



Livestock Veterinarians Included in Phase 1B of COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) [announced today](#) that livestock veterinarians are included in the list of those eligible for Phase 1B of the COVID-19 vaccination distribution, which is tentatively scheduled to begin March 1.

"Although not the result we advocated for – we wanted **all** veterinarians included in Phase 1B – this is still a victory for the veterinary profession," says WVMA Executive Director Jo-ell Carson. "The veterinary profession was part of the conversation, not only due to the efforts of the WVMA, but due to the efforts of the 230 members who took the time to submit public comments. Including livestock veterinarians is a step in the right direction – a direction we will continue to pursue."

The state is currently receiving about 70,000 vaccine doses per week from the federal government. However, Wisconsin has about 700,000 people at age 65 or older who are currently prioritized amongst the most vulnerable populations. Given this, state health officials expect the vaccine supply will be limited at least for the next month as it could take several weeks or months to vaccinate everyone in that age group.

While we recognize and support the state pursuing a vaccination strategy that prioritizes the most vulnerable populations, we also believe that veterinary professionals are at greater risk from COVID-19 than the general population because of the frequent interaction with customers.

As the vaccine supply improves in Wisconsin and once the state is able to move closer to Phase 1B, the WVMA will again contact state health officials and our state legislators to ask that all veterinary professionals be included as soon as possible. Please watch your email for further updates. We will continue to pass information along as we receive it.

For the full list of those eligible for Phase 1B, click the dropdown menu called "next eligible groups" on the [DHS website](#).

To consider the pros and cons of a mandatory vaccine policy for your clinic or to learn more about the Paycheck Protection Program loans, view our webinar: [Pandemic Update: Stimulus Package & Vaccine Policies](#).

To hear more about the vaccine from one of Wisconsin's top infectious disease doctors, view our webinar: [Addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic: Challenges & Progress - Macro and Micro](#).