



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UFCW LOCAL 7 APPLAUDS TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BOARD FOR VOTING IN FAVOR OF A MASK MANDATE FOR ADAMS, ARAPAHOE AND DOUGLAS COUNTIES, BUT DISAPPOINTED AT EXCEPTIONS

Union Deems the Opt-Out Option for Municipalities as Unsafe and Unfair to Essential Workers

DENVER – Following the close 5-4 vote, the Tri-County Health Department’s (TCHD) board has approved a mask mandate for Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas counties in Colorado, with the unsafe and unfair option that allows individual municipalities to opt-out. [UFCW Local 7](#), which represents more than 21,000 grocery workers in Colorado and Wyoming, considers their members to be “Essential Heroes” who continue to work with the general public, potentially exposing themselves and their families to coronavirus, as states reopen and infection rates begin to skyrocket again.

Kim Cordova, President of [UFCW Local 7](#), issued the following statement:

“The Tri-County Health Department’s (TCHD) board decision to mandate masks for Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas counties is a smart public safety and health policy during unprecedented times, and we thank the members who voted for it.

However, the mandate is flawed because allowing individual municipalities to opt-out only erases the mandate itself. Unfortunately, it leaves the door open for local elected officials who are focused on politics and not science, to opt-out and put all essential workers at risk for contagion of COVID-19.

Our thousands of members in these three counties, and their families and communities, deserve better. UFCW Local 7’s grocery store employees, deemed essential workers by the government, worked throughout the shutdown, and continue to risk their lives to keep our communities fed. We call on every municipality of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas counties to opt-in and help save lives.”

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[Local 7](#) is the largest private-sector Union in Colorado and Wyoming. It is affiliated with the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union which represents over 1.3 million workers in the United States and Canada, 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.

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