



COVID-19 Vaccine Update January 20, 2021

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Community Vaccine Advisory Committee's essential workforce list now includes veterinarians and veterinary staff among healthcare workers/ public health. See the list of essential workforce [here](#) and note item 21 under "Healthcare/ Public Health." This inclusion was made on or about January 7 following the transmission of letters to the Community Vaccine Advisory Committee by members of the veterinary profession asking for clarification on vaccination priority.

As a result of this designation, veterinarians and veterinary staff are eligible for Phase 1A's inclusion of "Healthcare Workers" in COVID-19 vaccine priority.

Each county public health department is distributing vaccines in accordance with local policy, some taking into consideration [CDPH guidance](#), while others are following their own policies. Vaccination plans for each county are available at individual [county websites](#). Ultimately, it is up to each county to decide how to prioritize vaccine distribution.

The CVMA has received confirmation from members that veterinarians and veterinary staff are being vaccinated as part of Phase 1A in various counties. While there is some variance in policy between counties, public health officials are generally recognizing veterinarians and veterinary staff as healthcare workers and thus are providing vaccinations. The CVMA has also learned that counties not currently vaccinating veterinarians and veterinary staff are planning to do so in Phase 1B.

How to Get a Vaccine

Vaccine distribution varies by county in accordance with each county's public health department policy, and in some circumstances is limited by vaccine availability. Therefore, veterinarians and veterinary staff should contact the public health department in the county where they are employed in order to determine eligibility.

CVMA Lobbying Efforts

The CVMA continues to correspond with members and monitor information issued by public health departments about veterinarians and veterinary staff receiving the COVID vaccine. Local public health departments are working to distribute vaccines as quickly as possible and have requested patience as they address logistical issues.