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**From:** [Carrie Bunger](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 7:41:18 PM

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17 JAN 2021

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

My name is Carrie Bunger, DVM and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a solo veterinary practitioner and managing member of a mobile/house call service for companion animals. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

The interest in my services has drastically increased since March 2020, the time the pandemic really started. I am lucky to be able to provide services in my outfitted mobile clinic which has kept my business afloat. While I cannot say how my business has suffered (the awareness of mobile services has increased), there have been MANY challenges my colleagues have faced. Please see the following points:

1. Veterinarians have been essential throughout the pandemic from ensuring food supplies are safe to being the first to evaluate mink (documented reservoirs and transmitters of the virus) with suspected COVID-19.
2. My business has had to turn away sick pets due to the increase in demand of home services. This delays treatment and increases expenses for owners.
3. When clients are not able to be present with their pet for exams (routine or sick), it negatively impacts the trust clients have on veterinary services. We are unable to SHOW the dental disease that is present. The owner does not notice HOW the pet shows pain without the education veterinarians provide during appointments.
4. Veterinary Medicine has been noted as a profession with high suicidal tendencies. We CARE and We WANT to help. The negative impacts from not being able to see a pet due to current precautions, the burden veterinarians are feeling from trying to care for everyone's pet, and the negative comments received from clients (they can't be with their pet, we are only in it for the money) only contribute to the statistics.
5. As a solo mobile practitioner, my goal is to care for pets in assisted living/community

[REDACTED] individuals do not have access to transportation or routine care. However  
[REDACTED] risk to myself as well as the risk to the resident clients is the same  
[REDACTED] development of [REDACTED] a [REDACTED] re less  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Please consider these 5 points in your determination of vaccine distribution. I understand it will not  
'be fair' for everyone but this letter will hopefully present a short list of the challenges myself and  
my colleagues face on a daily basis.

Thank you for considering this request.

Carrie Bunger, DVM  
Paws & Claws Mobile Vet [REDACTED] LLC  
Madison, WI [REDACTED]  
(608) 441-8579

[REDACTED]

**From:** Amber Bruhn  
**To:** DHS SDMAC  
**Subject:** Schedule 1b  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 7:18:54 PM  
**Attachments:** drawing 2.png

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January 17, 2021

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

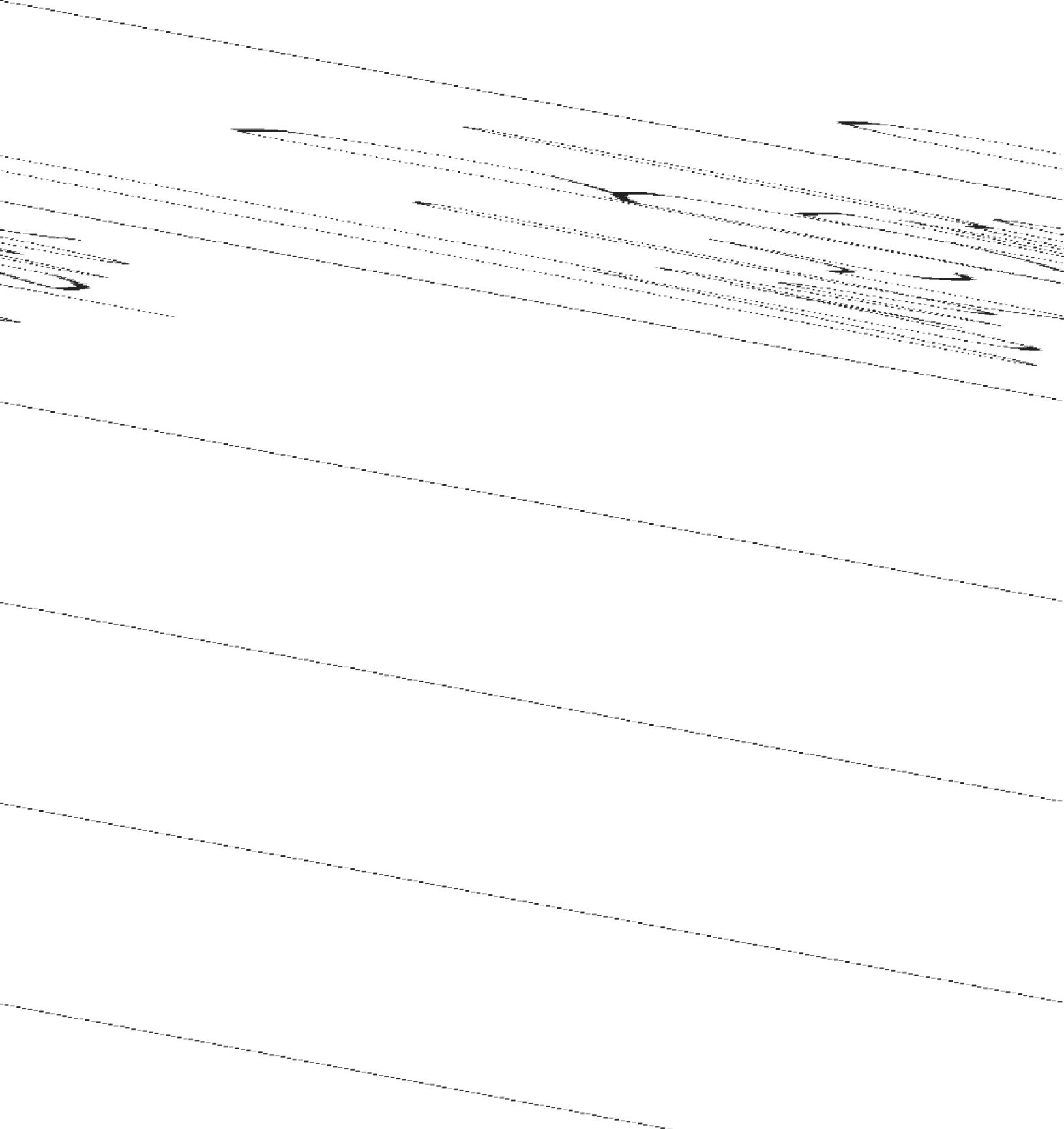
RE: DCVMA Urges Veterinary Professionals be included in COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b

