



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **AFTER ANOTHER COVID-19 OUTBREAK, UFCW LOCAL 7 REIGNITES CALL TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE MISSION PLANT IN PUEBLO, CO FOR SANITATION**

*New Outbreak Occurs at Mission Foods Plant as Pueblo County Reports Over New 300 COVID-19 Cases in the Last Week*

**DENVER** – The Mission Foods plant is in its third COVID-19 outbreak, with nine UFCW Local 7 confirmed infected so far. As of November 20, Pueblo County was designated “Level Orange” by the state of Colorado, signifying high risk and requiring the county to enforce new restrictions. The most recent outbreak began last month with [eight cases](#) confirmed in December, and the first outbreak in June 2020 resulted in [six confirmed cases](#).

**In response to the outbreak, Kim Cordova, President of UFCW Local 7 who represents 25,000 workers in Colorado and Wyoming, including all 200 workers employed by the Mission Foods plant in Pueblo, issued the following statement:**

“It is extremely concerning that a third outbreak is occurring at the Mission Foods plant in Pueblo. Our members— Mission’s employees— deserve better than a lackluster response to stop the spread of the virus throughout the plant. After nearly a year into this pandemic, no company can claim ignorance to the dangers coronavirus poses in production facilities. We implore Mission Foods to close the plant down for 10 days to conduct a deep sanitation of the facility, ensure workers have access to COVID-19 testing, and give quarantine pay for all employees while the plant is closed. Mission’s workers deserve a safe workplace, and the Pueblo community in which the company operates deserves to be protected from any spread from the plant.”

**State Senate President Leroy M. Garcia, Jr. (D-3), who represents Pueblo, CO, issued the following statement:**

“Until the vaccination process is completed, Mission Foods and employers around the state must remain vigilant; this is not the time to waver. In Colorado we have already witnessed the struggles and tragic outcomes that have occurred when employers refuse to act quickly to mitigate the deadly spread of coronavirus in the workplace. Mission Foods should lead by example, and take action now to temporarily close the plant to sanitize to protect these essential workers. The people of Pueblo deserve to be safe.”

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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