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From: [Kristin Moala](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:23:45 PM

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing to encourage you to include zoo staff in phase 1B of the COVID vaccine roll out. I work for Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison and have been coming in to work everyday since we reopened in June. Our zookeepers never stopped coming in to work. Much like mink farms, we have many COVID susceptible animals at the zoo, including critically endangered species like tigers and orangutans. We also have a Zoo School program on site that has been running this whole school year. Our staff interact with the public everyday. 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 and learn about the natural wonders of the world. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,
Kristin Moala

From: [Sara Tolliver](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:19:41 PM

To Secretary- Designee Palm and members of the SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee,

As a Wisconsin veterinarian that has been working diligently throughout the pandemic, I urge you to include all veterinary medical professionals in Phase 1b prioritization for COVID-19 vaccine as essential healthcare workers.

We have been working with limited initial interruption since last March to continue to offer healthcare to all animals; pets and livestock alike. As such, we have been interacting in a modified way with the public as well working together, often in small spaces, with coworkers. Additionally, we are screening some patients for SARS CoV2 virus and are an integral part of the surveillance system. Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Lab has been extremely important as well in providing quick, high volume, testing of human samples for the virus that has been absolutely essential and critical during this time.

With that, I strongly urge you to add veterinary professionals (clinicians, technicians, assistant staff) to Phase 1b prioritization for COVID 19 vaccine.

Sincerely,

Sara Tolliver, DVM

From: [Thomas Day](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians in Phase 1b COVID vaccination in Madison and Dane County
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:17:51 PM

This is a follow up from my previous email. Below is a statement from Dr. Todd Lavender, President, VCA Animal Hospitals and Pet Services:

"Our hospital-based associates are frontline essential workers that VCA believes are entitled to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1b under the Center for Disease Control's COVID-19 vaccination program. Mars Veterinary Health is working state-by-state to advocate and allow for access to the COVID-19 vaccine under Phase 1b. **If you have any questions about an essential services letter, or need documentation to support your request for a COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1b, please contact your hospital or field leaders or Regional HR Partner.**"

Thank you

Thomas K. Day, DVM, MS, DACVAA, DACVECC, CVA
Emergency and Critical Care Specialist
Anesthesiology and Pain Management Specialist
VCA Veterinary Emergency Service/Veterinary Specialty Center
1612 N. High Point Rd., Middleton WI
608-831-1101
Work email: tom.day@vca.com

From: [Woods, Taylor](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:09:45 PM

Hello,

I am writing to advocate for Zoo Keepers to be included under the “mink farming” contingent in phase 1B of the vaccine rollout. Many of our zoo animals, including lions, tigers, orangutans, and otters, are capable of contracting covid-19, and subsequently capable of transmitting it to other humans. Since we cannot work from home in our line of work, plus we are responsible for many creatures who are prone to contracting covid, we should be considered essential in getting vaccinated. Please add Zoo Keepers to the list of people who will be vaccinated under phase 1B. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Taylor

Taylor Woods
Zookeeper
Henry Vilas Zoo
woods.taylor@henryvilaszoo.gov

Sent from my iPhone.

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From: [jane.lund](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Phase 1 b Covid Vaccine Veterinarians
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:58:40 PM

To whom it may concern,

I would like to share my opinion regarding having veterinarians be eligible for Covid vaccines.

I would encourage you to have small animal emergency room and large animal veterinarians and technicians vaccinated as soon as possible. I recognize that the current recommendations do not include veterinarians in phase 1B. Based on food supply safety concerns, public health concerns (parasites and zoonotic diseases such as rabies and leptospirosis), and acknowledging the human-animal bond I think including at least this subset of veterinarians is important. My personal opinion is that not all veterinarians need to be vaccinated ASAP with such a critical shortage of vaccines but this small group should be for the sake of their safety while they manage issues that affect the public as a whole. Many veterinarians have been able to adapt to some degree with telemedicine (I work fully remote) and changing the way the clinic is managed but large animal veterinarians, particularly dairy veterinarians, and small animal emergency room veterinarians have fewer options available to protect themselves and their staff.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

JR

Jane Renee Lund, DVM, MS, MBA, DACVPM
MAJ/VCO/USAR
432d Civil Affairs Battalion
jane.r.lund.mil@mail.mil
University of Wisconsin
School of Veterinary Medicine
Diagnostic Imaging Assistant Professor
jrlund@wisc.edu

