



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## UFCW LOCAL 7 REACTION TO THE CDC'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FIRST COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

*Union is Cautiously Optimistic about CDC Vaccine Recommendations but Asks that Health Authorities Seek Input from Labor and Communicates More Regarding Safety of the Vaccine*

**DENVER – In response to the recommendations of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices on who should get the first COVID-19 vaccines, Kim Cordova, Vice President of UFCW International and President of UFCW Local 7, which represents 25,000 workers in Colorado and Wyoming, including 22,000 Essential Workers, issued the following statement:**

“We applaud the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for recognizing the urgent need to protect essential workers, which includes our heroic health care, grocery and food processing members of Local 7, the latter of whom are disproportionately Black and Hispanic.

“While we strongly support the vaccination program, it is important for all decision makers and Americans at-large to understand that many people from communities of color have not historically had a positive experience with government-run medical services in the past, such as the infamous ‘[Tuskegee Study](#)’ that ran from 1932 to 1972, or even more recent examples in the Trump Administration with credible whistleblower reports of [forced hysterectomies and medical abuse of women](#) in detention. These abuses from our government authorities, or on the government's watch, have led to deep distrust in our communities.

“Given how our members have been neglected and unprotected by public health officials and their employers during this pandemic, Local 7 wants to make sure any vaccine decision made on behalf of essential workers is fully vetted, guided by both science and bioethics, and was not fumbled by the outgoing and incompetent Trump Administration. Our members' lives are at stake. Our number one priority is protecting America's working families, and that means being at the decision-making table for the vaccine. We urge the government to communicate directly with our members regarding the vaccine, and to implement a sick pay vaccine national policy for workers who take it and get sick.”

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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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