



WVMA Call to Action on Phase 1B of COVID Vaccine Distribution Plan

WVMA Urges Veterinary Workers Be Included

On Tuesday, January 12, the State Medical Disaster Advisory Committee (SDMAC) Vaccine Subcommittee [released its recommendations](#) for Wisconsin's Phase 1b distribution priority for the COVID-19 vaccine. **The draft plan for Phase 1b does NOT include veterinarians or other veterinary professionals.**

In [formal comments](#) submitted to the SDMAC on Thursday, January 13, WVMA Executive Director, Jo-ell Carson said, "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." Read the full letter below.

If you feel that veterinarians and other veterinary workers should be INCLUDED in Phase 1b, you may file written comments by Monday, January 18, 2021.

- Draft a **short personal letter** to Secretary-Designee Palm and the Vaccine Subcommittee that describes how a COVID outbreak could impact your practice and your patient care. We have attached a [SAMPLE LETTER](#) to use as a guide.
- Comments should be **emailed** to DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov.
- Please include **"Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B"** in the email subject line of your email.
- All comments must be received prior to **4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 18, 2021.**

The WVMA has advocated throughout the pandemic for veterinarians and other veterinary professionals to be treated not only as essential workers, but as healthcare workers. We are disappointed to see our veterinary professionals overlooked in this recommendation for the next phase of vaccine distribution.

The [recommendation for this next phase](#) includes first responders, teachers, childcare workers, people ages 70 and older, mink husbandry workers, prisoners and others who live in congregate living settings. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services will finalize Wisconsin's Phase 1b vaccine distribution priority after reviewing all public comments.