



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OVER 3,000 COVID-19 VACCINES GIVEN TO UNION MEMBERS DURING VACCINE DISTRIBUTION CLINIC AT JBS MEAT PROCESSING PLANT; AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS A SAFE WORKPLACE, BUT NOT ENOUGH

Local 7 Thanks Colorado Governor Jared Polis, State Officials, the National Guard, the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 1, the Teamsters, Immigrant and Refugee Center of Northern Colorado, and All of the Dedicated Doctors, Nurses, EMTs and Other Health Professions from IBMC College, UC Health, Kaiser Permanente, Red Rocks Community College Physician Assistant College, Sunrise Community Health, The Children's Health Place, and Banner Health

DENVER, CO – On Friday March 5th and Saturday March 6th, UFCW Local 7 is pleased to report that over 3,000 vaccines were distributed to Union members over a two day period at the JBS Greeley meatpacking plant for some of Colorado's most impacted Essential Workers of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the beginning of the pandemic, almost 500 UFCW Local 7 members at JBS have contracted the virus, and 6 members have died, as well as one corporate employee.

Kim Cordova, President of UFCW Local 7 who represents more than 3,000 workers at JBS Greeley, issued the following statement:

"We are appreciative of Governor Polis, Colorado state officials and the National Guard, and all of the local partners, for their continued partnership and efforts to ensure Local 7 members and workers at the JBS plant in Greeley – who kept our country's food supply chains operational at great personal risk– have direct access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Our 3,000 Union members, who were quickly deemed Essential Workers when this pandemic began, have disproportionately experienced the dangers of this virus – losing coworkers, family members and friends to this awful disease.

"While we are pleased at the success of the vaccine distribution clinic, and JBS's cooperation, our message to JBS and local, state and national health authorities, as well as OSHA, is the following: access to the vaccine is the first of many steps that will need to be taken to stop the continued spread of this virus and keep these Essential Workers safe. UFCW Local 7 concurs with labor expert Debbie Berkowitz, former OSHA Senior Policy Adviser during the Obama Administration, when she testified in front of [federal lawmakers last week at a House Appropriations Subcommittee hearing](#): '[Vaccination] is not a substitute right now for implementing safe practices. We need both.' UFCW Local 7 will continue to be vigilant and fight for safe working conditions during this pandemic, which is far from over."

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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.

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