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

On behalf of the more than 100 veterinary health care workers who are our members, the Dane County Veterinary Medical Association (DCVMA) writes to respectfully urge you to include veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants, and other veterinary clinic staff in the Phase 1b prioritization list to receive the COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Veterinary health care workers are essential frontline workers that provide critical care to both food/fiber animals and companion animals throughout the state and in Dane County in a clinical and house call capacity. Many veterinary clinics offer medical, surgical, and emergency care curbside now; along with housecall end of life visits to patients every day with a huge demand for our services. If veterinary clinics and facilities were to close due to a COV D-19 outbreak among veterinary staff, there may not be accessible alternatives for patients. As a profession, we can not work from home and currently, the provision of veterinary care via telehealth is not allowed under Wisconsin law. As a result, our patient care requires uninterrupted in-person/curbside visits and availability of our unique health care services.

We are disappointed to see our veterinary professionals overlooked in this recommendation for the next phase of vaccine distribution. We respectfully urge you to include all Wisconsin and Dane County veterinary personnel in the COV D Phase 1b Vaccine Priority Group.

Sincerely,



Amber Bruhn, DVM

**From:** [Chris Olson](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Covid 19 vaccine priority Group 1b  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 7:10:45 PM

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Dear Secretary-Designee Palm and SDMAC Vaccine distribution subcommittee. Please read my attached letter.

Thank you for your time and consideration  
Dr. Chris Olson

 [Veterinarian Phase 1b Covid vaccine](#)

**From:** [Rebecca Dallwig](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 7:05:44 PM

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Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

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

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

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

We are a small animal hospital that is currently doing a modified curbside approach. We come into contact with many clients daily. We are doing our best to socially distance, require masks, and only allow one client into an exam room at a time. A majority of our staff is over the age of 50, several with health conditions putting them at higher risk. In August we were closed for almost 2 weeks, due to a COVID positive case and a mandate from the health department. Our clients, patients, and staff members cannot sustain another COVID related closure. The entire profession has all been working hard during this pandemic to remain open; not only to continue to employ all staff members but to maintain quality health care for our client's pets, and uphold our oath to be disease sentinels for the general public. In the last few years the veterinary profession has suffered a high rate of suicide and compassion fatigue. And although this in no way compares to what our human medical counterparts are facing, it is no less significant. A vaccination would go a long way to help dissipate a small amount of the stress this profession is facing.

We implore you to add the veterinary professionals to the Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan.