From: [Matt Byers](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:44:00 PM

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

My name is Matt Byers and I am from Dodgeville, Wisconsin. I am a primarily food animal 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, Military Ridge Veterinary Service SC, is a three doctor mixed animal practice in rural Iowa County, WI. We service, among other things, dairy cattle, beef cattle, small ruminants, pigs, and companion animals. Our clients range from hobby farms to large, modern livestock operations. Winter and spring are very busy times as sheep, goats, and beef cattle are giving birth. Both the birthing process and care for newborns requires a lot of veterinary intervention in order for our clients, producers of food, to remain viable and profitable. If our clinic has to curtail or outright stop providing service, animal health and food safety are jeopardized.

Another reason veterinarians are important is that we are a trusted source of interpreting and disseminating human health information for/to our clients. Rural areas, in general, tend to be more skeptical about the significance of COVID 19. By getting vaccinated ourselves, we are able to demonstrate the importance of getting vaccinated to protect, not only one's own health and business (ie, their farms), but also the public's health.

Thank you for considering this request.

Dr. Matt Byers

**Matt Byers, D.V.M.
Military Ridge Veterinary Service, S.C.
4788 Co. Rd. YZ
Dodgeville, WI 53533
Office (608)935-1406
Fax (608)935-1016
dvsmb@hotmail.com**



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [Megan Arce](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:35:17 PM

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 Megan Arce and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I work at a small animal hospital, Lakeview Veterinary Clinic, with approximately 20 employees. We do not have the luxury of working from home. We also are unable to socially distance from each other, due to the nature of our job. I am unable to place an intravenous catheter without a staff member holding the animal, which places us in very close contact. This happens all day long. If one of our employees were to contract COVID-19, we would likely need to close the clinic for many days, as we would all be exposed. Hundreds of animals would be without care, including life-threatening conditions, painful conditions, and end-of-life procedures. The animal emergency clinics in town are already overwhelmed and do not have the capacity to serve all of the animals that need to be cared for - they are frequently shutting down due to a lack of staff and resources to accommodate all of the sick animals.

Thank you for considering this request.

Megan Arce, DVM

From: [Mary Ann Picone](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:12:26 PM

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 Mary Ann Picone, DNP and I am from McFarland, Wisconsin. I am a concerned citizen and mother of 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 respectfully submit that veterinarians should have been in the 1a designation as veterinarians and veterinary technicians are and have been working everyday with the public since the beginning of the Pandemic. Owners of companion animals are allowed in the clinic for some visits now and for euthanasia whereas many people with CoVid die or have been dying alone as no one was allowed into their room. Also, the veterinary professionals have been using cloth masks as the PPE available is to go to the doctors, nurses and others taking care of the patients with CoVid. Veterinary professionals at the University of Wisconsin are working beside and with human medicine providers in some cases. I might conclude by saying that CoVid is a zoonotic disease which is something the veterinary professionals have a vast wealth of knowledge and hence deserve to be treated as the highly educated professionals they are.

Thank you for considering this request.

Mary Ann Picone

From: [Drew Taylor](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:04:23 PM

January 13, 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: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Andrew Taylor and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am an Emergency and Critical Care Resident at the University of Wisconsin College of Veterinary Medicine (UW Veterinary Care). I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I work in the teaching hospital and have been working throughout the entire pandemic (I have not missed one day of work due to COVID). I see clients every day, and treat 1st - 4th year veterinary students both in a lab setting and on the clinic floor. In order to perform my daily work, I am unable to maintain 6' distance from my colleagues and often work in small spaces. We have had several cases of COVID in the hospital that have drastically impacted our ability to provide enough personnel to appropriately treat our patients.

Specifically, as an emergency clinician, I am an essential worker and have had to work within the "altered quarantine protocol" to ensure our service has enough clinician coverage, even in the face of exposure. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This puts me, my family, and other co-workers at risk as there is a known latency period for this virus. The sooner I am vaccinated, the sooner this risk goes away. Please let me get vaccinated.

From: [Starr Cameron](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:00:25 PM

Dear Sir/Madam -

As a veterinarian and Clinical Professor at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, School of Veterinary Medicine, I am writing to give my complete and unwavering support for all veterinarians and veterinary support staff to be included in the 1b vaccine allocation. In many other states, including California and Florida, veterinary staff have been included in the 1a group.

