restaurants are an important part of the food supply chain – feeding the public through carryout, delivery, and dine-in; keeping farmers, wholesalers, fishers, wineries, breweries, delivery drivers, and more, in business.
2. “Front of House” restaurant workers (managers, servers, hosts, bartenders, etc) have high level of interaction with the public and cannot control social distancing – they work in close proximity to unmasked diners for extended periods of time. Unlike many industries, these jobs are not able to be preformed from home or in a virtual environment.
3. “Back of House” restaurant workers (managers, chefs, cooks, dishwashers) are not able to physically distance from each other while cooking in kitchens.
4. Restaurant workers cannot telework and have been working throughout the entire pandemic.
5. A large amount of restaurant workers are Latinx. People in the Latinx community continue to be disproportionately represented among both people testing positive and people hospitalized for COVID-19.
6. In addition to government capacity mandates and closures, restaurants have regularly shut down when there is an employee COVID case and other employees are exposed and must isolate. When this happens, restaurants don't have enough workers to operate, and are forced to close for the isolation period, losing valuable sales, wasting product, and putting employees out of work for several days, or weeks at a time.
7. The restaurant industry has suffered and having workers vaccinated will make customers feel safer, help our industry rebound faster, and keep our restaurants open. Restaurant sales are down 50-70%, and it's even worse in the winter when they can't rely on outdoor dining. Restaurants are losing tens of thousands of dollars every month due to capacity restrictions and customer reluctance to dine in restaurants. Many restaurants are on the brink of closing and the vaccine can protect employees and be a lifeline for the industry.

Thank you for your consideration!

Alex

Alex Felland
Managing Partner
Food Fight Restaurant Group™
5111 Monona Drive
Monona, WI 53716
c: 262.945.6888
FoodFightInc.com

Want to share your experience? Leave us a review on [Google!](#)

From: [Cady, Mike](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Jacobs, Colin A - MUN](#); [Gahan, John E - MUN](#); [Danielle Bosanec](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - 1b Definition
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:48:43 AM

Good afternoon,

I am writing to strongly advocate that you include all K-12 personnel in your definition of essential workers to be included in the prioritized "1b" group of individuals eligible for prioritization related to the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Running school environments exposes many individuals to greater risk of infection. In addition to teachers: classroom paraprofessionals, interventionists, specialists, office staff, bus drivers, food service staff, student services (counselors, social workers, psychologists), custodians, and administrators all serve essential functions required to keep our schools open and operational.

Our school system is undoubtedly an essential industry that not only provides care, learning and social and emotional support for children, but also allows our parents to go to work and help drive our economy. We cannot function without to important work done by the many staff members who work both inside the classroom and beyond in supporting roles.

Sincerely,

Mike Cady; PhD
Superintendent
Pewaukee School District
404 Lake Street
Pewaukee, WI 53072
262-695-5046

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." - Winston Churchill



My Social Media:

District Social Media:    

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From: [Trea Behrendt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: educators - vaccines
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:42:32 AM

I am writing to support early vaccinations for our educational and childcare workers. These positions are important for our future and children.

Thank you

Trea Behrendt



Sent from [Outlook](#)

From: [Dottie Krull](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccine public comment
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:37:43 AM

Top priority:

1. Firefighters & 1st responders
2. 70 year & older people.

Next priority;

1. Children 16 & older with serious health issues- actively being treated cancer & auto immune diseases like Crohn's, etc...

Next priority:

1. Teachers who are actually in classrooms teaching only.

Explanation of my opinion:

I strongly believe first responders & those over 70 should be the top priority for phase 1b. Most have pre-existing conditions or a spouse with pre-existing conditions. They are the ones teachers & workers are afraid to bring the disease home to. This eliminates that issue.

Next should be 16 & up who have serious health issues- cancer, immune compromised diseases like Crohn's disease, etc....

Teachers could be next but many schools are doing great without teachers contracting in the school but from at risk social actions. They often have children who are in multiple sports exposing them outside school. Schools that are open are doing great look at the Mequon school district. Teachers working would be next after above.

Mink farmers & prisoners should be down lower. The guard yes but prisoners with covid can be screened & isolated in blocks.

Dottie

Sent by ipad

Dottie

Sent by ipad

From: [Rindo, Roger](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Input
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:37:33 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback with regard to vaccinations in Wisconsin.

As superintendent, I can tell you we have done everything we can to keep our schools open for face-to-face instruction in Oconomowoc. I continue to be humbled by the heroic work our faculty and staff have done in response to the pandemic. We have managed to keep our five elementary schools open for full-time face-to-face instruction since the beginning of the school year. At the secondary level, we have needed to make shifts away from our full face-to-face model several times due to the increased number of COVID cases and quarantines among our faculty and staff as well as among our students.

I know how important it is for Wisconsin to have our schools open for kids, families and our communities. One of the best ways we can help keep our schools open is to prioritize teachers, support staff, and administrators who serve in schools as essential workers and include them in Tier 1B. I believe that prioritizing our educators in our schools would be a significant step forward in Wisconsin as we continue to combat COVID-19.

To be clear, this will not be possible if we limit the vaccine to only licensed classroom teachers. Our paraeducators often work in direct contact with our students, frequently serving in one-on-one situations with some of the most involved students in ways that makes social distancing nearly impossible. They come in direct contact with COVID positive students and are as essential to keeping our schools open as the teachers they support.

Our businesses and communities thrive when they have strong and available workforces, and it's clear that task is made easier for many families when their kids are in school. I believe including all educators as essential workers in Tier 1B is a critical component in keeping the Wisconsin economy moving forward.

I know from first-hand experience that there have been few easy decisions with the pandemic. From my perspective, prioritizing K-12 public educators in Tier1B is an easy decision, and making those vaccines available as soon as possible will pay incredible dividends to our local communities. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 262.560-2111 if I can be of any help in support of this position.

Kind Regards,

Roger J. Rindo, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Roger J. Rindo, Ed.D.

Superintendent

915 E. Summit Ave., Oconomowoc, WI 53066

☎ 262-560-2111

[website](#) | [twitter](#) | [instagram](#) | [LIKE US ON FACEBOOK](#)

From: [Tom](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B - Vaccine Subcommittee
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:16:17 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Tom Tuttle, I am a parent of two public school students (and another child who is not school age) in Racine and a school administrator in Kenosha Unified School District. I am writing to encourage that school staff remain a priority for having the option to receive the COVID vaccine as soon as possible. In-person instruction is a critical service to our community that also impacts many other services. Offering the vaccine to school staff would rapidly increase our ability to safely get students back in to schools. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Tom Tuttle

From: [Laura Myrah](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine group 1B considerations
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:15:26 AM

Greetings,

Your Advisory Committee and Department of Health Services has been forced to undertake the unique and overwhelming job of dealing with our unprecedented health pandemic and ALL that comes with it. Decisions are difficult, and cannot possibly please everyone.

As a school district superintendent, I used to think there was stress in deciding whether or not to hold a "snow day" because either way people would not be happy. Now, I roll my eyes and laugh at that miniscule decision, as compared to decisions regarding holding in-person, versus virtual, versus hybrid/blended learning for 2,100 students and 250 staff members, and how to keep them all safe, and how to attend to our community's desires or individual parent's demands when they contradict CDC, DHS, and county health department's guidance, etc.

My decisions are different from yours, and so I have a hard time imagining what the Advisory Committee and DHS has on the plate regarding the dissemination of vaccines. I do want to share information, which hopefully can help you make an informed decision regarding school employees being included in Group 1B. I urge you to consider all or most school employees as essential workers in schools, versus just teachers. MANY employees within a school have direct contact with potentially COVID-positive students and are essential to keeping schools open. These examples include:

- Paraeducators/aides serve in very direct contact with our students. In fact, some of them provide more hands-on work with students including bathrooming, tube-feeding, etc., than even the teachers.
- School counselors work directly with students in small groups and in one-to-one settings, which is particularly important when dealing with the mental health challenges related to COVID-19.
- Food service workers are essential in providing nutritious meals to students in a face to face environment each day.
- Custodial staff must deal with the sanitation of buildings when students are present - cleaning vomit, blood, etc. during the school day. They may work with COVID-positive students and their bodily fluids.
- Administrative assistants/school secretaries who have students, staff members, and community members at their desk all day long, and are called on to assist in health rooms, as needed.
- Administrators who serve as a substitute for teachers and paraeducators/aides in classrooms due to an inability to secure enough substitutes for ill or quarantined staff members.

Teachers ARE essential workers, AND the majority of staff in our schools come in direct contact with students, making them essential to the functioning of a school. The people in these positions are performing daily responsibilities associated with their jobs while worrying about their own personal safety. How do we provide a reasonable rationale to crucial staff members who work directly with students, just as teachers do, that they must wait for weeks? months? longer than teachers for their added protection of a vaccination? Please include all school staff members in Phase 1B distribution of the vaccine.

Kind regards,

Laura Myrah
Superintendent
Arrowhead Union High School District
700 North Ave Hartland, WI 53029
262.369.3611 Ext. 4111
myrah@arrowheadschoools.org



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From: [Mark Hansen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase IB
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:31:41 AM

Committee Members,

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to make a vaccine available to our community. I also appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the vaccine planned roll out. As a father and a school superintendent, I have personally experienced the impact of the pandemic on the K-12 system, social emotional health of staff and students, and the economic downsides.

I encourage the committee to move all K12 employees into Tier 1B as we are uniquely positioned to rapidly accelerate vaccine deployment. Additionally, keeping schools open is a pivot point for our economy. Prioritizing educators will help us keep schools open, educate kids with in person learning, and chip away at vaccine deployment more rapidly.

K12 employees are essential. Employee groups that are directly providing services to kids include the bus drivers that get kids to school, teachers that teach kids, teaching assistants that support kids, food service workers that feed kids, custodians that serve kids and clean schools, administrators that support kids in crisis, and special education providers that help our most vulnerable learners.

Thanks again for all that you are doing. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can support your efforts in other ways.

Sincerely,



Mark Hansen

Superintendent

3555 North Calhoun Road, Brookfield, WI 53005

Phone: 262.781.3030 x1123

"Every student, every time, all the time."



"Kids everywhere need to feel safe, hopeful, connected and appreciated." - Michele Borba

"Make good things happen for other people." - Sam Parker

"Passion is often masked as a luxury when it is really an essential ingredient in life." - Deanna Singh



StrengthsFinder: Learner - Achiever - Command - Self-Assurance - Strategic

<https://www.elmbrookschoools.org/>

From: [Golla, Corey](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [Cabinet](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:21:40 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to address your limitation of "**direct interaction**" being defined as "**teachers.** " In the interest of student learning, student well being, and the wellness of our communities physical and economic health please expand this definition.

I strongly urge you to widen that definition to include all employees that support education as I describe below, in order to support your rationale of vaccinating essential workers in schools. I am providing examples of individuals beyond teachers who have direct contact with COVID positive students and who are essential to keeping schools open. These examples include:

- Paraeducators serve in very direct contact with our students, often serving one-on-one with some of the most involved students that we serve. They come in direct contact with COVID positive students and are essential to keep schools open and to meet the legal responsibilities under IDEA and a student's IEP.
- Food service workers who are essential to providing the nutrition needed for students and staff in a full face to face learning environment. They come in direct contact with COVID positive students and are essential to keep schools open.
- Custodial staff who are responsible for the direct contact they have with sanitation of buildings when students are present - cleaning vomit, urine, feces, etc during the school day. They come in direct contact with COVID positive students and are essential to keep schools open.
- Administrative assistants who are called on to assist in health rooms, especially when healthroom staff are absent due to illness or quarantine. They come in direct contact with COVID positive students and are essential to keep schools open.
- Administrators have been subbing for teachers and paraeducators due to an inability to get an adequate number of substitutes to staff essential positions and keep schools open. This group includes both building administrators and district office administrators. They come in direct contact with COVID positive students and are essential to keep schools open.
- School bus drivers

Teachers are essential workers. AND the majority of staff in our schools come in direct contact with students and are essential to keeping a building open. An outbreak in any of the groups described can and has resulted in a reduction of services in schools. The challenges of providing face to face learning are extreme and the pressures are great on our staff. Face to face learning is essential for our students and our families. We host the largest gatherings in our communities in our schools each day as a component of our regular daily work. Keeping the staffing at appropriate levels for student safety that results from COVID and quarantine must be recognized. These individuals come to work, bringing their concerns about their risk of COVID infection based on their required job responsibilities. They are not making voluntary choices based on their personal beliefs. They are performing functions associated with their job, trusting mitigation measures will be effective. Vaccination as soon as possible is extremely important. They need to be included in 1B distribution of the vaccine.