Thank you for considering this request.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**From:** [Melissa Peterson-Ney](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:57:48 PM

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Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services  
State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

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

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

My name is Melissa Peterson-Ney and I am from Kenosha, Wisconsin. I am a Front Office Coordinator. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Our animal hospital, Care Animal Hospital of Pleasant Prairie, is a Fear Free Certified animal hospital. We are unable at this time to allow our clients into the building as it is very difficult to social distance from or client. I have seen this cause anxiety in not only the pet but our clients too. Clients understand the need to have curbside appointments but this also is preventing them from bringing their pets in, in a timely matter to be seen. They want to be present in the room during the appointments, and are waiting until their sick pet has no choice but to come in.

If we take the risk of allowing clients to come into the building for appointments we are opening ourselves up to the high risk of getting sick ourselves. If we have an outbreak in the hospital and have to close the doors our clients' pets' health is at risk. These are our clients' family members.

That aside, if our doors close we are putting the community's health at risk if we aren't able to provide basic wellness care and vaccines such as Rabies and Distemper vaccines, etc.

Thank you for considering this request.

Melissa Peterson-Ney

“Be the person your dog thinks you are”

-Unknown

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Kaitlin Felton](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee- Phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:56:00 PM

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1/17/21

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

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

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

My name is Kaitlin Felton and I am from the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area. I am a veterinary technician. I am writing to ask you to include veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I work at a small animal hospital that is currently doing a modified curbside approach. We come into contact with many clients daily. We are doing our best to socially distance, require masks, and only allow one client into an exam room at a time. A majority of our staff is over the age of 50, several with health conditions putting them at higher risk. In August we were closed for almost 2 weeks, due to a COVID positive case and a mandate from the health department. Our clients, patients, and staff members cannot sustain another COVID related closure. The entire profession has all been working hard during this pandemic to remain open; not only to continue to employ all staff members but to maintain quality health care for our client's pets, and uphold our oath to be disease sentinels for the general public. In the last few years the veterinary profession has suffered a high rate of suicide and compassion fatigue. And although this in no way compares to what our human medical counterparts are facing, it is no less significant. A vaccination would go a long way to help dissipate a small amount of the stress this profession is facing.

We implore you to add the veterinary professionals to the Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan.

[REDACTED] ng this request.  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kaitlin Felton  
Veterinary Technician  
Lakeside Animal Hospital

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Kate Kornowski](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:50:07 PM

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Hello –

I'm writing to request veterinarians and their staff be included in Phase 1B of the COVID-19 vaccine series.

We have been essential workers throughout the pandemic, keeping our doors open through these rough months. As vets, we are at the forefront of animal and public health. We are the first line for zoonoses such as Rabies as well as COVID-19 signs in pets.

Please consider adding us to Phase 1B – we want to be vaccinated as the essential workers we are.

Thank you.

Dr. Kate Kornowski  
Green Bay, WI

**From:** [drragoschke\\_burleighroadanimalhospital.com](mailto:drragoschke_burleighroadanimalhospital.com)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** For Vaccine Subcommittee: Veterinarian Request to be Included in Phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:34:19 PM

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January 17, 2021

Dear Secretary-Designee Palm and Members of the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee,

I am a veterinarian practicing in Brookfield, Wisconsin. I am writing to implore you to include veterinary health professionals in Phase 1B of Wisconsin's COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Veterinarians and our staff are medical health providers tasked with providing care to our state's pets and livestock. Our jobs are not only essential to food safety and the support of the human-animal bond, a crucial comfort to the mental health of our clients during quarantine. We are also on the front lines of detecting and treating diseases including zoonotic diseases like COVID-19, making us crucial for public health.

Since the pandemic began, veterinarians have been available to their communities providing these services. We have adjusted our protocols to decrease elective services to preserve PPE for our human medicine counterparts. We have modified our appointment schedules to curb side service in efforts to protect our clients and staff from exposure to COVID-19. However, this does not completely minimize our exposure. We are still encountering clients during end-of-life care for their animals and in the parking lots as we are collecting pets for their appointments. Due to the nature of our work, veterinarians and support staff work in close contact with each other. Many of us have had the virus enter our clinics. Even with recommended masks and hygiene protocols, we are putting ourselves at risk to provide essential services. I am asking for the state to provide myself and my colleagues with the vaccine so that we can continue our work.

I appreciate your time in considering my request.

