



Veterinary Professionals Left Out of Final Phase 1B COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Recommendations

Recommendations Sent to Gov. Evers for Final Review

Veterinary medical professionals were not included in the State's Disaster Advisory Committee (SMDAC) Vaccine Subcommittee's final recommendations for Phase 1B COVID-19 vaccine distribution today. The recommendations come despite public comments submitted by the WVMA and 230 members of the veterinary medical industry urging otherwise. If these recommendations are approved, this means veterinary medical professionals can next be considered for inclusion in Phase 1C of the vaccine distribution.

"While we are disappointed with the subcommittee's recommendations, we are proud that our voice was unified and strong," says WVMA Executive Director Jo-ell Carson. "As veterinary professionals you are not only essential workers; you are healthcare workers, and we will continue to advocate for this distinction as we have throughout the pandemic."

The Phase 1B recommendations will not be final until Gov. Tony Evers approves them. The SMDAC Vaccine Subcommittee issued its first Phase 1B draft plan on January 12 and its final Phase 1B recommendations today after reviewing comments submitted during the formal public comment period which ended Monday.