Respectfully,

Corey Golla
Superintendent of Schools
School District of Menomonee Falls
262 255 8367



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From: [Wagner-Stahnke, Cheryl](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: COVID vaccine
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:07:11 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a special education paraprofessional in the Mount Horeb School District. I have been in the school building working with a student since September 14th. On November 16th I began working in a 2nd grade classroom supporting this same student as students were given the choice to return to the building part time.

I am happy to be back at school supporting our students but personally I have kept my own bubble outside of work very small. This includes not visiting my siblings or parents in Minnesota or gathering in other peoples homes.

It is my hope that the state will choose to vaccinate those of us who have been back in the schools sooner than later as we continue to come to school each day in a building full of happy students who are glad to be back in the classroom.

Thank you for any support you can provide to the educators who are back in the classroom live.

sincerely,
Cheryl Wagner

From: [Ben Golden](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B - Public Comment
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:40:45 AM

Hello,

I write in strong support of the Phase 1B recommendations as drafted by the SDMAC Vaccine Subcommittee. In particular, I'm writing in advocacy of the inclusion of K-12 and post-secondary education in Phase 1B. While the societal need to vaccinate K-12 teachers and support staff is immense, it has been well-documented in the subcommittee's work as well as the press. In addition to that work, I would like to offer some information in support of the inclusion of *post-secondary education*.

- **Faculty/Staff are an Important College-Community Link**
 - While you note the advanced age of some college instructors relative to the general working population, I believe the stronger argument for inclusion includes the tie that university faculty and staff represent to their communities. [As recently reported in the NY Times](#), there is an increasingly clear link between college towns and increased community spread. My own community of La Crosse made unfortunate national news when researchers from Gundersen Health system genetically [linked the COVID circulating rapidly on local campuses in September to the rise in community transmission and deaths](#) the following month. Instructional staff, custodial staff, residence life staff and food service workers are all members of the larger community who, during a campus outbreak, are exposed to some of the highest rates of COVID-19 outside of a healthcare setting. Faculty and staff remain vulnerable vectors of diseases from these high-transmission settings. Many UW system campuses are now [serving as community testing sites](#), potentially exposing more custodial and building staff to COVID-positive individuals.

- **Many Disciplines Cannot Effectively Offer Courses Remotely**
 - While it varies by campus, [35-80% of courses are being instructed in-person or hybrid](#) (part-time in person) in the UW system. There are a number of disciplines that require hands-on instruction--in addition to lab sciences, students in critical health majors like Nursing, Radiology and Physical Therapy are taught in person. My field -- theatre technology -- is nearly impossible to teach without hands-on experiences with the technology. The same goes for arts colleagues who teach acting, pottery, blacksmithing, sculpture, instrumental music or voice. [Students are moving away from these disciplines due, in part, to the lack of ability for hands-on courses](#), which are the hallmark of arts education. Teacher education courses often involve faculty observing students in K-12 student-teaching. Engineering, Physics, computer science and technology courses often require access to location-specific machinery or technology.
 - Outside of 4-year campuses, courses offered by Wisconsin's technical and trade schools are often [unable to be transitioned online](#). Manual trades like carpentry, welding, electrical and plumbing are vital to the economy and there is [currently a shortage of skilled workers](#). Additionally, low income and minority students [make up a large portion](#) of these vocational programs.

- **The Feasibility of Inoculation is High**

- As you note, UW system schools and other institutions of higher education have established relationships with providers and insurers and already have the infrastructure to regularly offer flu [vaccine clinics on campus](#). Additionally, K-12 institutions and college campuses should easily be able to identify their staff and already have established channels of communication with them. At a time when vaccine use significantly lags behind vaccine shipment, this seems particularly important.

I was heartened to see the inclusion of those in K-12 and those in postsecondary education who cannot work remotely. I urge SDMAC and DHS to move forward quickly with these recommendations as written and begin to work with stakeholders to implement them as soon as possible. I thank you for your consideration, your dedication to public health and your leadership in these dark and difficult times.

All the best,

Ben Golden

Lighting and Sound Designer | Associate Lecturer
University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
ben@bgoldendesign.com | bgolden@uwlax.edu
www.bgoldendesign.com

From: [Deklotz, Pat](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:33:39 AM

I am writing to address your limitation of "**direct interaction**" being defined as "**teachers.** "

I strongly urge you to widen that definition as I describe below, in order to support your rationale of vaccinating essential workers in schools. I am providing examples of individuals beyond teachers who have direct contact with COVID positive students and who are essential to keeping schools open. These examples include:

- Paraeducators serve in very direct contact with our students, often serving one-on-one with some of the most involved students that we serve. They come in direct contact with COVID positive students and are essential to keep schools open and to meet the legal responsibilities under IDEA and a student's IEP.
- Food service workers who are essential to providing the nutrition needed for students and staff in a full face to face learning environment. They come in direct contact with COVID positive students and are essential to keep schools open.
- Custodial staff who are responsible for the direct contact they have with sanitation of buildings when students are present - cleaning vomit, urine, feces, etc during the school day. They come in direct contact with COVID positive students and are essential to keep schools open.
- Administrative assistants who are called on to assist in health rooms, especially when healthroom staff are absent due to illness or quarantine. They come in direct contact with COVID positive students and are essential to keep schools open.
- Administrators have been subbing for teachers and paraeducators due to an inability to get an adequate number of substitutes to staff essential positions and keep schools open. This group includes both building administrators and district office administrators. They come in direct contact with COVID positive students and are essential to keep schools open.

Bottom line - yes teachers are essential workers. AND the majority of staff in our schools come in direct contact with students and are essential to keeping a building open. The challenges of providing face to face learning are extreme and the pressures are great on our staff. Face to face learning is essential for our students and our families. Keeping the staffing at appropriate levels for student safety that results from COVID and quarantine must be recognized. These individuals come to work, bringing their concerns about their risk of COVID infection based on their required job responsibilities. They are not making voluntary choices based on their personal beliefs. They are performing functions associated with their job, trusting mitigation measures will be effective. Vaccination as soon as possible is extremely important. They need to be included in 1B distribution of the vaccine.

Respectfully,

Patricia F. Deklotz, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Kettle Moraine School District
563 A J Allen Circle, Wales, WI 53183
262.968.6300 ext 5301

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education." - Martin Luther King Jr.

From: [Alicia Van Straten](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: PLEASE MAKE SURE TEACHERS GET VACCINATED ASAP
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:18:50 AM

I am emailing to beg, literally beg you to get all teachers in WI vaccinated ASAP! My children have not stepped foot in their school since March of 2020. Their mental health and learning have taken a direct hit. I am begging you to please make sure that teachers are able to get the vaccine ASAP and that a true PLAN is in place to make it easy for them. Every school has a nurse, they could administer it to staff at each building.

Thank you,
Alicia Van Straten

From: [Joshua Thomas](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:18:40 AM

Good morning,

I teach in the Nekoosa School District.

I would like to advocate for teachers to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Our work is vital to our society and the physical and mental health of our children. Our education system is the basis for success in our state. Teachers, especially those teaching in person should be vaccinated immediately. We are around hundreds and even thousands of students per day and are at high risk of contracting COVID-19. Please put teachers as a priority. I plan to send you this email each day. Thank you. I will volunteer to be the first teacher in the state to get it as an example of it for everyone!

Joshua Thomas

"There is always some kid who may be seeing me for the first or last time, I owe him my best."

-Joe Dimaggio

"I've got a cactus in my bathroom but we've got nothing to say to each other."

-Walter Matthau in Grumpier old men as Max Goldman

From: [Stephanie Rawlins](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Request for School Employees to Receive COVID Vaccine
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:17:50 AM

Dear SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee,

I urge you to move all K-12 teachers and school employees to the most urgent vaccination priority as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Rawlins

--



From: [Rachel Kleber](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine for Verona Teachers
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:51:30 AM

Verona Area School District teachers are required back in schools with more students returning on Jan.26th. Please help them get the vaccines they need to keep our community safer by including them in this wave of vaccine priorities.

Thank you,
Rachel Kleber
Parent of VASD students

From: [Isral DeBruin](#)
To: [Williams, TR - GOV](#)
Cc: [Gau, Maggie M - GOV](#); [Palm, Andrea J - DHS](#); [Patricia Hoben](#); [Colleston Morgan](#); [dpistatesuperintendent@dpi.wi.gov](#); [Kuhn, Jamie S - GOV](#); [DHS SDMAC](#); [Colleston Morgan](#); [Stephanie Maney](#)
Subject: Re: A call to prioritize COVID-19 vaccine for teachers and other school-based staff
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:34:18 AM

Deputy Director Williams —

Thank you for your thoughtful and thorough response to Patricia Hoben’s letter.

We are grateful to hear the relevant individuals and groups are taking the request into consideration as they make these challenging and significant decisions.

As is stated in the letter: If there is anything our team at City Forward Collective can do to assist in this important work, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Isral DeBruin

Director of Strategy & Communication

[City Forward Collective](#)

Cell: (414) 459-1894

On Jan 14, 2021, at 12:21 AM, Williams, TR - GOV
<tr.williams@wisconsin.gov> wrote:

Greetings Director DeBruin,

I hope this message finds you and your family safe, healthy and well.

My name is T.R. Williams and I serve as the Deputy Director of External Affairs in the Office of Governor Evers.

I am emailing to confirm that our office successfully received your email and letter on behalf of City Forward Collective. I have attached President Hoben’s letter to this email, for reference.

We understand the request for the prioritization of all teachers and school building employees in the COVID-19 vaccine distribution, as essential workers (including those in district schools, public charter schools and private schools).

Your concerns are important. I have shared your message and the information included in your message with the appropriate people on our team, including directly with the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC).

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is still receiving guidance and recommendations on matters of vaccine prioritization. DHS will be relying on guidance from the Advisory Committee of Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In addition, the [State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee \(SDMAC\)](#) is actively working on [recommendations](#) to the DHS Secretary and the Governor on vaccine allocation for Wisconsin. All of the meetings of the SDMAC are open to the public, and posted on the [public meetings website](#) as well as on the [DHS website](#).

The SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee has advanced their recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b. You can review the document [here](#), and submit comment to DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

The **public comment period will remain open until 4:00PM on Monday, January 18**. The subcommittee will meet again on Wednesday, January 20th to review & address public comment, and ultimately advance the recommendation to the full SDMAC on Thursday, January 21st.

The [Wisconsin Department of Health Services COVID-19: Vaccine](#) website has additional information and updates regarding the vaccine and additional [information for vaccinators](#) (including details of the enrollment process).

Additional resources include:

- DHS [COVID-19 vaccination plan](#)
- DHS' [executive summary of the vaccination plan](#)

Thank you for reaching out to our office, for your service, leadership and advocacy on behalf of Wisconsinites.

We truly believe that we will get through this together.

Best,

~ T.R. Williams, J.D ~

Deputy Director of External Affairs
Office of Governor Tony Evers

tr.williams@wisconsin.gov | w: 608-266-7861 | c: 608-279-0541

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<210112 Vaccine Letter.pdf>

From: [Randy & Becky Zimmer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccinations
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:28:44 AM

Teachers need to be the next in line to receive their vaccination. We need them to teach our children and keep our families from falling apart. Please put them first for once! Thank you.

Becky Zimmer

From: [James Vanevenhoven](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: 1b vaccination priority
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:25:41 AM

I firmly believe that TEACHERS should have the highest priority of the 1b group to receive the COVID vaccine . They are required to be at risk while educating our children and should be vaccinated as soon as possible as in-person classes are to resume very soon.