Sincerely,

Amy Ragoschke, DVM  
Brookfield, Wisconsin

**From:** [Natalie Schweitzer](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:24:34 PM

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Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Natalie Schweitzer and I am from Middleton, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian and owner of All Pets Veterinary Clinic. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Veterinary health care workers in my practice are deemed essential workers that provide critical care to companion animals in Dane County. We currently are offering medical, surgical and urgent care via a curbside approach. There has been an overwhelming demand for our services and if we have to close due to COVID-19 outbreak among staff, there may not be accessible alternatives for patients. As a profession, we can not work from home and currently, the provision of veterinary care via telehealth is not allowed under Wisconsin law. As a result, our patient care requires uninterrupted in-person/curbside visits and availability of our unique health care services.

I respectfully urge you to include all Wisconsin and Dane County veterinary personnel in the COVID Phase 1b Vaccine Priority Group.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Natalie Schweitzer, DVM  
Owner of All Pets Veterinary Clinic

[Redacted]

1.5347

[Redacted]

[www.allpetsvc.com](http://www.allpetsvc.com)

[Redacted]

[Redacted] 1-81 business days for an email response. If you need immediate assistance, please call the clinic.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



**From:** [Sue Roberts](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Veterinarians-Phase 1b COVID vaccination plan  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:13:48 PM

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1/17/2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

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

Our clinic provides low cost and subsidized services for people and pets in need. We are available for emergency services that clients with economic hardships would not be able to afford otherwise. If our clinic has an outbreak of COVID and is required to close, our animal patients could suffer or be euthanized needlessly.

Thank you for considering this request.

Dr. Sue Roberts, DVM

**From:** [Sonja Covington](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1b  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:31:33 PM

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1/17/2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Dr. Sonja Covington and I am from Sun Prairie Wisconsin. I am a Veterinarian. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I am one of 4 veterinarians at Token Creek Veterinary Clinic in Sun Prairie, WI. We provide essential veterinary care to over 3600 clients and over 7000 pets. We provide everything from preventative health care, continuing medical to urgent and emergency care for our patients. We are also critical in educating our pet owners regarding pet and public health issues and concerns. Veterinarians are essential health care providers not only to pets but also to food animals and in providing public health services regarding our food supply. A COVID 19 outbreak in our clinic would result in the loss of Healthcare for pets, providing essential medications and continuing management of ill patients, and providing education and peace of mind to our clients whose pets are like family members. A COVID19 outbreak would mean a loss of wages for 13 personell, all of whom have families to provide for. It would mean loss of care for over 7000 pets. For veterinarians involved in the care of food animals and public health, it would mean the loss of that first line of defense we provide, making sure our food animals are healthily raised, processing plants are upholding cleanliness and proper protocols for processing food, being aware of and reporting potential devastating infectious and zoonotic disease outbreaks. For veterinarians in research an outbreak of COVID19 would mean a loss in development of vaccines similar to those that protect us from smallpox, polio and COVID 19.

[REDACTED] essential personnel that are very obvious. As Veterinarians we ask you  
people wh [REDACTED] tt [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] zoonotic diseases, food safety, vaccine and medicine research and development,  
[REDACTED] food supply and providing for the health and well being of food animals,  
wildlife and pets, which also help provide positive mental health for their owners.

Please include Veterinarians and their staff in the Phase 1b of the COVID19 vaccine  
administration. We are the hidden warriors for public health and animal well being that impacts us  
all.

Thank you for considering [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sonja Covington, DVM  
Token Creek Veterinary Clinic  
3790 State Hwy 19  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
608.834.9700

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Becky Hauser](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:21:20 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to ask you to consider adding veterinarians and veterinary clinic workers to phase 1B of Wisconsin's corona virus vaccination plan.

Veterinarians were deemed essential personnel during the pandemic "shut down" that started last spring, especially those that care for food and fiber producing animals, and those (like me) that oversee slaughter plants and ensure the continued production of a safe and available food supply. But in reality, ALL veterinarians - including companion animal veterinarians - and their staff should be considered for vaccination during this phase.

When veterinarians and their staff are working on animals, even on large animals, there is no ability to "socially distance". You need to be within 6 feet of one another to control and examine animals. When a clinic has to shut down due to Covid exposure or infection within the clinic, the financial repercussions to that small business can be severe. The other ramification of these clinic closures is the diverting of patients to other, already overloaded, clinics... in some cases severely delaying necessary and possibly life saving treatments.