We have been putting ourselves at risk daily - as essential workers - and we need and expect continued support and understanding from our government. Including veterinary staff in the 1b category will be an acknowledgement of the duty and sacrifice that we have been providing to our patients and clients since March 13, 2020. By not including veterinary staff in the 1b vaccine allocation, a feeling of being disrespected and disregarded will permeate through our field, which is already under considerable strain.

Sincerely,
Starr Cameron

Starr Cameron, BVetMed, DACVIM (Neurology)
Clinical Assistant Professor in Small Animal Neurology
Department of Medical Sciences
School of Veterinary Medicine
University of Wisconsin - Madison

From: [Andrew Taylor](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:52:19 PM

January 13, 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: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

My name is Andrew Taylor and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am an Emergency and Critical Care Resident at the University of Wisconsin College of Veterinary Medicine (UW Veterinary Care). I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I work in the teaching hospital and have been working throughout the entire pandemic (I have not missed one day of work due to COVID). I see clients every day, and treat 1st - 4th year veterinary students both in a lab setting and on the clinic floor. In order to perform my daily work, I am unable to maintain 6' distance from my colleagues and often work in small spaces. We have had several cases of COVID in the hospital that have drastically impacted our ability to provide enough personnel to appropriately treat our patients.

Specifically, as an emergency clinician, I am an essential worker and have had to work within the "altered quarantine protocol" to ensure our service has enough clinician coverage, even in the face of exposure. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This puts me, my family, and other co-workers at risk as there is a known latency period for this virus. The sooner I am vaccinated, the sooner this risk goes away. Please let me get vaccinated.

Thank you for considering this request.

[Redacted]

-- [Redacted]

Andrew Taylor, MS, DVM
Emergency and Critical Care Resident
University of Wisconsin – Madison
p: 608.263.7600
e: ataylor33@wisc.edu
pronouns: he/him/his

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Melissa Beyer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:51:30 PM

1/14/21

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 Melissa Beyer, and I reside in Madison, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian, and I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Veterinarians and other veterinary professionals have been adaptable and continued to work hard through the COVID-19 pandemic despite the uncertainty and staff shortages. From sickness or professionals needing to stay home for their family's safety or childcare, veterinary professionals have been spread thin. As a practicing relief mobile veterinarian, I have had to limit my travel and relief services during the pandemic for my personal safety and the safety of clinics and hospitals I normally work at in order to limit exposure. Each week there is at least one staff member out sick with COVID-19. Receiving the vaccine will help provide another level of protection for essential veterinary professionals so that we can continue to provide healthcare services. Human health is intertwined with animal health and veterinary professionals play a huge role in the health of all.

Thank you for considering this request.

Melissa Beyer

--

Melissa Beyer, DVM
Emergency Relief and Field Medicine Veterinarian
Fear Free Certified Professional
RECOVER Certified Professional
(920) 574-0506

From: [George Patrick Kelly](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Comment on Recommendations for the WI DHS for COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1b
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:48:09 PM

Good afternoon, thank you for all of the incredibly hard work you are doing on getting our communities protected as quick and safe as possible. I am writing to advocate for the inclusion of veterinary communities more broadly (beyond mink husbandry) in phase 1b. There is significant risk for these groups in their patient care with being exposed to the virus. There is also the risk of these groups exposing their own patients to the virus and, although mink are the animals that have thus far fostered a variant virus, it is still possible this could happen with other animal species. In addition to the risk of viral spread and possible mutations, veterinarians are a very essential group for economic activity in WI. Thanks for your consideration,

G. Patrick Kelly

Family physician and Madison resident

From: [Rebecca White](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:46:46 PM

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

My name is Rebecca White and I am from Madison, WI. I am the Medical Records Manager at UW Veterinary Care at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. 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 busy hospital on the UW-Madison Campus. Not only do we care for companion and food animals, we also work hard to educate future veterinarians. We have been open and treating patients all through the pandemic and are expected to work in close quarters with long hours. Positive cases have affected the level of care we are able to provide to our patients. Please include us in Phase 1b.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,
Rebecca White

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Adam Staff](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:29:37 PM

Dear WI DHS Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm

I own a small mixed animal veterinary clinic in Chetek WI. Your committee omitted veterinarians and their staff from the list of essential workers. I need to share with you who you are leaving off.