Thanks for your consideration on this matter.

Jim Vanevenhoven

From: [Lucy Rhodes](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Support
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:20:05 AM

I am writing to express my support for educators to receive vaccines along with first responders, care givers etc. Children are starting to return to school buildings and their safety is of primary importance. Teachers and school personnel need to be vaccinated in order for this transition to be as safe as possible.

Thank you,

Lucy Rhodes, grandmother and care giver for 8-year-old Sugar Creek student

From: [Stacy Smulka](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Support of Educators as COVID 1B Group
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:13:57 AM

I am in full support of adding educators to the COVID 1B group. The health of educators is imperative to the success of the students and onsite education. It is my privilege and honor to do this small gesture in order to protect my niece (10 years old) and nephew (9 years old), their classmates and all impacted.

Educators are front line advocates and protectors of the young - let's do our part to protect them!

Thank you,
Stacy Smulka

Sent from iPhone

From: [Liz Jorgensen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:56:52 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I kindly request you allow teachers to receive the Covid-19 vaccine ASAP.

Many thanks,

Elizabeth Jorgensen
High School English Teacher

--

My latest book, [Go: Gwen, Go: A Family's Journey to Olympic Gold](#), was published by Meyer & Meyer Sport and is available wherever books are sold.

[Author website](#)

From: [Chris Ditzman](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1B comment
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:48:12 AM

Good morning,

I would like to voice my opinion on Phase 1B of the Covid-19 vaccine rollout.

I feel that teachers and school staff should be prioritized as much as possible for the next phase of vaccine distribution. Not only would this help keep schools open and provide safety for staff who are exposed to hundreds of students per day, it would provide school systems that are 100% virtual with additional options to let students back into school buildings. This would also lift burdens on caregivers, parents, and help alleviate the day care shortage we are experiencing in Wisconsin.

Best Regards,

Chris Ditzman



From: [pierce, kathy](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine for student teachers
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:41:18 AM

Please make sure and include student teachers for vaccines when school teachers get vaccinated. For example, my daughter is student teaching in the Middleton/cross Plains District this semester, and they are going back full time in person. On the news last night I saw that Middleton/Cross Plains School District is expected to get COVID vaccines next week. Can you direct them to include student teachers as well, please!

Thank you,
Kathy Pierce

From: [Emily Amundson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccine public comment
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:34:40 AM

I highly support educators being in phase 1b. We need to move swiftly to vaccinate this group as more schools reopen and pressure from the public puts educators in more risky situations.

From: [Gena Greening](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccinate school faculty
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:57:16 AM

Please consider vaccinating school faculty so our schools can open. My kids are suffering, and every day I lose them a little more one academically and one mentally. I thought I was alone until other parents started sharing their stories. It's truly scary what's happening to our children.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Adam Tierney](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccinate teachers as 1b
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:44:21 AM

I am a physician and so I see the need for vaccinating first our frontline workers in healthcare, nursing facility residents who have unfairly suffered the huge brunt of deaths, and very high risk groups. It makes sense from a health standpoint and I fully support that tiering.

But our children need to get back in school, too. I have two at home now doing virtual school and it's going OK. But, "just OK". They are falling behind, socially isolated at 13-14 and losing hope and context.

Vaccinating our teachers will give them one less excuse about going back to full time teaching in person. I'm disappointed that while educators want to see themselves as essential and frontline people in keeping our society going (and they are!), the majority of them (public and private) refuse to go back and teach in person. So, please vaccinate our teachers: then they won't have an excuse but to go back and be the essential workers they truly are.

Adam Tierney MD

From: [Thyssen, Lisa](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:33:56 AM

To whom it may concern:

Please consider including teachers in the next phase 1b of vaccinations. As an elementary school educator teaching in person full time, I have risked my own health day in and day out to educate our young learners since the pandemic began. Many of us are working parents with children who are afraid that we will bring this terrible disease home to our innocent families. We deserve to be next in line.

Thank you for listening,
Lisa Thyssen

- 24 year WI educator age 45
- Mother of a 4 and 8 year old
- Wife of a nurse
- Daughter of 70 year old parents who need hugs

From: [Joanne Lien](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid phase 1b
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:50:40 PM

I am 78 years old. Essential workers, especially teachers & those involved in first responder work should definitely be at the front of the line in phase 1b. We absolutely need to get our schools back in full operational mode! This cannot be done till teachers are vaccinated! There are only 160,000 educators & 3/4 of a million elderly! Let's get essential workers done first!!! Those of us retired are much more easily able to social distance!! Also, I keep reading that phase 1a will take several MONTHS!! Let's get some big public clinics set up & get going on this!! Call on retired health care workers such as myself to volunteer to vaccinate! We have to do better than this!!

Sent from my iPad

From: [Audra McMahan](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Teacher Vaccination
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:32:27 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to put in a request to please have teachers bumped up into the next group to be vaccinated. PLEASE, this is the only hope that our children have a chance to get back into the schools sooner. They are struggling, getting behind, and it's causing division between teachers and parents. If teachers have the opportunity to get the vaccine sooner, than their fear of being back in school should subside which will allow for more teachers to get back in the classroom. Many teachers in our district our taking a leave because they have to be home with their own children and help them with virtual learning, having all grade levels back in the classroom is the right step!

Thank you for your consideration!

Audra McMahan

From: [Joe Zillmer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccinate Educators
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:50:34 PM

Please highly prioritize educators in your vaccine preparations.

Kids need education, parents need to work, and teachers need protection. Getting kids back to school has been slow and the topic has pitted neighbors against each other and is damaging our communities.

Beyond that, I suggest that you weigh the risk of spread among essential workers when stratifying them.

Signed a concerned father and husband of one of our excellent public educators,
Joe Zillmer

From: [Jennifer Maier](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccination priorities
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:02:06 PM

Hi - I am writing to request that you indeed recommend that k-12 teachers be prioritized for receiving the COVID 19 vaccine. In Verona, we are returning to school in person January 26, and I am very nervous about that. I really hope to receive the vaccine soon, so if you can please continue to ask for that, we would all really appreciate it!

Sincerely,
Jen Maier

--

Jennifer Maier
5th Grade, Room 409
Sugar Creek Elementary School
845-4182

From: [Robert Swanson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Teachers get Vaccine asap
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:30:14 PM

Teachers should be in line with health care workers getting the covid vaccine! We want our kids back to school!

From: [kelly gullett](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccination priority for educators and school staff
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:24:46 PM

I am writing to express my support for prioritizing teachers and school staff in vaccine distribution. The only way to keep schools open is to have adequate staff in the buildings. Teachers and staff are absolutely essential frontline workers. As we are all aware, the closing of schools has put a tremendous strain on families and communities at large. With the push to reopen across the state, even as COVID cases persist, we must commit to keeping our teachers and staff healthy and able to be in buildings. If we have to face rolling closures due to staff illness and limited substitute pools, we will be creating more upheaval in the systems we are attempting to implement for in person learning.

I am a Special Education Assistant in the Verona Area School District. I have been working in person since September. We, as a special education team, have been incredibly diligent with our safety procedures, but we have been assuming a risk. We work with students that often struggle with compliance related to safety measures due to their health, sensory needs, and/or cognitive abilities. Our roles are not ones that all substitutes are willing or able to fill.

I ask that you consider the positive impact of keeping our staff safe and allowing schools to open with the most qualified, dedicated people we have educating and caring for our children. Please prioritize school staff in the vaccine roll-out plan.

Sincerely,
Kelly Gullett

From: [Linda Smulka](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 7:44:21 PM

I support including educators ASAP in Phase 1b of Covid-19 vaccine distribution. It is imperative for students to return to in person education as soon as possible for many documented reasons. Allowing educators to receive the vaccine right away will remove one more barrier toward achieving that goal. It is unfair to ask teachers to risk their lives or those of family members for the sake of doing what they'd love to be doing: teaching in person.

Thank you,
Linda Smulka
Madison, WI

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Judith Keel](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase1B
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 7:35:56 PM

I am writing to urge you to include all K-12 educators and staff in Phase 1B. It is imperative that our children get back to school in Dane County. Numerous national experts have urged schools to re-open and stated that students need to be in school. It has been almost one year since our students have been in the classroom. This is unacceptable. By including educators and staff in Phase 1B will ensure that staff feel safe in being back in the classroom. Please include them in this phase.

Thank you.

Judy Keel
Verona, WI

From: [Nikki Borchardt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: School Staff
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 7:27:35 PM

To Whom it may concern:

I am in support for school staff prioritization under phase 1b. School staff need to receive the vaccine ASAP. Thank you.

Nikki Borchardt

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mindy Fleming](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: PLEASE VACCINATE TEACHERS OF ALL AGES ASAP!!!
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 7:20:42 PM

THANK YOU!

From: [Judy Thorpe](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Coronavirus vaccinations
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 7:07:00 PM

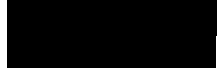
Hello,

I have read the recommendations from the Vaccination Distribution Subcommittee regarding front line essential workers.

I fully support their recommendation to prioritize educators and staff at all levels of education. Please give them the opportunity to be vaccinated as early as possible so they can be safe as they continue or return to face to face teaching/learning.

Thank you,

Judy Thorpe



From: [David S.](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine meeting input
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 6:53:20 PM

I would like to comment on the vaccine distribution plan. I realize everyone else has reasons to be at the front of the line as well. I drive a school bus. In particular, I drive a special needs school bus. These busses are small and enclosed, and many students have either physical or mental issues. The children ride the bus for no more than an hour, but in my case it's a 40 minute ride. I worry about both exposing them, and being exposed myself. I can't refuse them service if they are not wearing a mask. They don't get checked for symptoms until we reach the school. One of the students has severe asthma and had to be virtual last semester, but has to go physically this semester for various reasons. Am I correct that riding in that small bus for 40 minutes is a situation where it is easy to spread being an enclosed space? One of the kids has sneezing fits on the bus every morning. I feel worried about my health and their health being in that tight space for that long with limited ability to control whether they are keeping their masks on. We already have a driver shortage and a large number of the drivers are older and overweight and have health issues. If you include school bus drivers who are actively driving, I think the number would not be that great and would help keep everyone safe and schools open. I know some are just laid off right now, they could maybe get it when their schools reopen if that helps the drivers who are working get it sooner. Thanks for the chance to offer input.



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Ronda Beggs](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccinate our teachers!
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 6:41:08 PM

I am writing in support of getting teachers pushed to the front of the line as essential workers who should be vaccinated as soon as possible. This will allow our children to be back in school, and our teachers to feel safe. I urge you to move quickly and getting our teachers vaccinated first.

Ronda Beggs

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Joe Friesen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Educators in Phase 1B
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 6:33:54 PM

Dear State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

As you finalize plans deciding who should receive the Covid-19 vaccine, I strongly encourage you to prioritize our state's essential K-12 educators. Allowing schools to reopen safely would have dramatic positive impacts across our state.

Parents have had to make any number of impossible choices throughout this pandemic - ensuring that students can return to a safe learning environment will make that transition easier.

Educators are front line workers and deserve to be protected.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joe Friesen
Madison resident

From: [Jill Dillon](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: "Ethics Subcommittee and public comment"
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 6:24:43 PM

I wrote earlier today but wanted to say after seeing the news tonight an hearing Tony Evers saying there was no more vaccine to give out since 52percent was given, I do not believe that the other half should be saved for the second round for certain people but not given as a first half to other 1A or !B because after talking with other sub teachers who are mostly retired teachers although some are recent college educated who cannot get employment in their fields so choose to sub, that they would sub if they received the first half of the vaccine at least than none at all.

If the schools are to open (and firemen and policemen received the vaccine first and who do not work with children on a daily basis- which does not make sense to me) for students and teachers to come back in-person, teachers and substitute teachers and other faculty/staff who work with the children daily for on average 8 hours, I think they should at least qualify for the first half as President-elect Joe Biden has said. Gov. Evers I believe should follow the Biden plan rather than the Trump plan. Thank you.

