



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UFCW LOCAL 7 ASKS FOR TEMPORARY CLOSING OF MISSION PLANT IN PUEBLO, CO FOR DEEP CLEANING AMIDST ANOTHER COVID-19 OUTBREAK

New Outbreak Occurs at Mission Foods Plant as CDPHE Says that One in 29 People in Pueblo are Currently Contagious with COVID-19, Nearly Double the Statewide Number of One in 41.

DENVER – Eight additional UFCW Local 7 members at the Mission Foods Plant in Pueblo, CO have been confirmed COVID-19 positive so far, following the outbreak of six cases there this past June. As of November 22, Pueblo County was designated “Level Red” by the state of Colorado, signifying severe risk and requiring the county to enforce new restrictions. UFCW Local 7 only tracks the COVID-19 cases of their members, and any additional cases from the plant should be reported on the public CDPHE website today.

In response to the outbreak, Kim Cordova, President of UFCW Local 7 who represents 27,000 workers in Colorado and Wyoming, including 200 workers employed by Mission Foods, issued the following statement:

“UFCW Local 7 is very concerned over the newest COVID outbreak at the Mission Foods Plant in Pueblo. We represent 200 members there and implore the company to do the right thing for its workers and the community in which they live. We request that the plant be temporarily closed for 14 days to conduct deep sanitization of the facilities to stop further contagion. In addition, we are asking for quarantine pay, since workers will have to quarantine at home for 14 days to limit community spread.

“Lessons should not have been learned the hard way. We have already witnessed the tragic outcome of not stopping production in time to mitigate the deadly spread of coronavirus in other communities in Colorado. We do not want Mission to be like other food processing plants in the state. Our members at Mission, and throughout Colorado and Wyoming, deserve to work in a sanitized workplace. Science-based guidelines should be followed to get this plant cleaned, opened, and prosperous for everyone, including workers.”

Mission Foods is a subsidiary of [Gruma Corporation](#), a Mexican-owned tortilla company that sells products under various name brands. The Union represents 200 members at the Mission Foods plant in Pueblo, CO.

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[Local 7](#), the largest private sector 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.

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