Animals have never cared about clocks or calendars and it turns out they care even less about pandemics. They're still giving birth, getting sick, having accidents, and dying (unfortunately). My staff of nine is available 24/7 to help animals and their owners through these obstacles . We have modified many of our routines to reduce our risks of coronavirus transmission, such as keeping owners in their cars while we care for their pets, postponing non-essential services, and doing virtual medicine when appropriate, which is not often. Back in March, I vowed to my patients, clients, and staff that we would not close our doors as long as one of us was well enough to carry on AND I vowed to my staff and their families that I would do everything in my power to protect them while we cared for patients.

So far, we have been able to avoid Covid but neighboring clinics have not been as lucky. There is not much over-capacity in rural Wisconsin veterinary clinics. If a clinic is forced to shut down, or even reduce capacity, neighboring clinics are going to get squeezed due to overflow - compromising staff safety and patient care.

Frankly, I think veterinarians should have been included in the 1a healthcare worker category but it is not too late to include veterinarians in the 1b designation.

Thank You
Adam Staff DVM
Chetek Veterinary Clinic
Chetek, WI 54728

clinic: 715.924.3301
24h cell: 715.764.9100

From: [Erica Olsen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1b
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:24:32 PM

1/14/2021

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: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan

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

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

I work at a companion animal veterinary hospital that cares for the health of dogs and cats on the North side of Madison. We work closely with our community to keep companion animals healthy and to help maintain the bond between pets and their family members. This is of utmost importance, especially during a pandemic when we are all spending more time at home and relying on our pets to provide comfort and happiness during a very difficult time in our world. I work in very close contact with my coworkers who include other veterinarians, veterinary technicians, customer service representatives, and practice managers. Each of us is a vital part of the veterinary team that works together every day to care for our patients. We are essential front line health care workers who have high contact with the public. Although we are taking every precaution, we are at a higher risk because of our contact with people in our community. Because of the nature of our practice and necessity of working closely together with each other, a COVID outbreak at our clinic would force us to shut down to quarantine. This would severely impact our small business and leave thousands of patients without the care they require.

In order to protect our veterinary team, our families, our clients, and in order to continue to serve our patients, I urge you to include veterinary health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Thank you for considering this request,
Erica Olsen, DVM
Northside Animal Hospital
Madison, Wisconsin

From: sally.m@careanimalhospital.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Covid vaccine plan
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:00:41 PM

January 14, 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 Sally Mariani and I am from Kenosha, Wisconsin. I am a Certified Veterinary Technician. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I work in a small animal practice. We have continued to provide veterinary care for our patients throughout the pandemic. While we no longer allow clients in the building, we still interact with them in the parking lot to get their pets for appointments and to return them to their owners. We all wear masks in the clinic, but due to the nature of veterinary medicine, it's nearly impossible to social distance with each other. If we have a Covid outbreak in our staff, we would have to temporarily close and wouldn't be able to provide care to our patients.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sally Mariani, CVT
Client Service Technician
Care Animal Hospital of Pleasant Prairie
9052 Prairie Ridge Blvd.
Pleasant Prairie WI 53158
262-694-6515

From: drwilsey@careanimalhospital.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Including Veterinary Professionals in COVID-19 1b grouping
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:54:26 AM

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

I am writing this letter on behalf of my entire veterinary clinic team at Care Animal Hospital in Pleasant Prairie. We are strongly urging you to include all veterinary clinic staff including veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants and front office staff in the Phase 1b prioritization list for COVID-19 Vaccines. We are essential frontline workers who provide care to all animals. The closure of other veterinary clinics in the area during the last 10 months has caused a lot of hardship for patients and their owners of care taking a long time to receive or not at all. This has led to pets suffering. Pets provide not only emotional stability for many owners but are considered members of the family and need to be cared for too. Veterinarians also prevent zoonotic diseases in people that these pets can pass to them without being cared for.

Our team has been instrumental in continued care in this area. We cannot socially distance during the care for these patients. We cannot work remotely from home. We have taken all precautions that we can to protect our staff and our business, but even through this, we have had several of our frontline workers out sick from this virus.