Jill Roderick Dillon, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: [Ellen Hilger](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Educators in Phase 1B
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 6:10:48 PM

January 13, 2021

To whom it may concern on the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee:

The addition of K-12 educators to Phase 1B is vital to our schools, families, and communities across the state. Prioritizing our educators is the best way to keep education at the center of what truly matters. Many educators have their own health concerns or health concerns within their immediate families, yet school districts across the state are choosing to reopen before teachers can be vaccinated. Please help support our entire state by putting educators on the 1B vaccination list. This will help ensure all of our students can return to school, learn in a safe environment, and keep essential educators safe as schools choose to reopen.

Thank you in advance,

Ellen Hilger
Educator in Verona Area School District

From: [Tom Zimmerman](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccinate teachers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 6:02:56 PM

Hello,
Please make it a priority to vaccinate teachers for COVID 19 before opening schools
They should be a priority
Thanks
Tom Zimmerman

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Debra Gahr](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine subcommittee and Phase 1B
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 6:02:34 PM

Hi,

My name is Debbie Gahr and I am a full-time instructor at Waukesha County Technical College. Since the pandemic has started, all of my classes (6 per semester) have been put online. While we do have technology tools to teach online such as Zoom and Canvas (Learning Management System), our students and faculty would prefer to be in the classroom on our campus. As of now, all of my spring classes will be taught online because we do not have classroom space that is large enough for me to spread out my students nor do we have the special ventilation systems to take COVID-19 out of the air. As an older faculty member, I am concerned about returning to campus unless I am vaccinated.

I urge you to include technical college instructors to be included in Phase 1b vaccinations in Wisconsin. This way we can get back into our physical classrooms and provide critical education for our students that will lead them to employment opportunities.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Debbie Gahr

Debbie Gahr, CPA
Business Management Instructor
School of Business
262.691.5235 | Room B-002
<https://wctc.zoom.us/j/4433799350>

Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC) continues to focus on the health and well-being of our students and staff while on campus. The Pewaukee and Waukesha campuses are only accessible to students and staff via WCTC ID card. Face coverings are required for anyone on campus. The College continues to follow a comprehensive plan that focuses on the health, safety and security of the campus community. Read the latest [COVID-19 updates and resources](#).



800 Main Street | Pewaukee WI 53072
www.wctc.edu

From: [Mary Lou Kuran](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccines
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 5:52:08 PM

I just read the article on vaccines...I am a 71 year old woman who with her same age husband have been following all the rules. Groceries are still being delivered...we have not eaten out since before the virus...we are both patiently waiting for this vaccine. I saw in the article that the second group includes prisoners...and the third group teachers that are physically teaching kids inside schools. I have a problem with that...teachers should be before prisoners! That seems just ridiculous to me. By all means give the staff there vaccines...but not prisoners before teachers! Please consider that and change it! Thank you.
Mary

Sent from my iPad

From: beecostello396@gmail.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Recommendations
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 5:38:48 PM

To whom this may concern,

I am writing today to recommend that you consider administering the vaccine to Teachers as quickly as possible. Being located in Brown County, in the city of Green Bay, my daughter's school district has been shuttered since last March. She has now missed both the second half of 2nd grade and now the first half of 3rd. I have masked and done my due diligence as a resident and a parent. I even recommended to the local school board that children learn remotely until we met the required metrics. Sadly that has not happened and I do not expect it to in the near future as special interest groups like the Wisconsin Tavern League have made it very difficult for our hard hit area to recover in a timely fashion. Our children deserve an education and many of us desperately need to return to work while healing the damage this has wreaked on our children, families and more. This has been a sacrifice that I and many others can no longer endure.

I implore you to vaccinate our Teachers, they are the ones providing education to future front-line workers and as such should be considered just as important. Those who are 65 plus that are not immunocompromised or housed in a public or private institution can continue to do what myself and so many others continue to do. Stay at home, mask and wash our hands.

Our children only have one childhood, they may not even get to see 65. Please give them back their childhood and allow teachers to connect with them and feel as though they are doing their best as educators. I know teachers who would return to schools in a heartbeat if they felt safe and miss being able to do their job too.

Sincerely,
Anna Costello

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Andrew Zipperer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid priority
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 5:38:48 PM

Please place teachers and assisted living seniors at the top of the list.

From: [KMJAUQUET](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Next phase of vaccinations
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 5:21:05 PM

Over 70 and teachers are our first choice.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Gary Smulka](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Comment on Phase 1b Covid-19 vaccine distribution
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 5:18:03 PM

I support including educators in Phase 1b of Covid-19 vaccine distribution. It is imperative for students to return to in person education as soon as possible for many documented reasons. Allowing educators to receive the vaccine as early as possible will remove one more barrier toward achieving that goal.

Thank you,
Gary J. Smulka
Madison, WI

From: [Lisa Weaver](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccination for teachers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 5:15:35 PM

I am writing to register my opinion that teachers and school staff should be considered essential workers and be included in the earliest possible group of those receiving vaccines for covid-19. Thank you!

Respectfully,
Lisa Weaver



From: [Vicki Van](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Teachers priority for Vaccines
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 4:59:55 PM

It is my opinion that teachers should be first on the list in the 1b category for receiving the Covid vaccine. Only when teachers are protected should we allow the schools to reopen. It is unfair for them to have to teach in person with the possibility of not only getting infected themselves but taking the virus home to their families. Protect our teachers so they can teach our children!

Sent from Vicki & Jim iPad

From: [Laurie Tackett](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccines for k-12 School district staff
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 4:55:28 PM

I ask that you move up the vaccination process for all K-12 Staff as a priority. Children are returning to school and staff will be exposed to large numbers on a daily basis. If a teacher or staff member becomes ill there is little backup to replace them during a Covid exposure or illness. Vaccination will offer one avenue of stress relief for these front line workers.

Thank you

Laurie Woelffer Tackett
Wellness Coordinator - VFitt
Sugar Creek Elementary
608-575-5540 (cell)
tackettl@verona.k12.wi.us
<https://www.vasd-v-fitt.com/>

From: [Barb Erdtmann](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Recommendation for educators
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 4:49:50 PM

Hello,

I am a parent of 2 daughters within the Verona Area School district. I would urge you to please consider our Teachers as essential workers and a priority for the COVID 19 vaccination distribution as well. My daughters will go back to school on February 9th in a hybrid model, we are all looking forward to this, I still have concern for our Teachers. Our family has very much self isolated and have followed the CDC guidelines as well.

Thank you,
Barbara Erdtmann

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Lauren Birkel](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Include Educators in Phase 1b
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 4:48:55 PM

Greetings Department of Health Services,

As a parent of three young children that are so eager to be back at school in the classroom full time *and* as a parent that - now more than ever- values the work of our educators, I urge you to place the teachers and staff at our k-12, childcare and higher ed facilities on the list for Phase 1b of the COVID vaccine. Our teachers and administrators have gone above and beyond these past 10 months helping all kiddos and families get the most out of this crazy time. Educators have earned and more than deserve our support.

Thank you so much for considering and all of your work to help our state come through this pandemic.

Lauren Birkel
MSW, CSCS | Owner

[OrangeShoe Personal Fitness](#)



Madison Downtown:

*** Say thanks with a [Google review](#) 😊 ***

Madison West:

*** Say thanks with a [Google review](#) 😊 ***

Madison University:

*** Say thanks with a [Google review](#) 😊 ***

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From: [Jennifer Conrad](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Please include in-person teachers/school staff in Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccinations!
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 4:47:15 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in support of in-person educators and staff people working in education--including daycare, preschool, K-12, and higher education settings--being prioritized as part of the Phase 1b vaccine rollout.

Teachers and childcare providers provide an essential service for children and their parents and often do not have an option for virtual work / remote learning. Children benefit from being with their peers, and those who work with them deserve to be safe in making this a possibility for everyone.

Both of my children have been attending in-person school since September, and I very much hope that their classroom teachers and after-school childcare providers can receive the COVID-19 vaccine sooner rather than later.

Thank you for considering this request.

Best,
Jennifer Conrad



From: [Amy Cartwright](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Please vaccinate teachers as soon as possible!
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 4:31:11 PM

I am writing to ask that you move teachers up in the 1b vaccination phase.

I am a second grade teacher who will be teaching in-person beginning January 26.

This means my only option for avoiding the greater exposure of myself and my family to COVID-19 would be to take a leave of absence.

Please, please help us get vaccinated quickly so we can stay healthy and alive.

I believe we have proven how essential teachers and schools are for our society by now.

Amy Cartwright
Sugar Creek Elementary
Verona Area School District

From: [Laurie Carnahan](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Please Include Tech College Instructors in Vaccination Phase 1b
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 4:31:02 PM

I urge you to include technical college instructors in Phase 1b for Covid-19 vaccinations in Wisconsin. We teach in small rooms that are not always well ventilated and are supplying critical educational services for many at-risk students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Laurie Schober Carnahan, Esq.
Real Estate Faculty - School of Business
Waukesha County Technical College
800 Main Street
Pewaukee, WI 53702
(262) 691-5252



From: [Meo, Savanna R](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 4:18:58 PM
Importance: High

Good Afternoon,

My name is Savanna Meo and I am the Admissions & Academic Advisor at Upper Iowa University in Madison.

I have been reviewing Phase 1B and I believe that included in the Education and childcare tier should be administrative positions. For example, I have a staff of three and we are exposed to students regularly as we must conduct our positions in a face-to-face format. I believe that it is essential that along with teachers and professors, that those working in higher education or academic settings in an administrative role be vaccinated as soon as possible as well as we must do our job in person.

Is this something that is already included in that setting? I appreciate your insight.

Thank you!

Savanna Meo
she, her, hers
Admissions and Academic Advisor
Upper Iowa University, Madison
Phone: 608-278-0350
3 Point Place, Suite 150
Madison, WI 53719

Are you registered for Session 3? Classes begin on January 18 so reach out to register today.

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From: [Kristy](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccine public comment
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 3:54:04 PM

Hi,

Please prioritize educators (not just teachers but administrators, assistants and others that work in the buildings). We are receiving increases pressure to open but need to protect our school staff.

Thank you!
Kristen Lowell

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cheryl](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccination schedule
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 3:30:31 PM

I'm a 73 year old retired woman who lives in a private home with my 72 year old husband. As much as we are waiting for a vaccine, we would like to see teachers receive the vaccine before we do. It's possible that's already on the schedule, but if not, we think it should be. Everyone seems to want their children back in school. These teachers have been working so hard virtually and worry about going back in the classroom. I hope they, aids, lunch workers, secretaries, etc could receive vaccines before us retirees.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Brian Earnest](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 3:29:16 PM

Please consider teachers as a priority. So many of the children do not keep a mask in place. We have to stay in the same room as these children for hours at a time. Social distancing yourself around young children is impossible to do. Parents rely on schools so they can work. There are very few subs to be able to take our place if we do get sick.

Sent from my iPhone

From: bbzman@charter.net
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Please Prioritize Educators in the Vaccination Process
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 3:21:39 PM

Dear Sirs,

Please Prioritize Educators in the Covid-19 Vaccination Process. With teachers returning to the classrooms it is essential that they be vaccinated against Covid-19. Dealing with day to day teaching responsibilities, multiplies the chances teachers will be come infected by student interaction. Teachers desperately need to be vaccinated to guard against contracting the virus while trying to do their teaching job. Teachers interact with many students and have less protection than some working in one on one contact situation. Please Prioritize teachers to receive the Covid-19 Vaccine as soon as possible!

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Bill and Bev Zimmerman

From: [Jennifer Richardson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Priority Vaccinations for Teachers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 3:19:20 PM

My children are students in the Verona Area School District.

I am writing to show support in making sure teachers are added as a priority group to Phase 1B of the Covid19 vaccinations. Those in education and childcare settings should be prioritized. This includes all staff serving daycare, preschool, K-12, and higher education.

Please make sure they are provided vaccinations to stay safe.