Those of us working in slaughter plants also have no physical way of socially distancing from other workers in the plant. We were hit especially hard last spring, and realistically are still recovering from the illness and shut downs that depleted our national food reserves. Those of us in slaughter plants, and other food production plants (any type of line work, really) should be vaccinated ahead of the general public whose food supply we inspect and produce, to ensure that no further food chain disruption occurs.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the state asked that veterinarians stop performing elective surgeries to preserve PPE, and veterinarians stepped up and did as asked. Human hospitals asked for "loans" of veterinary clinic ventilators (since so much of our equipment is indeed human equipment) and again, we stepped up as a profession and loaned our equipment to help save human lives. Now, it's time to show us that we are indeed appreciated for both our willingness to help, and for our contribution to community. Include the veterinary profession in Vaccine Phase 1B, please.

Thank you,  
Rebecca Hauser, DVM

**From:** [Kristi Bernhardt](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Priority Group  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:13:21 PM

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Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: DCVMA Urges Veterinary Professionals be included in COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b

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

I am writing to you to urge you to include veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants, and other veterinary clinic staff in the Phase 1b prioritization list to receive the COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Veterinary health care workers are essential frontline workers that provide critical care to both food/fiber animals and companion animals throughout the state and in Dane County in a clinical and house call capacity.

Many veterinary clinics offer medical, surgical, and emergency care curbside now; along with housecall end of life visits to patients every day with a huge demand for our services. If veterinary clinics and facilities were to close due to a COVID-19 outbreak among veterinary staff, there may not be accessible alternatives for patients.

As a profession, we can not work from home and currently, the provision of veterinary care via telehealth is not allowed under Wisconsin law. As a result, our patient care requires uninterrupted in-person/curbside visits and availability of our unique health care services.

We are disappointed to see our veterinary professionals overlooked in this recommendation for the next phase of vaccine distribution. We respectfully urge you to include all Wisconsin and Dane County veterinary personnel in the COVID Phase 1b Vaccine Priority Group.

Sincerely,

Kristi Bernhardt, DVM

[REDACTED]  
Whole Pet Veterinary Clinic

529 South Park Street [REDACTED]

Madison WI 53715 [REDACTED]

[608.270.1070](tel:608.270.1070)

fax: [608.663-0311](tel:608.663-0311)

[www.wholepetclinic.com](http://www.wholepetclinic.com)

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<http://www.facebook.com/wholepetclinic>

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Dr. Shawn Bogdanske](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine subcommittee- phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:34:24 PM

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Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services  
State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

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

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

My name is Shawn Bogdanske. I am a Veterinarian in Lodi,WI. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

The Veterinary Profession has been deemed an essential service since the initial outbreak of COVID -19. We have been serving the public with preventative health care (rabies vaccinations, bite wound quarantines and zoonotic disease prevention), emergency services and protecting the meat and milk supply. We have been working the front line along with the medical professionals and deserve the protection COVID 19 vaccine so we can continue to offer these essential services!

Thank you for considering this request.

Shawn Bogdanske

Dr. Shawn Bogdanske  
drbogdanske@lodivet.com  
Lodi Veterinary Care  
(608) 592-3233  
Fax (608) 592-5701  
www.Lodivet.com  
Lodi Veterinary Care- DeForest  
(608) 842-0501

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**From:** [Sanyog Singh](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:56:42 PM

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

My name is Sanyog Singh and I am from La Crosse, Wisconsin. I am a Medical student at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

As a future healthcare professional and current healthcare professions student, I stand with my colleagues in the field of veterinary medicine. Veterinarian health care students and professionals are providing essential services to communities across Wisconsin. Much like how physicians and nurses are providing care for our patients' essential health needs that are not related to the pandemic, animals ranging from beloved family pets to livestock also have health care needs which are continuing amidst the pandemic. The veterinarian health care professionals who attend to these needs are interacting with their patients' clients—community members whose COVID-19 status is unknown—on a daily basis. It is impossible for them to provide their essential work without interacting with other people, resulting in an increased risk of contracting COVID-19 compared with those who are able to work remotely.