I am very disappointed to see that we have been overlooked. IL has included veterinary profession in their Phase 1b. AVMA has labeled us as essential workers. We respectfully urge you to include Wisconsin veterinary professionals in Phase 1b.

Thank you,
Rebecca Wilsey-Brewer, DVM
owner
Care Animal Hospital of Pleasant Prairie
9052 Prairie Ridge BLVD
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158
262-694-6515

From: [Brooke Zuidervaart](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:39:37 AM

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 Brooke Zuidervaart and I am from Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. I am a DVM Candidate of the Class of 2024. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Veterinary medical professionals are busier than ever during the pandemics and they are working so hard to protect their clients and themselves. Delivering curbside service requires risk and no reward for these veterinary professionals. The least our officials can do for us is to protect us from our daily exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Veterinary medicine is often pushed to the side and an afterthought, but you have the opportunity to recognize us by including veterinary professionals in the Phase 1b of the COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Thank you for considering this request. I truly hope you make the right decision for the sake of myself and my colleagues.

Brooke Zuidervaart

Brooke Zuidervaart
DVM Candidate | Class of 2024
University of Wisconsin-Madison

From: [Michael Dobbert](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:38:54 AM

Veterinary health care workers are essential frontline workers who provide critical care to both food/fiber animals and companion animals throughout the State of Wisconsin. The closure of veterinary clinics and facilities due to COVID-19 outbreaks among veterinary staff poses a unique risk to the continuity of animal care.

Multiple other surrounding clinics have had to close down for weeks due to COVID outbreaks and ER clinics in the area are overwhelmed often with wait times of 6 hrs or even shutting down for time periods.

Please include veterinary health workers in 1B. I am trying to stay open to provide needed services for clients and animal health in the State of Wisconsin. I would hope you would prioritize us as part of the health support system of this state before prisoners.

Thank you-
Dr. Michael Dobbert DVM
N 802 Club Circle Dr
Prairie du Sac WI 53578
6086283055

From: [MEGHAN EMILY HOEL](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians - Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:30:02 AM

January 14th, 2020

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

My name is Meghan Hoel and I am from Madison, Wisconsin. I am a Veterinary Technician Assistant and Veterinary Student. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

I work in emergency veterinary medicine and we have been completely overwhelmed with cases over the past few months. Other clinics have been forced to shut down due to the spread of COVID-19. The care of our patients is being compromised since the number of practitioners continues to go down due to the virus. We love what we do and are very passionate about the wellbeing of our patients, so much so that we have compromised our own wellbeing to stay open to serve our patients. The health and wellness of our veterinary population is important and necessary to not only us, but to our community. The pandemic, on top of its severe physical impact on our population, has also severely impacted the mental wellness of our people as well. Animals are known to help with such difficulties and it is necessary for both human and animal wellness to ensure that our veterinarians and support staff are able to safely serve their roles in our society. Please consider including our important profession in Phase 1B of the COVID-19 vaccination plan. I am happy to answer any other questions or concerns about the matter.

Thank you for considering this request.

Meghan Hoel

From: [Mike Brewer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B Consideration
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:27:46 AM

January 14, 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 Mike Brewer I am the owner and manager of a privately owned veterinary practice in Madison and am a resident of Madison. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

My wife and I own a veterinary practice in Madison and fortunately we have not had any of our employees test positive for Covid since the pandemic began last year. My veterinary team members are frontline health care workers and cannot work remotely. As we continue to serve to care for our client's pets, my staff's safety continues to be my top priority. Because of the nature of our business, which requires near constant contact with the public, I would ask that you place workers providing veterinary care in Phase 1b priority list for Covid-19 vaccinations.

Thank you for considering this request.

Mike Brewer
Owner/Manager
Healthy Pet Veterinary Clinic
Madison, WI

From: [Dr. Brewer](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:23:56 AM

Dear Members of the DHSSDMAC,

I am emailing to request clarification. As a veterinarian, I often find the "classification" of my job in between different groups to be vague. I see myself and my colleagues as part of the overall healthcare system. We play an important part in keeping humans safe and healthy. In fact we are liable for malpractice if we do not perform our duties to keep humans healthy. Taking that into consideration, I read your COVID-19 vaccine recommendations for Wisconsin Phase 1b to mean that we and our team are included in the "Non-Frontline Healthcare Personnel. I would like this verified as we were not specifically listed, but much of those in that class were not listed.