Thank you,

Jennifer Richardson

Business Development Coordinator

440-201-6050 ext. 415 office

jrichardson@mcftech.com

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From: toda1914@gmail.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Next phase of COVID Vaccines
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 3:09:27 PM

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

I'm very concerned with your recent recommendations. You are recommending public facing essential workers, which includes educators, get the vaccine in the next wave but only if they are in a face-to-face learning environment. I am a current staff member in a large Urban District which has struggled to open and stay open. We need the vaccine to ensure we CAN open this school year. To allow prison inmates to receive the vaccine over Districts who are in a virtual learning environment seems entirely wrong. I strongly urge you to reconsider. We desperately want to return to in person instruction. Receiving the vaccine allows us to do that. Please support us struggling educators in all Districts regardless of the learning environment.

Please reconsider and please support us,
Toni D.

From: [Barbara Forstner](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Who should get vaccines?
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 3:08:27 PM

Hello,

As a retired teacher (40 years) of young children, and now a substitute teacher, I strongly believe that teachers, child care teachers/providers, substitute teachers and school staff should receive vaccine priority. We need to get/keep our children in school! School and child care employees are face-to-face with children every day. Most teachers want to be in the classroom, but don't want to be in fear of getting sick every day. Adding substitute teachers to the priority list will minimize disruption of education due to a lack of substitutes. (Many subs, myself included, have chosen not to sub until we receive a vaccine, because of our age/higher risk.) I can't wait to be subbing again. I miss the kids!

I also believe those with Asthma should be considered high risk, as even a simple cold can cause serious asthma flare-ups. (I would just *assume* that Covid could cause similar complications.)

Thanks for your time.

Barbara Forstner

From: [Sheryl Ledvina](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccines priority
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 3:03:57 PM

Hello

I would like to advocate for teachers and staff as next in line for Covid vaccines. These people put their lives on the line everyday to go into schools and expose themselves. So many are pushing for in person learning - which I agree is the best learning environment for children but it is not fair to expect teachers to risk their lives when we have the opportunity to get them vaccinated.

I also think a priority group should be those over 70 next.

Thank you for all you do! Working in the public health field during this crisis must be incredibly difficult

Sheryl Ledvina

Sent from my iPad

From: [Karen Rahmeier](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: [lorraine.stoltzfus](#)
Subject: letter of support to vaccinate teachers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 2:57:29 PM

Hello DHS,

I support offering the covid vaccine to in-person teachers, especially K-12 grade levels as soon as possible.

Many teachers have schools that are opening January 26th for in-person teaching, so this is an important matter to many educators who aren't being given the option to continue to work virtually.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Karen Rahmeier and Lorraine Stoltzfus,
Madison WI

From: [Tess Battles](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccinate teachers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 2:51:18 PM

I am writing to urge you to vaccinate teachers as soon as possible. There are many districts beginning to send more children back in person late January/early February. I am a teacher who has not been in a store since October and very strict with guidelines, yet will be in my classroom teaching in person in two weeks. To protect the health of teachers, their families and members of the community, please vaccinate teachers next and help keep us safe.

Thank you,
Tess Battles

--

Tess Battles



From: [Karly Kittoe](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine for educators
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 2:46:03 PM

Hi,

As a Wisconsin educator, I urge you to please include educators in round 1B of vaccinations. I work in direct close contact with my students for more than 7 hours on a daily basis. They are unmasked for a large portion of the day, as they eat breakfast, lunch, and snack in my classroom, and I come in contact with their saliva as I clean their desks 6 times each day. For the safety of myself, my family, my coworkers and their families, my students, and their families, please provide the opportunity for vaccinations to the teachers who have been risking their health to provide quality education to the children of our state.

Thank you,

Karly Kittoe
Kindergarten Teacher

--

Karly Kittoe

From: [Colleen Carey](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Next COVID vaccine recipients
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 2:13:43 PM

Hello,

Thank you for the chance to weigh in on this subject. Please offer the vaccine to TEACHERS so we can get kids back to school. The access to education is not equal in all communities and there are many kids who are failing and not able to successfully learn online.

Thank you for your time,
Colleen Uslabar

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Leyla Sanyer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Considering that teachers are now front line workers.
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 1:40:40 PM

January 13, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

The Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee of the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee is currently recommending that front line essential workers, which includes those in education and childcare settings, be prioritized for the COVID vaccinations. This includes all staff serving daycare, preschool, K-12, and higher education.

Please change the protocol to require that teachers/educators/professors and all other adults associated with schools can be offered the COVID vaccine immediately. They should be in the first category along with healthcare workers as long as members of the WI government are pushing school districts to reopen buildings.

Thank you.
Leyla Sanyer

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Randall Lambrecht](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Educators getting the vaccine
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 1:18:50 PM

I believe that educators should be moved up the list to get the vaccine. There are a large number of teachers who are going to be returning to the classroom to teach the school. They are going to be subjected to a variety of children, staff, and other community members and should feel safer in this capacity. I am an early childhood teacher and have been super stressed during this whole pandemic (I have been working the whole time) that I would get Covid and then spread it to the rest of my family members. Give them some peace of mind so that they can do their jobs without the stress and worry of contracting the virus and spreading it.

Thank you,
Vicki Stahl-Lambrecht

From: [Tina Owen-Moore](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 1:05:13 PM

Dear Subcommittee Members,

As a superintendent of schools here in Wisconsin, I want to reach out to thank you for all of your efforts to date.

I also want to encourage you to keep educators in the 1B vaccine group, as I know it will relieve a lot of stress for our educators who have been working in person since the start of the school year. This opportunity for educators will also help so many other school districts that have remained virtual to feel more confident about reopening their schools and will also make it possible for some of our higher risk educators who had to leave the classroom this year to be able to return.

I encourage you to keep educators in the 1B group and thank you for prioritizing education in our state.

Thank you so much,

Tina Owen-Moore, Ed.L.D.
Superintendent | School District of Cudahy
2915 E. Ramsey Ave | Cudahy, WI 53110
owenmooret@udahysd.org
Twitter: @TinaOwen
LinkedIn: Dr. Tina Owen-Moore



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From: [Sarah Kaatz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Teachers are essential
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 12:34:48 PM

I am writing to show my support for teachers being the next in line to receive the COVID 19 vaccine- it is essential in order to keep them safe and to keep our kids safe- and it is really the only way I see making "face to face" instruction successful and sustainable.

Thank you,
Sarah Kaatz

From: [Shulman, Karen MD](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: FW: Phase 1b Vaccine subcommittee
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 12:22:53 PM

Thank you for accepting comments. I am in very strong support of your recommendations regarding those to be included in the tier 1b vaccination rollout. I am particularly in favor of teachers and school staff being immunized early, and I believe there would have been an argument for including them in the 1a tier as getting our children back into school will help mend another significant public health problem brought about by Covid-19 which is the mental health and educational effects of virtual learning and students being at home instead of in the usual interactive learning environment.

Thank you for your efforts, please move as quickly as you can in allowing our health care teams to offer these vaccines to the next group as soon as possible.

Karen

Karen Shulman, MD

Service Line Medical Director, Adult Primary Care
Physician, Family Medicine
Marshfield Clinic Health System

Cell: 715-383-5023 **Email:** shulman.karen@marshfieldclinic.org

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From: [Crystal Harrison](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: support education priority for vaccine
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 12:22:51 PM

I support your recommendation to prioritize educators / daycare for the COVID vaccine. Green Bay public school students are facing significant failing grades and inequities being virtual.

Thank you,
Crystal Harrison

From: [Jennifer Johncox](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Support for educators
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 12:17:07 PM

Dear committee,

This email serves to let you know that I fully support childcare workers, educators, and anyone working in a setting that allows children to participate in in-person learning. The vaccination needs of these individuals should be top priority along with healthcare workers. Please keep their needs and voices at the forefront of your recommendations.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Johncox, LCSW

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Joshua Thomas](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 12:09:47 PM

Good morning,

I teach in the Nekoosa School District.

I would like to advocate for teachers to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Our work is vital to our society and the physical and mental health of our children. Our education system is the basis for success in our state. Teachers, especially those teaching in person should be vaccinated immediately. We are around hundreds and even thousands of students per day and are at high risk of contracting COVID-19. Please put teachers as a priority. I plan to send you this email each day. Thank you. I will volunteer to be the first teacher in the state to get it as an example of it for everyone!

Joshua Thomas

"There is always some kid who may be seeing me for the first or last time, I owe him my best."

-Joe Dimaggio

"I've got a cactus in my bathroom but we've got nothing to say to each other."

-Walter Matthau in Grumpier old men as Max Goldman

From: [Anna Heitz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccinate teachers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 12:08:21 PM

I believe teachers and school staff should be next in line to receive vaccinations. We are in a building with hundreds of children everyday, and at times they are unmasked to eat. In order to keep all our staff healthy and able to continue educating our children we need to be vaccinated ASAP.

Sincerely,
Anna Heitz



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Liz Hampton](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccinations for Teachers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 12:04:11 PM

Please consider prioritizing vaccinations for teachers next. They are working so hard to keep the kids safe, let's make sure they are protected since they are such important people.

Thanks,

--

Liz Hampton

Be conscious of the impact you make on the environment.

From: [Amanda Morrnick](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccination for educators in 1b
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 11:36:39 AM

Hello,

I'm writing to say that it would be appreciated if educators and those in childcare setting be prioritized in phase 1b of the vaccination program. As a parent of students, we'd love for our kids to go back to school and ease their isolation. Keeping our educators protected so they can do their extremely important jobs is critical in caring for the health of our communities and ensure the physical and mental health of our kids.

Thank you for listening,
Amanda Morrnick
Sent from my iPhone

From: [CT Shank](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b: Vaccinate in-person public school teachers and school personnel
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 11:27:21 AM

To those drawing up the plan:

It is vital to our economy and our future generation that we get our public schools back to in-person teaching as soon as possible.

To that end, I advocate giving a Phase 1b priority to all in-person public school personnel, but especially teachers. Many of the personnel who make in-person school possible may be at risk--older bus drivers, custodians, food service workers, but especially teachers who will be penned up inside for multiple hours with students for whom Covid safety procedures will have to be taught and can't be taken for granted. Many teachers may face health or age issues that put them at increased risk.

For this reason, I urge you to include teaching staff and school support personnel in the Phase 1B.

I personally hope you will prioritize public over private schools in this endeavor. Public schools have no option to turn away our most at risk students, whereas private schools have always had the privilege of rejecting many. For that reason, I hope you will place public schools above private schools as the roll out occurs.

Sincerely,

Carol Troyer-Shank
retired Madison Metropolitan School District teacher

From: [Amy Olmsted](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Safe Return for Teachers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 11:26:11 AM

Please make it a priority for teachers and those who work in an education setting to get vaccinated at the onset of stage 1B.

Thank you.
Amy Olmsted
Middleton, WI

--

Amy Olmsted



Bilingual Resource Teacher
Thoreau Elementary School

May we nourish the flames that burn away hatred and fear.
(Healing Justice, 2018)

From: [goldbergw0](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccine public comment
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 11:11:42 AM

Please put educators and other school staff at the top of the list so we can get kids back to school. Here in the city of south Milwaukee the district has had one week of hybrid in person learning since March. I have 2 special needs kids whose iep's are not being fulfilled as federally required and who have regressed tremendously during this time, especially socially/emotionally. Kids need to be in person school.

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

From: [Kismet Books](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccinate our Teachers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 11:02:38 AM

Hello!

I'm a small business owner in Verona, WI with two young children. Our teachers are amazing and have been shouldering an incredible burden throughout this pandemic. They need to be made a priority in the next round of vaccine distribution.

They keep our world running and work toward a better one every day. Please repay this effort by protecting their health.

Thank you,

Rye Kimmett (she ; her)

Kismet Books



From: [Lesley Steffin](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: teachers getting vaccinated!
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:52:45 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this email in regards to my support and asking the the teachers of the state of WI receive high priority in reference to receiving the vaccine. Getting the kids back to school is imperative and the teachers and ESSENTIAL to that!

