

COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Veterinary Professionals Included in Phase 1B of Vaccination Distribution

Veterinary Professionals,

Delivery of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines in Minnesota, not unlike some other states, has dealt with ongoing distribution and supply challenges as authorities work to complete the vaccination of frontline healthcare workers, nursing home residents, and those 75 years of age and older originally included in the 1a phase of vaccine rollout. Your MVMA, through its efforts to ensure that veterinarians are appropriately considered as vaccine recipients, has been in direct contact with the state's Vaccine Allocation Advisory Committee as well as public health officials and government offices to determine when veterinarians would receive the vaccine.

We recently learned that veterinary professionals will be included in Phase 1b. At this time, we still do not know when those individuals included in 1b will be able to secure access to vaccines or exactly how 1b will roll out. We will continue to communicate with you what we know as soon as we know it. As of January 19, 2021, 3.8% of Minnesotans had received at least one dose of a vaccine while .9% had completed a 2-dose series. You can find updated information about the progress of vaccine rollout in Minnesota [here](#).

Best,



Matthew J. Boyle, DVM
MVMA President

3 Phases of Vaccine Availability

The guide identifies these three phases of vaccine availability and distribution:

Phase I assumes a limited number of doses are available and is divided into subphases I-A and I-B.

- **Phase I-A** includes people serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and are unable to work from home. See the current [Minnesota Guidance for Allocating and Prioritizing COVID-19 Vaccine for Phase 1A](#).
- **Phase I-B** includes people who play key roles in keeping essential functions of society running and cannot socially distance in the workplace (**this includes veterinary professionals**), and those who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness. The playbook notes that the identification of critical infrastructure workers varies

by jurisdiction. Based on the descriptions and sample worksheet provided in the playbook, it's possible that many veterinarians and teams could be accommodated in Phase I-B.

Phase II assumes a large number of doses are available and focuses on ensuring access to vaccines for members of Phase I populations who aren't yet vaccinated, as well as for the general population. It incorporates a broader provider network and settings, including healthcare settings (doctor's offices, clinics), commercial sector settings (retail pharmacies), and public health venues (public health clinics, mobile clinics, and community settings).

Phase III assumes a sufficient supply of vaccine is available for the entire population. It provides for open and equitable access, encompasses a shift to a routine vaccination strategy, and includes public and private partner sites as providers.