Thank you in advance for your response.

Sincerely,

Dr. Russ Brewer

Care Animal Hospital of Pleasant Prairie
9052 Prairie Ridge Blvd.
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158
(262)694-6515

From: [amy](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians - Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:22:58 AM

1/14/2021

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 Amy and I am from Oregon, Wisconsin. I am a veterinary practice manager and CVT. I am writing to ask you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

We currently are approximately 60 patients per day and are currently providing curbside service to limit the exposure of our staff to the clients. However, this has immensely decreased our ability to be able to see more patients due to the time that it takes to process appointments when we are not able to communicate with clients efficiently. If our staff was able to be vaccinated we would be able to allow our clients back in the building and be able to provide the level of care that they are accustomed to. Also, if one of our staff were to contract Covid we would more than likely have to close to allow everyone to quarantine because except for maybe 2 people that are off on any given day we all work closely together. If this were to happen we would not be able to provide the appointments needed for the numerous rabies observations that we are seeing weekly. This could provide a very serious issue with the states continued fight against Rabies.

Thank you for considering this request.

Thank you,

Amy R.
Practice Manager, C.V.T.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Jean Thompson](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine subcommittee phase 1 b
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:22:05 AM

I am a veterinarian who has worked in a private practice for over 40 years. We have been doing curbside care since the pandemic and it is so difficult to separate pets from their owners for treatment and exams. During this time of isolation pets have become even more important to families for companionship and for those who live alone a lifeline. Please consider veterinary professionals as essential worker 1b.

Jean Thompson DVM

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tracy Kusik](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B PLEASE INCLUDE VETERINARIANS/veterinary staff
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:09:27 AM

Dear Secretary-Designee Palm and the Vaccine Subcommittee --

I would like to encourage you to include veterinarians, and their staff, as part of the next phase (1B) of vaccine distribution.

I personally own a small animal clinic, with 4 employees, and we have been doing all we can to provide animal care to our clients, while keeping the clinic open under curbside recommendations.

Covid infection in either myself, or my small staff, would be devastating.

This would:

1. force our 2000+ clients/their pets, to seek veterinary care elsewhere for an extended period of time. For patients with medical conditions (such as chemotherapy) which need weekly care, this would be very stressful for their owners and could lead to lapses in their proper care/treatment protocol.
2. Place a greater burden on remaining staff, if I have 25-50% of my workforce gone for extended time.
3. If I had to be out, there is no opportunity for the clinic to provide service at all. [REDACTED] and this business is how I provide. I cannot easily absorb a protracted leave of absence, and I worry I would not be able to pay my staff as there would be no revenue coming in.

I would estimate 80% of the clinics in my area are in the same boat as me-- one or two veterinarians, small staff, and no way to remain open if there is a significant covid outbreak. I know of 2 clinics in 2020 which had to close down for 2 weeks, for this reason.

Thank you for considering veterinarians and their staff as essential health care workers!

Sincerely,

Dr Tracy Kusik

--

Dr. Tracy Kusik
tracy.kusik@troutcreekveterinary.com
920.865.1010
Trout Creek Veterinary Center, LLC
560 Centennial Centre Blvd
Hobart, WI 54155



From: [James Meronek](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Veterinarians – Phase 1b COVID Vaccination Plan
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:04:40 AM
Attachments: image001.png

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 James Meronek, DVM, MPH and I am from Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. I am a veterinarian and Supply Chain Director for ABS Global located in DeForest, Wisconsin. Our ABS production team are responsible for caring for roughly 1,000 elite bulls. We collect, process and package 15,000,000 units of bovine semen. This product is used to breed cattle to produce milk and food. Our whole operation was considered essential by every state governmental body during any and all lockdown measures. My veterinary team consists of five dedicated individuals that are responsible for animal health that produces product for our essential food supply, we are essential. We have done what we can to protect ourselves, but vaccination is critical to that protection.

I realize everyone is important and decisions need to be made, but veterinarians are seeing animals for sickness, to vaccinate against zoonotic diseases and alleviate suffering. I strongly encourage you to include veterinarian health care professionals in Phase 1b of the Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Thank you for considering this request.