Thank you for you time,

Lesley Steffin
Parent—VASD

From: [Matt Fink](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Dane County Teachers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:39:13 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Teachers in Dane County should not be prioritized when it comes to vaccine distribution. Teachers in other counties who have continued teaching in the schools with children present should be prioritized and get the vaccine immediately. Teachers in Dane County should be last in line with how they have prioritized themselves and their politics over the children that most needed to be in school and in person this past year. Please vaccinate the elderly, people working in nursing homes, people working in grocery stores, etc. as well as the most at risk people in our community right away. Thank you, Matt



Matthew J. Fink

Senior Vice President – Business Banking

5951 McKee Rd/Hwy PD, Ste. 100

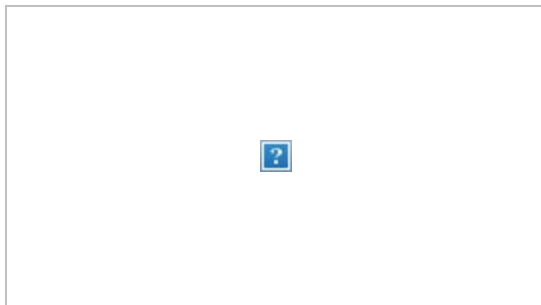
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From: [Adriana Soto](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Petition to vaccinate teachers for COVID-19
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:19:41 AM

To whom it may concern:

My name is Adriana Soto- Kleinsek and with my husband Don Kleinsek we are the parents of a 17 y/o senior at VAHS (Verona, WI). Verona built the most spectacular HS with endless space where, from very early into the pandemic we pledged to have in person classes since they could very well social distance the students. This has not happened. Our son has been struggling with school and has 0 motivation to continue virtual instruction, he hates it, we HATE it!!!. Kids need to go back to school, school sports need to resume!!!! Safe social interactions among kids need to happen!!

Since the vaccination roll out IT MADE ABSOLUTE SENSE FOR US that vaccinating teachers as the safest way to return to the classrooms was the RIGHT strategy!

Please consider it! It makes sense and it is the absolute RIGHT thing to do for our students who have been struggling ENOUGH, 10 MONTHS IS ENOUGH!!!!

Sincerely!

Don and Adriana Kleinsek
Parents of a Senior at VAHS.

From: [Meredith Winkelhake](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Please prioritize TEACHERS & CHILDCARE PROVIDERS to receive COVID-19 vaccines in Phase 1b
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:16:19 AM

To Whom it May Concern:

As a medical professional and parent who has received her COVID vaccine and sees vaccination as our only way out of this dumpster fire of a pandemic, please keep teachers and childcare providers prioritized to receive the vaccine in Phase 1b. They are just as essential as healthcare workers, in my opinion, and must be vaccinated to help protect themselves and our children, as well as anyone else they or their students come into contact with (which is far-reaching). This is crucial to pave the way back to normalcy, as education and childcare impact so many of us and how our economy functions day to day, and will allow healthcare workers and other essential workers to continue working and keeping the economy, and truly our society as a whole, afloat.

Sincerely,

Meredith Winkelhake, RN, BSN, OCN

From: [Jennifer Murphy](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Educators in Phase 1b
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:13:10 AM

To Whom it May Concern~

I am writing in support of including PreK-12 educators in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin vaccine rollout.

With the intense (and often worrisome) push by communities across our state to demand that K-12 school buildings teach in-person, it is imperative that educators be put in this next phase for the vaccine. It is not only irresponsible to force teachers back into school buildings without access to a vaccine; it is problematic from a logistical standpoint given the lack of subs, the lack of teachers already, and the increasing needs on school systems once students return in-person (if they have not done so already).

Thank you for your work and for considering this perspective.

Sincerely,
Jen Murphy

--

Jennifer C. Murphy

Secondary Math Teacher and Beginning Teacher Mentor

University of Wisconsin-Madison Secondary Education Math Program Coordinator

NBCT Young Adolescence Mathematics

kuehl1@wisc.edu (professional)

(608) 712-0247

From: [Gail Gibbons](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Teachers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:08:42 AM

School staff need immediate vaccinations under 1b. Thank you, Gail Gibbons

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bubbers, Tracy](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Support of Teachers as Essential Workers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:05:50 AM

Hello,

I will make my message brief. I am writing to express my support to include child care workers and teachers as essential workers that are given the priority to receive the COVID-19 vaccinations immediately. Teachers play an instrumental role in the development of our children and should be given ultimate priority when it comes to their health care.

Please consider my message of support as you identify eligible individuals for phase 1b.

Thank you,

Tracy Bubbers

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Sarah Pettit](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: MMSD Teachers are Essential! Prioritize them for Covid-19 1B vaccine role out
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:03:15 AM

Dear WI DHS,

I am writing to support front line essential workers, which includes those in education and childcare settings (This includes all staff serving daycare, preschool, K-12, and higher education) be prioritized for 1B round vaccinations. My children are in the MMSD school district. Children in our district are suffering in so many ways. Please make teachers a priority!

Thank you,

Sarah Pettit



From: [Adrienne Allen Eberhardy](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid 19 vaccination for teachers and educational staff
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:00:04 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of three, including two school-aged children in the Wisconsin Public School system. I am writing to support the prioritization of vaccination of teachers and educational staff and daycare providers in phase 1b against Covid-19.

I continue to be a strong supporter of our public school system, public health, and of science. Teachers, child care providers, and those in the educational field are essential workers. Many are putting their lives at risk right now to ensure that our children are being cared for in daycare and educated in the school setting. They have been asked to manage and handle more work, teach in multiple mediums, and expose themselves to potentially risky scenarios. Vaccinating our teachers will help make the workplace a safer environment for the teaching staff, support staff, students, and the community as a whole .

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Adrienne Eberhardy

Verona, WI

From: [Katie Bencze](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Keep teachers & educators on priority list!
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:53:07 AM

Hello,

I'm writing to voice that I think it is imperative to keep teachers and educators recommended on the priority list for the Covid 19 vaccine. The sooner the schools can get back to some normalcy, the better for all. Vaccinating teachers is an important part of that equation.

Thank you,
Katie Bencze
Fitchburg, WI

From: [Shawn Tallard](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:49:16 AM

Hello,
I'm a parent of 3 students at Verona Area High School, and I support prioritizing school staff under phase 1b of vaccine distribution.

Thanks
Shawn

--

"Be kind; everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle."

From: [Anna Weed](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccine public comment
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:44:25 AM

I personally feel with the mps school personnel that this phase of vaccines need to include school bus drivers since we are the ones more at risk transporting the children in such a enclosed place plus that way we can get these kids back to school

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Michelle Lindauer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Teacher vaccinations
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:41:09 AM

To whom it may concern,

Please consider moving teachers' vaccinations to as high of a priority as possible. As parents and teachers are trying to make the virtual world of teaching work the best we can, we need children back in schools. In order to do this safely, teachers need to be vaccinated as soon as possible so that they can work safely with everyone they come in contact with at school and in their own homes. Please consider this a priority moving forward.

Michelle Lindauer
Country View Reading and Math Resource


lindaue@verona.k12.wi.us

From: [Kara Sanger](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Priority for Teachers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:34:44 AM

Please keep our public school teachers and childcare providers at the top of your lists for the next phase of vaccinations please!

Kara Sanger-Johnson

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Abby Huckelberry](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Prioritize educators
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:29:22 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am urging you to prioritize education in our state and to vaccinate teachers and school staff as soon as possible. Our children have suffered enough and deserve to return to a safe environment.

Sincerely,
Abby Huckelberry

From: [Sarah Grotsky](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Get Teachers Vaccinated ASAP
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:20:48 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a teacher and parent and I believe that teachers are essential workers and should be vaccinated in the next phase, 1b. I am ready to get back into school, but I will not feel safe until I receive a vaccine. I encourage you to make a strong effort to vaccinate our teachers and child care workers so we can help children and families get back to "normal".

--

Sarah Grotsky
National Board Certified Art Educator
Badger Ridge/Core Knowledge Middle School

From: [Brodie Birkel](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Teachers Need Vaccines ASAP
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:19:17 AM

Greetings,

I am writing in support of teachers receiving Covid-19 vaccinations under phase 1b.

Teachers are extremely essential to the community as a whole. Our family has been fortunate to have kids of the right age in the Verona, WI school district to receive part time in-person education. In-person education has proved vital to my children's learning and should not be delayed any further for any students.

Teachers need to be back in school for ALL students across the board. All districts need to be open and functioning for the good of all students. Education opportunities are the great equalizer. Let's make it happen.

Thank you for your time,

Brodie Birkel

From: [Therese Gitzke](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Educators
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:19:11 AM

Hi,

I am hoping that you will help get our children and teachers back to school safely as soon as possible.

I consider teachers for our children as critical and therefore I believe they should be considered for the vaccine because they are front line workers.

Our children have been out of school for almost a year while we parents are trying to work to pay out bills n feed our children.

Our children deserve quality education.

Thank you,

Therese

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Caitlin Anger](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Prioritize Educators in Phase 1b of Vaccine distribution
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:13:05 AM

Dear State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

I am writing to urgently request that face-to-face employees working in an education setting are prioritized in Phase 1b of the Covid-19 vaccine distribution. As a school social worker, I have been working in person with students in grades K-2 since the reopening of schools in the fall of 2020. Although safety measures and mitigation has been followed to the best of our abilities at our school, it is not possible at all times. In the time that we have been in school (5 1/2 months), I personally have had to quarantine on 2 separate occasions due to being a close contact of someone who had tested positive for the virus and another time having symptoms of the virus myself. Luckily, I tested negative during these times, but I know several other coworkers who did get the virus due to exposure at school. With the recommendations of self isolation for 14 days this prohibited me from being able to perform my duties as a social worker to my students and families for several weeks. This is one example of why it is important to prioritize our educators that have face-to face contact. I'm not a classroom teacher, and yet I was still exposed to the virus in my role at the school because of the amount of face to face work that I do with my students and families every day.

Our district is soon adding in more students and expanding in-person learning options for students in grades 3-5. This further opens the risk up for the virus to spread. By providing these educators with the vaccine in this early phase, you will open up possibilities for the children and families in the state of Wisconsin. As mentioned in your draft of recommendations for Phase 1b, children's mental health has been suffering in this pandemic. Kids are not receiving the social connections that they need in order to grow and develop. Their emotional needs have increased and the ability for parents and support staff to meet those needs has decreased due to virtual learning. Make it safer for our kids and teachers to return in person for school by prioritizing educators in Phase 1b and providing the vaccine to face to face school personnel. Face to face educators were deemed essential workers very early on in this pandemic, and have yet to receive the credit and safety measures they deserve in order to perform their duties in the way that best suits the academic and social emotional needs of the children. Show the state of Wisconsin that you believe educators are essential by keeping educators in Phase 1b and vaccinating our teachers and school staff.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Caitlin Anger

--

Caitlin Anger, MSW
Preferred Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
School Social Worker
Stoner Prairie Elementary School

From: [Osama Hamad](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Educators should be vaccinated, please
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:07:13 AM

I am writing to support your inclusion of teachers and child care workers in your recommendation to the DHS for the prioritization of COVID-19 vaccinations.

It should be our state's priority to get kids back to school safely, and this means getting teachers vaccinated as soon as possible.

=====

Osama M. Hamad

[Chronicles](#)

[Epic](#)

From: [M. Tracy Bekx](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccinate educators!
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:05:56 AM

Dear Members of the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC) Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee:

I am writing to you to encourage the round of vaccination to include all front line essential workers, and that those in education and childcare settings, be prioritized. This includes all staff serving daycare, preschool, K-12, and higher education.

Thank you for all that you do during this challenging times.