The origins of the current pandemic as a zoonotic disease reinforce the importance that human-animal relationships have on the health of our world. As healthcare professionals who provide essential services to communities around the state, veterinarian health care professionals must be included in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Thank you for considering this request.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Wikenhauser, Chuck](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Comments Regarding Phase 1B Participants Being Considered by the Vaccine Subcommittee  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:45:37 PM

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

Members of the Vaccine Subcommittee:

I am writing today to ask that the Vaccine Subcommittee of the State Medical Disaster Advisory Committee consider adding zoo animal care and veterinary medical staff to the 1B group for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. These individuals work closely with exotic animals on a daily basis. They face the same risks as those individuals working in the mink industry. In Milwaukee County, zookeepers and veterinary staff are considered essential employees because the animals must be cared for every day.

For reference, mink are members of the Mustelidae family. This family includes weasels, badgers, skunks and otters. Here at the Milwaukee County Zoo we have ferrets (weasels), badgers, and river otters. I am also sure that the four additional AZA accredited zoos in Wisconsin (Racine, Dane County, Brown County and Baraboo) have similar species in their collections. We also have two species of bats. A species of bat has been linked to the COVID-19 outbreak in China. The ebola virus has also been linked to bats. At this time, there have been no reports that link any of these species with the transmission of the COVID virus either animal to human or human to animal at Zoos. However, there have been reports of the virus being transmitted from humans to lions, tigers, snow leopards and most recently to lowland gorillas. We have all of these species in our collection. Of great concern is our great ape and primate collection. In particular, the highly endangered bonobo (pigmy chimpanzee), of which we have the largest population (19) being managed in human care in the world. Their genetics are similar (98%) to humans. We even give them flu shots every year. A significant COVID-19 outbreak in this species would be catastrophic to the world population. To avoid this, we have implemented strict biosecurity measures including appropriate PPE. Having keepers and veterinary staff that have been given the vaccine would be very important in preventing disease transmission.

Zoos are one of the few safe outdoor spaces for families to visit during this time, and protecting our staff and animals ensures that we can continue to be a place for people to go to spend time with family and friends and learn about the natural wonders of the world. Thank you for considering this request.

[Annual Report | Milwaukee County Zoo \(milwaukeezoo.org\)](#)

Chuck Wikenhauser  
Director  
Milwaukee County Zoo  
10001 W. Bluemound Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53226

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**From:** [Amber Sheth](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:43:13 PM

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17 January, 2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

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

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

My name is Amber Maria Sheth and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a Medical student at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

As a future healthcare professional and current healthcare professions student, I stand with my colleagues in the field of veterinary medicine. Veterinarian health care students and professionals are providing essential services to communities across Wisconsin. Much like how physicians and nurses are providing care for our patients' essential health needs that are not related to the pandemic, animals ranging from beloved family pets to livestock also have health care needs which are continuing amidst the pandemic. The veterinarian health care professionals who attend to these needs are interacting with their patients' clients—community members whose COVID-19 status is unknown—on a daily basis. It is impossible for them to provide their essential work without interacting with other people, resulting in an increased risk of contracting COVID-19 compared with those who are able to work remotely.

Veterinarian health care professionals clearly fall under the Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee's category of "Public-Facing Essential Workers" who should be deemed Phase 1b eligible. Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians are providing services which cannot be completed remotely, must be done indoors, and which necessitate contact

[REDACTED] most every aspect except for the patients, veterinary medicine is  
[REDACTED] medicine, with teams of doctors, students, and techs working  
[REDACTED] high quality [REDACTED] it [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] se.  
[REDACTED] working indoors, which increases the risk for virus transmission. Furthermore,  
[REDACTED] care professionals must interact with their patients' owners,  
representing another way in which virus transmission is increased for this population.

Veterinarian health care professionals are a diverse group, including those with preexisting health conditions which place them at increased risk of morbidity and mortality following SARS-CoV-2 infection. Nevertheless, these individuals are still showing up to work every day to perform the essential work of caring for animals across [REDACTED] in the line of their work, they may be exposed to other animals which may be reservoirs for SARS-CoV-2 virus mutation, as noted in the Subcommittee's inclusion of those involved in mink husbandry in Phase 1b vaccination. It simply does not make sense to exclude veterinarian health care professionals from the category of "Public-Facing Essential Workers."

More broadly, the origins of the current pandemic as a zoonotic disease reinforce the importance that human-animal relationships have on the health of our world. As healthcare professionals who provide essential services to communities around the state, veterinarian health care professionals must be included in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

[REDACTED] g this request.

