



COVID-19 Vaccine Update January 4, 2021

Take Action Now!

Let the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) know your thoughts about veterinary professionals receiving the COVID-19 vaccine as part of Phase 1b distribution.

The next meeting of the California Department of Public Health's Community Vaccine Advisory Committee will be held virtually on January 6, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. In conjunction with that meeting, the Community Vaccine Committee is seeking public comment concerning the inclusion of various groups in "Phase 1b" of the COVID-19 vaccine's distribution. Information about the meeting will be posted [here](#).

To express your opinion about COVID-19 vaccine distribution and to request the inclusion of veterinary professionals in "Phase 1b," you may send a public comment email to the Community Vaccine Advisory Committee at:

COVID19VaccineOutreach@cdph.ca.gov

Current Vaccine Distribution Status

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) established a [Drafting Guidelines Work Group](#) (Work Group) at the Governor's order in October of 2020 to determine the priority for vaccine distribution. The Work Group is following [guidelines](#) from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) which state:

"Groups considered for early vaccination if supply is limited

- Healthcare personnel
- **Workers in essential and critical industries** (Veterinarians, Registered Veterinary Technicians, and veterinary support staff are classified as essential workers under federal and state guidelines, and thus are already prioritized for early vaccine distribution by virtue of that classification. Read more about essential worker status [here](#).)

- People at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness due to underlying medical conditions
- People 65 years and older

The CDPH also established a Community Vaccine Advisory Committee to provide input and feedback concerning equitable vaccine implementation and decision-making. Read the latest committee report on vaccine distribution priorities [here](#).

In making early COVID-19 vaccine distribution prioritization decisions, the state is using several criteria, including the necessity of the job to society, the impact on already disadvantaged communities and the risk of occupational exposure.

CVMA Lobbying Efforts

When COVID-19 vaccines began shipping to California, the CVMA submitted a [letter](#) to the co-chairs of the Work Group reminding them that the veterinary profession is part of the essential workforce and that early vaccination of the profession is critical. The CVMA also submitted a letter to the Community Vaccine Advisory Group asking for consideration of early vaccination prioritization for the veterinary profession.

The CVMA believes that it is of the utmost importance that the veterinary profession receive the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible, and is continuing lobbying efforts to achieve this aim.

What this means for the Veterinary Profession

The Work Group is aware that the veterinary profession is classified as essential. The CVMA is actively requesting that the veterinary profession be prioritized for early receipt of the COVID-19 vaccine. Presently, the state has not indicated a timeline for vaccine distribution beyond that which has already been established.