Sincerely,
Dr. Bekx

M. Tracy Bekx, M.D.
Associate Professor of Pediatric Endocrinology
Director of the Pediatric Diabetes Center
Co-Director of the Adolescent Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Clinic
American Family Children's Hospital
Madison, Wisconsin 53792
608-263-9059

From: [Bailey Hildebrandt](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Keeping Educators in Group 1B for Vaccination
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:02:31 AM

Thank you for reading this comment. As an educator who will be returning to in person teaching in a high school setting February 9th, I ask that you keep teachers as a priority in getting the COVID-19 vaccine. I want to provide the best possible instruction and support to my students and I want to keep my family and me safe. Right now I am anxious about returning to the classroom without the vaccine but will do so for the sake of my students and community. I worry about the burden opening our schools without the vaccine could put on the already strained health care system but I know that parents and students are in need of in person instruction. I welcome the opportunity to get the vaccine and know that will ease many of my fears about returning to in person instruction. Thank you for your consideration and work to protect the residents of Wisconsin.

Bailey Hildebrandt

--

Bailey Hildebrandt
Mathematics Teacher
Verona Area High School
Bailey.Hildebrandt@verona.k12.wi.us

From: [Alison Rockwell](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Support for Educators in Vaccination Phase
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:00:55 AM

Hello,

I'm writing in support of Educators in the state of WI and want to strongly encourage you to put all WI educators at the top of the 1b group for vaccination. We need to keep our teachers safe and need kids back in school. Vaccinating our educators will make this possible.

Thank you for your time,
Alison Rockwell
VASD parent

From: [Jen Hamad](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Prioritize teacher vaccinations
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:00:29 AM

To the vaccine distribution subcommittee:

I am writing to support your inclusion of teachers and child care workers in your recommendation to the DHS for the prioritization of COVID-19 vaccinations.

It should be our state's priority to get kids back to school safely, and this means getting teachers vaccinated as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Jennifer Hamad



From: [LeeAnn Meder](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine for front line workers and teachers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:54:41 AM

Hello,

Firstly I want to thank you for your hard work and service for our community! I'm writing to show my support for vaccinating teachers and front line workers quickly to keep society functioning. My child goes to school part time and if we are going to make teachers teach they need the vaccine. Thanks again.

Sincerely,
LeeAnn Meder

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Bardette Grim](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccinate Our Teachers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:52:32 AM

Please prioritize the vaccination of our teachers so they can confidently return to the classroom. Our kids need in-person learning. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Bardette Grim



From: [Amber Mironchenko](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccinations for Education/Childcare workers
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:52:07 AM

Please prioritize all education/childcare workers for vaccines.

Thank you,

Amber Mironchenko

From: [Karen Engen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) - Phase 1b
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:51:48 AM

Wisconsin Department of Health Services,

I'm writing in support of prioritizing front line essential workers including **educators and child-care personal.**

Sincerely,

Karen Engen

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow. ~Melody Beattie

From: [Jake Kneusel](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid-19 Vaccine Phase 1b
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:51:08 AM

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern regarding Phase 1b for Covid-19 vaccine distribution in the State of Wisconsin. I plead that you prioritize teachers and all related K-12 educators. This is such a pivotal time in development for kids, and the safer we can make schools for educators, the sooner we can allow in-person instruction to continue. We currently have two children in Pre-K and the educators are so amazing and deserve all of the protection we can provide them.

Thank you for all of your hard work. Stay safe.

Jacob Kneusel

From: [Joanne Huang](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Teacher vaccinations
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:50:50 AM

Hi,

I am writing to encourage you to put teachers and educational support staff in the next tranche of vaccinations. We all agree that students should go back to school. A way to achieve this is to vaccinate the teachers as soon as possible. Please consider this as consistent education is so so important.

Thank you,

Joanne Mueller

From: [Kristen Manning](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Educators for the Vaccine
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:48:40 AM

Hello,

I'm a parent of two Verona school aged children and would like to show my support to have the teachers in our District, County, State be added to the vaccine priority list to get the vaccine. Getting our kids back to school safely is a priority and having teachers know they are vaccine will greatly help them and this plan. I can't imagine how this isn't happening but wanted to make sure I sent in my support.

Thank you in advance,
Kristen Manning
Verona School District

From: [marissa dehling](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Teachers and vaccine
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:48:36 AM

I support teachers receiving vaccines in phase 1b. They are on the frontlines educating our children. Please continue to advocate for teachers. Thank you.

Marissa Martin
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cheryl Brattlie](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Letter of support for teachers in Phase 1b
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:48:18 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png

I am writing to lend my support to vaccinating teachers in Phase 1b.

I work for a Contract Research Organization which was involved in Covid 19 vaccination testing.

The work that teachers do is integral to our society and I fully support vaccinating our teachers as soon as possible.

Cheryl Brattlie
Senior Manager IT

PPD
8551 Research Way, Suite 90
Middleton, WI 53562
Phone +1 608 203 3180
Cell +1 512 585 7136
Cheryl.Brattlie@ppdi.com



Early Development | Clinical Development | Laboratories | Post-Approval | Consulting

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From: [Cathy Woods](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Teachers in 1b
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:47:43 AM

My Name is Catherine Woods, I am a dane county resident. I have three children ages 6,9 and 11. We have been out of school and out of any normal routine since March. The covid vaccine isn't approved for children under the age of 16 so even if there were enough for them, they wouldn't get it. Please keep educators in a priority group for vaccination. When educators are vaccinated that is putting children more in a protective bubble.

Thank you for keeping our educators and children as a priority

Catherine Woods

From: [Suz](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccinate Dane County Education Staff
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:43:43 AM

Hi- I'm writing to support that elementary school, middle school, and high school staff be included in the next round (phase 1b) of Dane County covid vaccinations.

Thank you.

Suzanne Potter
Fitchburg WI 53711

From: [dawa Tsomo](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccination for educators
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:41:44 AM

Yes, requesting to approve vaccination for all educators which will help improve overall physical and mental health of our future generation.

Sincerely,

Chozom (RN)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jessica Larson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Please vaccinate our teachers!
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:40:39 AM

Hello,

I am writing to voice my support in prioritizing teachers in group 1b of the vaccination process. As a parent to a 3rd and 5th grader in the Verona School District, it was agonizing to have to weigh the benefits of my kids receiving in person education, with the risks that both they, and their teachers, would face in going back to the classroom. As a parent, I was at least afforded that choice.

The teachers were not given that luxury.

Please help to protect them so that they can continue to educate our children with less risk.

Thanks,
Jessica Larson

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From: [Patricia Espedal](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 6:39:56 AM

Hello Martha,

I see you had a meeting to discuss phase 1b. I'm happy to see teachers included but can you please consider including custodians in phase 1b. My husband is a custodian and I am high risk for getting Covid. He is the one sanitizing the entire building and likely has more exposure than even the teachers because he goes throughout the entire building d's after day, unlike the teachers who are solely with their class. Custodians are crucial to a school functioning during a pandemic. Thank you.

Patricia

From: [Mike Bartels](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1b Comments
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 9:44:30 PM

Good evening,

I am writing in support of your proposal for vaccination phase 1b. I am specifically in support of those in the 70+ age group, first responders, and school staff receiving the vaccine.

Virtual learning has had a negative effect this year. It is important to get teachers and school staff vaccinated so schools and families can start addressing the academic, social, and emotional toll this has taken on the children of Wisconsin.

Thank you for your work and time you have dedicated to this important issue.

Mike Bartels
Waukesha

From: [Sebert, James](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Advocating for Educators in Tier 1B
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 8:21:48 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

First of all, thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and thank you for your efforts during this uncertain time. We all continue to work through this pandemic together and there is emerging light at the end of this long tunnel.

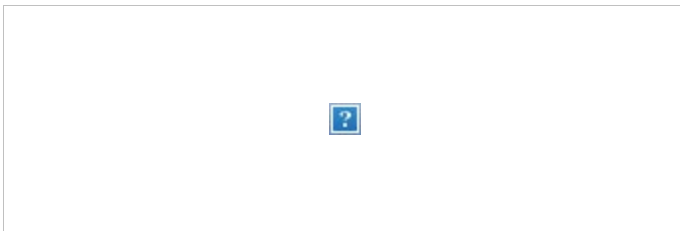
As a parent and a school superintendent, I see firsthand how important it is for Wisconsin to have our K-12 public schools open for kids, families and our communities. In Waukesha, we are working hard to keep our schools open five days per week for our elementary learners and have used two different hybrid models for our secondary students. Our goal remains to achieve five days of in-person teaching and learning for all of our students as soon as possible. Our kids, families and community depend on that high level of education to keep our community moving forward.

One of the ways we can accelerate that goal for all school districts across Wisconsin is to prioritize teachers, principals and educational staff who serve in the schools for Tier 1B of vaccination. All of our staff in the School District of Waukesha have been true warriors this year and we are incredibly proud to be the largest school district in Wisconsin to be consistently open for in-person teaching and learning during the 2020-21 school year.

I believe that by prioritizing our educators in the school trenches, we can take a major step forward in Wisconsin as we continue to combat COVID-19. Our businesses can further thrive when they have strong workforces, our family members can fulfill those roles when their kids are in school, and our educators can feel safer when they have the opportunity to choose if available vaccines will be right for them as soon as possible. This all makes for a better Waukesha and a better Wisconsin.

There are no easy decisions in this pandemic and once again, I appreciate the opportunity to provide my perspective. Prioritizing K-12 public school educators in Tier 1B is essential and will pay incredible dividends for our local communities as well as the State of Wisconsin. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or I can support your work in any way, shape or form.

Sincerely,
Dr. James Sebert



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From: [Doran Household](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Cc: goodwincheyenne@mhasd.k12.wi.us
Subject: Teachers/school staff need COVID-19 Vaccine
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 7:30:01 PM

Hello,

I am a parent of children in the Mount Horeb School District, Dane County. I also have a number of friends that teach and work in the school district.

I sincerely hope that the SDMAC committee for vaccine distribution places teachers/school staff as one of the highest priority groups for phase 1b. The teachers and staff and their extended families are at very high risk of COVID-19 with restart of face-to-face school, which many parents in our district wish to restart. Education is one of the most important things to support in our start.

Vaccinations would be a start to getting our children's life to a more normal state while protecting school staff--our most valuable resource.

Additionally, I will soon be completing my Wisconsin pharmacist certification in immunization on 1/27/21 and fully intend to help with vaccination efforts. I am already supporting my workplace, Sauk Prairie Healthcare, in our 1a vaccination effort. Please let me know if I can be of service in our area's mass vaccination efforts as well.

All the best,

Cindy Doran, Pharm. D.

From: [Christine Hippert](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Re: Cases connected to holiday gatherings, testing information, and COVID-19 vaccine FAQ's!
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 7:54:43 AM
Attachments: image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png

I appreciate your response, and I'm glad to hear that educators are part of Phase 1b. But your communication to the public, at the moment, is not helping to assuage fears, disinformation, and anxiety about the future. People need to plan, and by not informing the public that educators will be part of Phase 1b, they don't have any idea as to what to expect, generating fear, increasing anxiety, and maintaining opportunities to spread disinformation. I have a public health degree (Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, 2007), and I have observed a real vacuum in WI's communication with the public about what they can expect from our vaccine response.

Today, the LaCrosse Tribune had a story about police and firefighters being part of Phase 1b, with no mention of educators. Please talk to all of us (not just those who email you) about what you plan to do to help our society return to normal.

Thank you for hearing my comments in the spirit that they're intended: we need to do better at helping to unite us and help us feel like we're all in this together.

Christine



Christine Hippert PhD/MPH

Professor, Archaeology & Anthropology

Author of, [Not Even A Grain of Rice: Buying Food on Credit in the Dominican Republic](#)

(2021, Lexington Press)

437L Wimberly Hall | 1725 State St., La Crosse WI 54601

chippert@uwlax.edu | [608.785.6775](tel:608.785.6775)

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Spring 2021 virtual office hours: Thursdays, Noon-2pm, or by appointment

Meet with me



From: DHS SDMAC <DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 11:06 AM

To: Christine Hippert <chippert@uwlax.edu>

Subject: RE: Cases connected to holiday gatherings, testing information, and COVID-19 vaccine

FAQ's!

