



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANOTHER JBS PLANT WORKER IN GREELEY, COLORADO LOST TO COVID-19; TOTAL OF 280 POSITIVE CASES

Colorado's Largest Private Sector Union Mourns Reported Death of Seventh JBS Plant Worker. Union Continues to Press for Daily Testing to Stop Virus's Spread, Keep Workers Safe and Protect Food Supply

DENVER – Kim Cordova, President of [UFCW Local 7](#), which represents 3,000 workers at the JBS meat processing plant in Greeley, Colorado, issued the following statement:

“It is with extreme sadness to learn another worker at JBS is reported to have died of COVID-19, making this the seventh death, according to the [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#) data. Greeley continues to be a hotspot in Colorado and it’s clear that we need to work together as a community, to break this cycle of death. We have learned that as of today, the official number of COVID-19 positive cases at the JBS meat processing plant now totals 280. The identity of the worker has yet to be confirmed.

Yesterday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Perdue sent letters to [governors](#) and to [stakeholders](#) reinforcing the need for facilities to protect its workers, but as we have seen, guidelines aren’t enough, we need enforceable and verifiable laws. Plants need to provide higher quality personal protective equipment and institute process changes because there continues to be areas of the plant where employees are not social distancing. Until that happens, the cycle of worker death and illness will continue.

Following Secretary Perdue’s letters and the April 26 CDC/OSHA Interim Guidance for Meat and Poultry Processing Workers and Employers referenced in those letters, UFCW Local 7 asks that the federal government make OSHA guidelines enforceable, strong and verifiable. The union continues to demand

specific health and safety actions necessary to protect these essential workers and the nation's food supply chain:

1. Mandate meatpacking companies to provide the highest level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) through access to the federal stockpile.
2. Ensure daily testing of workers and their communities.
3. Provide paid sick and family leave.
4. Ensure workers have access to quality and affordable health care, that includes long-term hospital coverage.
5. Mandate enforceable federal safety standards.
6. Mandate enforceable strong health CDC guidelines.
7. Ensure constant monitoring by federal inspectors to enforce safety standards.
8. Strengthen whistleblower laws for workers.
9. Protect workers' health and safety by ensuring they have access to union representation.
10. All workers receive a death benefit.

Our members share a common goal with JBS, federal, state and local authorities: to ensure that the plant continues to function to protect the food supply chain and to protect jobs, but it must be done in a way that protects the workers so no one else has to die.”

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[Local 7](#), the largest Union in Colorado is affiliated with United Food and Commercial Workers International Union which represents over 1.3 million workers in the United States and Canada, and is one of the largest private sector Unions in North America. UFCW members work in a wide range of industries, including retail food, food processing, agriculture, retail sales, and health care.