Sincerely,

Amber Maria Sheth

MD-MPH Candidate '23  
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health  
[sheth.amber@gmail.com](mailto:sheth.amber@gmail.com)  
715-360-2710

**From:** [Mary Kraft](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Covid Vaccination for Veterinarians  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:20:52 PM

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Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

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

We are a very busy 4 doctor practice with [REDACTED] employed at our clinic. We have been operating curbside, except for companion animal euthanasias, but we still have significant exposure to people. Many people added a companion animal to their families during the pandemic which has created a much busier than normal practice. We have been as careful and cautious as we can as an outbreak at the clinic would shut us down for 2 weeks which would be extremely detrimental to the health and safety of our staff, clients, and patients. We are considered “essential” workers so please consider us for Phase 1b Covid vaccinations.

Thank you for considering this request.

Dr. Mary Kraft  
All Pets Veterinary Clinic  
1009 N. Gammon Road  
Middleton, WI 53562  
608-831-1392  
drkraft@allpetsvc.com



**From:** [Judy Martinez](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1B  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 12:22:55 PM

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1/17/21

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services  
State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

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

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

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

We are a small animal hospital that is currently doing a modified curbside approach. We come into contact with many clients daily. We are doing our best to socially distance, require masks, and only allow one client into an exam room at a time. There are, however, plenty of times where we are working closer with our clients than the ideal 6 feet distance. A majority of our staff is over the age of 50, several with health conditions putting them at higher risk. In August, we were closed for almost 2 weeks due to a COVID positive case and a mandate from the health department. Our clients, patients, and staff members cannot sustain another COVID related closure. The entire profession has all been working hard during this pandemic to remain open, not only to continue to employ all staff members, but to maintain quality health care for our clients' pets, and uphold our oath to be disease sentinels for the general public. In the last few years the veterinary profession has suffered a high rate of suicide and compassion fatigue. And although this in noway compares to what our human medical counterparts are facing, it is no less significant. A vaccination would go a long way to help dissipate a small amount of the stress this profession is facing.

We implore you to add the veterinary professionals to the Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Dr. Judy Martinez





From: [Lisa Peterson](#)  
To: [DES SDMAC](#)  
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1b  
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021, 12:18:18 PM

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Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinary Professionals to be Included in COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b

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

I respectfully urge you to include veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants and other veterinary clinic staff in the Phase 1b prioritization list for COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

I am an essential front line worker providing critical care for companion animals. I have been directly exposed six times by a coworker (we have ~25 employees). Since our services are considered essential, our hospital remains open and we are told to "wait for symptoms to develop" after we are exposed. We can not socially distance due to the nature of our work. I have coworkers directly in my face (wearing a mask) all day long while restraining my patients to provide essential medical care. When someone is sick our patient load doesn't change and we need to work even harder to maintain services. We have even lost employees due to their concern for an increased exposure to COVID-19 while working at our hospital.

In addition, veterinary health care workers cannot work remotely or work from home. Currently, the provision of veterinary care via telehealth is not allowed under Wisconsin law. As a result, the provision of patient care requires uninterrupted in-person provision and availability of healthcare services. I am constantly putting my health and my family at risk due to my occupation.

I am disappointed to see veterinary professionals overlooked in the next phase of vaccine distribution. Many other states have prioritized our profession in 1a and 1b groups. I respectfully urge you to include Wisconsin veterinary workers in Phase 1b.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa R. Peterson  
Associate Veterinarian—New Berlin Animal Hospital  
3540 S Moorland Road  
New Berlin, WI 53150  
262-782-6910

 Reply  Forward

**From:** [Alisa Morrison](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** vaccine subcommittee- phase 1b  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:55:19 AM

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Hello.

I am writing today to request the inclusion of veterinarians and other veterinary workers in Phase 1b of the Coronavirus vaccine plan.

Veterinarians and veterinary staff provide essential healthcare services in our communities. Their work is also imperative for keeping the food supply chain in tact

I ask that you please add these essential workers to Phase 1b.

Thank you.  
Alisa Morrison



Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

**From:** [Lisa Peterson](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Veterinarians--need 1b vaccine priority status  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:55:00 AM

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Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: Veterinary Professionals to be Included in COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b

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

I respectfully urge you to include veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants and other veterinary clinic staff in the Phase 1b prioritization list for COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

I am an essential frontline worker providing critical care for companion animals. I have been directly exposed six times by a coworker. Since our services are considered essential, our hospital remains open and we are told to "wait for symptoms to develop" after we are exposed. We can not socially distance due to the nature of our work. I have coworkers directly in my face (wearing a mask) all day long while restraining my patients to provide essential medical care. When someone is sick our patient load doesn't change and we need to work even harder to maintain services. We have even lost employees due to their concern for an increased exposure to COVID-19 while working at our hospital.