Hi Christine,

Below are resources for staying informed about the activities of the SDMAC. Educators are under consideration for the phase 1b recommendations. The framework for phase 1b will be discussed tomorrow morning at 7 am during the public meeting of the vaccine distribution subcommittee.

Thank you for your message. If your comments are specific to the current work of the SDMAC committee or subcommittees or are responsive to documents open for public comment, be assured that these comments will be shared with committee members.

To stay current on the activities of the SDMAC and subcommittees, please visit: State Disaster [Medical Advisory Committee website](#). All of the meetings of the SDMAC are open to the public, and posted on the [public meetings website](#).

If you are writing with questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, please review these resources: [COVID-19 vaccination plan](#) and DHS' [executive summary of the vaccination plan, stakeholder FAQs](#), and our [COVID-19 vaccine data summary page](#).

If you are a vaccinator or would like to be a vaccinator, including details of the enrollment process: [information for vaccinators](#)

For additional information about the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine.htm>

Thanks!

From: DHS Media <DHSMedia@dhs.wisconsin.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 10:15 AM

To: DHS SDMAC <DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov>

Subject: FW: Cases connected to holiday gatherings, testing information, and COVID-19 vaccine FAQ's!



Elizabeth Goodsitt
Communications Specialist - Advanced
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
608-267-3810 | Media Line: 608-266-1683



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From: Christine Hippert <chippert@uwlax.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 7:58 AM
To: DHS Media <DHSMedia@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Fw: Cases connected to holiday gatherings, testing information, and COVID-19 vaccine FAQ's!

I sent the below email to the LaCrosse County Public Health Department. I am alarmed that we don't see educators in any of the priority phases for the vaccine distribution in Wisconsin. Many states are prioritizing teachers, such as Massachusetts and Virginia. There are a number of other industries in Phase 2 of your infographic, but educators are not distinguished at all. Our kids deserve to go back to school -- 5 days a week. Without the vaccine, this is just not possible in my hometown of LaCrosse, WI. Please indicate educators will have priority in your infographic and your communication to the public in Wisconsin. If you want society to work again, we need to take care of our kids. They won't forget it if you forget them like this.
Christine Hippert

Christine Hippert PhD/MPH
Professor, Archaeology & Anthropology
Author of, [Not Even A Grain of Rice: Buying Food on Credit in the Dominican Republic](#)
(2021, Lexington Press)

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From: Christine Hippert <chippert@uwlax.edu>

Sent: Friday, January 8, 2021 6:37 AM

To: masmith@lacrossecounty.org <masmith@lacrossecounty.org>

Subject: Re: Cases connected to holiday gatherings, testing information, and COVID-19 vaccine FAQ's!

Good morning,

Thank you for sending around the WI plan for vaccine administration. I am alarmed that I don't see teachers as a prioritized category for vaccines. To compare, here is the Massachusetts plan (the home state of Harvard, the institution whose Global Initiative we are using) for vaccine administration: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/when-can-i-get-the-covid-19-vaccine>.

You will see that teachers are in the Phase Two category. In a school district like La Crosse that has been very conservative with getting back to in-person learning, I am totally baffled as to why WI teachers are not slated to get the vaccine so they can stay safe and do their jobs securely for our kids. Our children -- of all ages -- need to go back to 5-day a week in-person learning for their mental health. I appreciate that the elementary schools are going to do this. But I have a middle schooler and a high schooler that are totally deflated that all they get is hybrid learning. We could do more if teachers were vaccinated.

Thank you for hearing this in the spirit that is intended: I believe that WI can do better with rolling out this vaccine to make sure our health, our economy, and our society are safe. I appreciate so much all that the La Crosse County Public Health Dept. is doing for us during the pandemic.

All the best for 2021,

Christine

[When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine? | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/when-can-i-get-the-covid-19-vaccine)

The Baker-Polito Administration and the Department of Public Health developed a vaccine distribution timeline after extensive consultation with the Massachusetts Vaccine Advisory Group, made up of leaders from health care, the

www.mass.gov

Christine Hippert PhD/MPH
Professor, Archaeology & Anthropology

Author of, [Not Even A Grain of Rice: Buying Food on Credit in the Dominican Republic](#)
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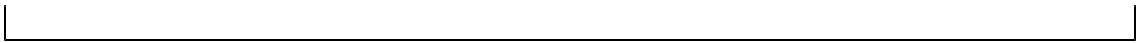
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From: La Crosse County Health Department <masmith@lacrossecounty.org>

Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 4:14 PM

To: Christine Hippert <chippert@uwlax.edu>

Subject: Cases connected to holiday gatherings, testing information, and COVID-19 vaccine FAQ's!



January 7th, 2021



Trends in this week's cases saw 105 cases currently known to have participated in a holiday gathering that either exposed them or where they exposed others.

Additionally, there were four churches with multiple cases who attended in-person church services while infectious. Of note, these are early numbers that may grow as investigations are completed and more cases are analyzed.

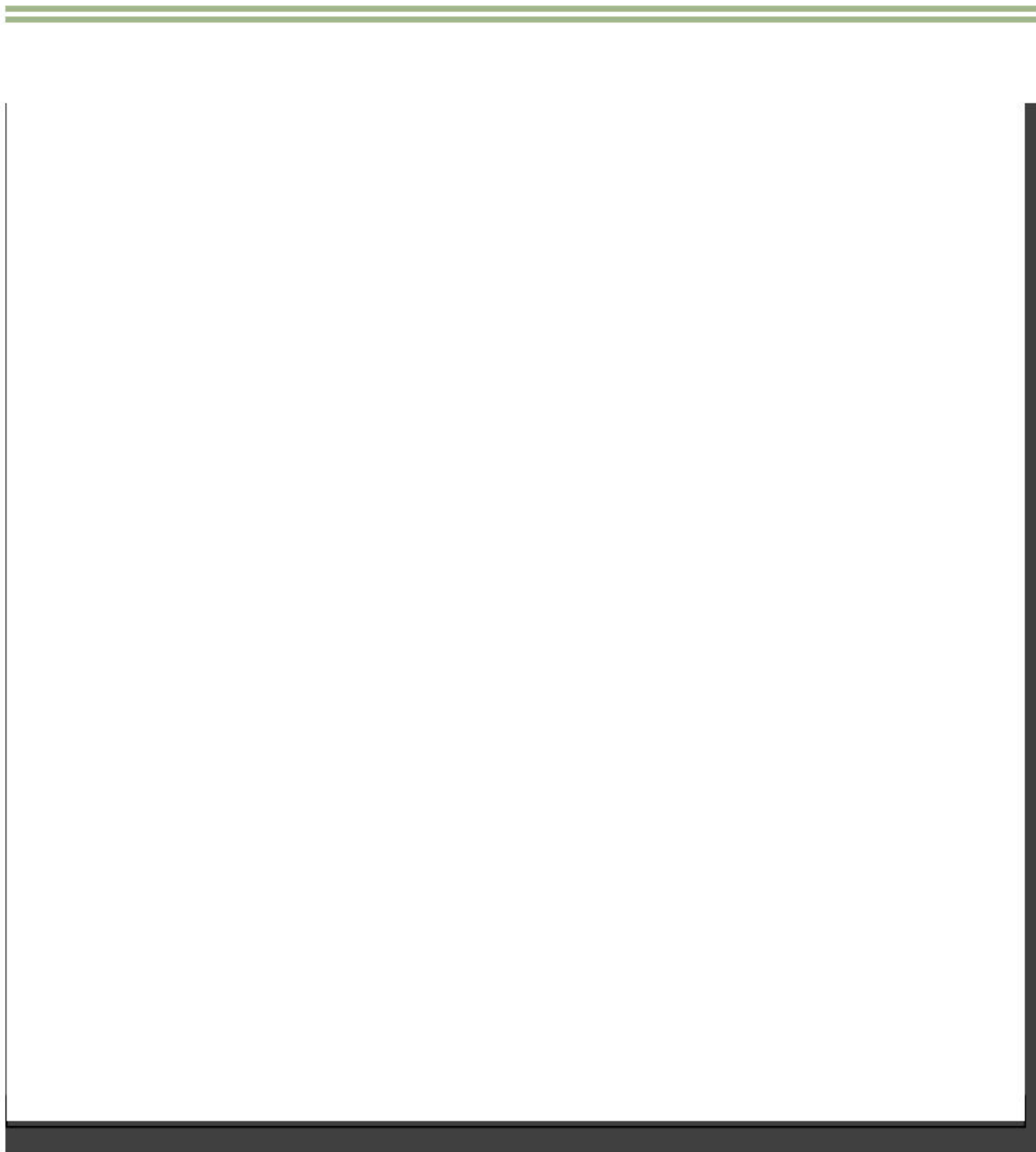
The overall percent positive has increased to 32.9% this week, meaning nearly one in three people tested for COVID-19 test positive. Anyone who is feeling sick should stay home and seek out testing at our local health systems, community testing sites, or an at-home testing kit. (Testing information can be found at lacrossecounty.org/covid19/testing-information.)

Please note that the next update from the Coulee COVID-19 Collaborative will

be January 20th.

The Coulee COVID-19 Collaborative (a partnership between [Gundersen Health System](#), [Mayo Clinic Health System - Franciscan Healthcare La Crosse County Health Department](#) and other stakeholders) is sharing the weekly update on COVID-19 spread in La Crosse County.

**Note: You can see the case data and updated metrics on the website couleecovid19.org.



Here are this week's free COVID-19 testing locations!

Please register ahead of time: → <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov/>.

Details, addresses, and more can be found on our website
lacrossecounty.org/covid19.

Remember: ANYONE can be tested now, even without symptoms.

*Note: Dates/Times/Locations are subject to change. If there is inclement weather and an event needs to be canceled, we will update on our Facebook page and website lacrossecounty.org/covid19 as needed for these events.

The COVID-19 vaccine will help bring this pandemic to an end.

It is a result of groundbreaking cooperation between leading medical experts and pharmaceutical companies.

Every study and every phase of every trial was carefully reviewed and approved by a safety board at the FDA. As the vaccine is distributed, frontline workers and those most at risk for this virus will get the vaccination first. Getting vaccinated will help keep you, your family, and your community safe.

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine and the phases, visit lacrossecounty.org/covid19.

The [La Crosse County Health Department](#) continues to work with federal, state, and local partners to coordinate a process to offer COVID-19 vaccines to our community. We will be following the priorities established by the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#) Vaccination Program.

Our department continue to receive many questions about the COVID-19 vaccine. Right now we are in Phase 1A. This means that frontline workers and those most at-risk for getting this virus are receiving the vaccine 1st. (long-term care residents.)

We will continue to update our website with any new information and on our Facebook page. When supplies are here, everyone who wants a vaccine will be able to receive one.

→ www.lacrossecounty.org/covid19



January is Radon Action Month! Radon is a gas that enters your home that can cause lung cancer. In the Coulee region, more than 1 in 3 homes has high levels of radon.

Thankfully, they can be fixed by a licensed contractor.

Get a test kit at [La Crosse County Health Department](#) or any county library location for \$10!

Visit lowradon.org for more information, or give us a call at 1-888-LOW-RADON.



Question: Which vaccine is better to receive? Pfizer or Moderna?

Answer: Whichever vaccine becomes available to you.

Both vaccines use mRNA technology. This means that the vaccines do not use any virus. Instead, these vaccines provide instructions to the body's cells to produce antigens. This prompts an antibody response to fight COVID-19. Both Pfizer and Moderna are effective, safe, and have followed the rigorous vaccine approval process.

We know that many healthcare workers and long-term care residents have already or will have the vaccine very soon. This is an exciting step to moving our community further toward normalcy. We will continue to provide updates on COVID-19 vaccines as we have them. You can also

visit lacrossecounty.org/covid19.

[#covid19vaccine](#)

Toasted the happy couple? Enjoyed a large birthday party? If you attended a gathering of 10+ people, especially indoors, get tested for COVID-19, even if you had masked up and are not feeling sick. You can stop the virus and keep others safe by knowing your status.

Find testing locations here → www.lacrossecounty.org/covid19/testing-information.

[#TakeTheTest](#)



[View this email in your browser](#)



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