James Meronek, DVM, MPH
Health Assurance & Supply Chain Director
ABS Global, Inc / 1525 River Rd / DeForest, WI 53532
Office: +608-846-6455
Mobile: +608-225-4475



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From: [Anna Schwister](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:56:46 AM

1/14/2021

Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm
Department of Health Services
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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 Anna Schwister, DVM and I am from Sussex, 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.

My staff and I have been facing this pandemic as essential workers with little to no PPE since the pandemic started. We cannot space ourselves 6 feet apart as my staff restrains my patients for me during exams and any procedures we do. Veterinarians are an essential part of keeping the food chain going as we are the only ones who are USDA meat inspectors.

As a single doctor practice, if I were to get COVID, my practice would be shut down for an

[REDACTED] of time and my staff and my patients would suffer.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Thank you for considering this request.

Anna Schwister, DVM
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: amanda@middletonvet.com
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: vaccine
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:44:42 AM

Good Morning,

I am aware there was a meeting to discuss stage 2b recommendations for vaccination. As a veterinarian I know that we were not put on that list. I was wondering though if wildlife rehabilitators given their interactions with wildlife were included in stage 2b. Can you please let me know or point me to the document that lists the groups included?

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Amanda Falch, DVM, CCRT

From: [Keith Poulsen](#)
To: [DHS SDMAC](#)
Subject: Advocacy for non-frontline public healthcare workers and veterinarians for COVID Vaccine
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:56:59 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Good morning,

Thank you for all of your efforts in this very challenging time. We greatly appreciate your work and understand that you have a very tough job working with limited resources and enormous demand.

I am the Director of the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (WVDL). Our primary mission is to support animal and public health with high quality diagnostic testing and collaboration with state and federal agencies to manage infectious disease outbreaks. I am writing your committee to advocate for my laboratory team to be considered as Tier 1b vaccine candidates for COVID19 vaccination in Dane and Barron Counties.

We are not involved directly with human patient care but are essential for human and animal health care system infrastructure and operations. We were the main manufacturer of COVID19 test kits for Wisconsin until September, 2020. We have also built and maintain a CLIA/CAP approved diagnostic laboratory for human COVID-19 testing with a capacity for 14,000 tests per week to serve UW-Madison and UW-System as needed.

The COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory is embedded within the WVDL facility and team. This was done for efficiency and rapid stand up in an established quality and administrative structure. Some of the staff have received COVID-19 vaccine as Tier 1a because they work directly with human COVID samples. However, for the same reason as non-frontline human health care workers are Tier 1b, we are requesting tier 1b status for the remainder of our staff.

Our entire team was instrumental in rapid detection and management of COVID-19 on mink ranches in Wisconsin. We personally couriered and ran testing out of hours on emergency to diagnose and initiate rapid disease control steps on both of the positive ranches in Wisconsin. This work was critical to stop spread in the largest mink production industry in the world. As with human COVID-19 testing, mink testing is embedded within our team and facility so that we can maintain our ability for rapid, 24/7/365 response.

The WVDL has an essential role in Wisconsin to keep the agricultural industries moving by certifying disease free status, including COVID-19. This includes animals and animal products. As we are entering the highly pathogenic avian influenza season and are maintaining vigilant surveillance for African swine fever, having as much of our staff healthy and ready to respond is a **critical link to maintain Wisconsin Agriculture Industries.**

Our peer laboratories are all either 1a or 1b for vaccine priority. As Level 1 laboratory in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, we are asking for the same status so we can fulfill our mission to collaboratively work to manage infectious disease outbreaks that can and do occur every year.

COVID-19 management is not limited to diagnostic testing of human and animal samples. WVDL supports management of COVID-19 disease management and risk mitigation with DHS, DATCP, USDA, DNR, and CDC on a daily basis.

Risk of COVID-19 for our team: WVDL has the same risks, or higher based on the CDC work on APIP Work Group for vaccines for non-forward facing COVID-19 staff, because of our work with mink, agriculture, and human COVID-19 diagnostic testing.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Again, we appreciate the tough situation your committee is in and offer to assist in any way we can as a State of Wisconsin Animal and Public Health Agency. Please contact us with questions at any time.

Respectfully submitted and On, Wisconsin!
Keith
608-338-6444

Keith Poulsen, DVM PhD, DACVIM
Director
keith.poulsen@wvdl.wisc.edu
608-262-5432 ext. 2227
www.wvdl.wisc.edu

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