In addition, veterinary health care workers cannot work remotely or work from home. Currently, the provision of veterinary care via telehealth is not allowed under Wisconsin law. As a result, the provision of patient care requires uninterrupted in-person provision and availability of healthcare services. I am constantly putting my health and my family at risk due to my occupation.

I am disappointed to see veterinary professionals overlooked in the next phase of vaccine distribution. Many other states have prioritized our profession in 1a and 1b groups. I respectfully urge you to include Wisconsin veterinary workers in Phase 1b.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa R. Peterson  
Associate Veterinarian-- New Berlin Animal Hospital  
3840 S Moorland Road  
New Berlin, WI 53150

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Cadence McGary](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** To Vaccine Subcommittee; Re Phase 1B Public Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 11:44:43 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to implore you to include Zoo professionals in Tier 1B COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out in the state of Wisconsin. I am Cadence McGary, a Commissary/Night Keeper at the Racine Zoo. Despite closures, I have been working every day throughout the pandemic and must do so for the animals under my care. I work with a variety of species, many of whom are susceptible to COVID-19. Many of our species are as susceptible, if not more, than mink and I am at the same level of risk of exposure as mink farmers who are included in the draft of tier 1B. Due to the nature of my work, also must work with other animal care professionals, and am also exposed to the public on a daily basis, putting me at a greater risk.

While our leadership has worked closely with other animal care professionals and we have followed every recommendation of USDA and the CDC, and have been given every protection possible, our health is still at risk every day as we come in to work. Including zoo professionals in Tier 1B of COVID-19 roll-out is critical to public health and safety.

Thank you for your consideration,

Cadence McGary

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Laura Patterson](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee-Phase 1b  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:42:48 AM

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January 17, 2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

RE: DCVMA Urges Veterinary Professionals be included in COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b

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

On behalf of the more than 100 veterinary health care workers who are our members, the Dane County Veterinary Medical Association (DCVMA) writes to respectfully urge you to include veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants, and other veterinary clinic staff in the Phase 1b prioritization list to receive the COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Veterinary health care workers are essential frontline workers that provide critical care to both food/fiber animals and companion animals throughout the state and in Dane County in a clinical and house call capacity. Many veterinary clinics offer medical, surgical, and emergency care curbside now; along with housecall end of life visits to patients every day with a huge demand for our services. If veterinary clinics and facilities were to close due to a COVID-19 outbreak among veterinary staff, there may not be accessible alternatives for patients. As a profession, we can not work from home and currently the provision of veterinary care via telehealth is not allowed under Wisconsin law. As a result, our patient care requires uninterrupted in-person/curbside visits and availability of our unique health care services.

We are disappointed to see our veterinary professionals overlooked in this recommendation for the next phase of vaccine distribution. We respectfully urge you to include all Wisconsin

and Dane County veterinary personnel in the COVID Phase 1b Vaccine Priority Group.

Sincerely,



Dr. Laura L. Oxley-Patterson, DVM

President Dane County Veterinary Medical Association



**From:** [Tiffany Patton](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine subcommittee phase 1b  
**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 10:20:07 AM

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Jan 17, 2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm  
Department of Health Services  
State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee  
Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee Members

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

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

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

I work in one of the only tertiary specialty and emergency clinics that services Southeast, Northern Wisconsin, northern Illinois and Eastern Iowa. With the common closure of the UW Veterinary school, we have been one of the only facilities open and available for care throughout the pandemic. It is also common during this pandemic that we are at capacity and cannot accept more patients from the general population and the community hospitals, leaving many people with sick or injured animals with no option but to drive to Milwaukee, Chicago or Minneapolis. As this pandemic worsens, this may become a more common occurrence for clients and patients seeking care.

Even though we are doing curbside service with clients and using PPE, we work in an enclosed environment with greater than 10 people in a small space. Given the nature of our work, we also cannot avoid close contact with our co-workers while restraining and working with animals.

We are disappointed that veterinarians and their staff are not included in the next phase of vaccinations to help keep us safe and able to provide care to our community.

Thank you for considering this request.

Tiffany Patton, DVM

Sent from my iPhone