



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UFCW LOCAL 7 DISPLEASED AND DEEPLY CONCERNED BY COLORADO'S DECISION TO LIFT STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE AND EASE PROTOCOLS

*Lifting COVID Mandates Will Compromise Workers' Safety In Already Hazardous
Workplaces*

DENVER, CO – Kim Cordova, President of UFCW Local 7, which represents more than 25,000 workers in Colorado and Wyoming, issued the following statement:

“UFCW Local 7 is deeply disappointed and concerned that the state government in Colorado will lift its statewide mask mandate April 4 and ease other coronavirus protocols. The virus continues to ravage communities across the state, including those in which our 25,000 members work on the frontlines in grocery, retail, healthcare, meatpacking and food processing. The drastic change in public health policy defies common sense and science, as [only 15% of Colorado's population has been vaccinated](#) to date.

“The majority of our members are frontline, essential workers, who have put their health and lives on the line to serve the people of Colorado and Wyoming during the pandemic. Even after a year in this pandemic, our members still struggle with their employers for basic PPE, safety protocols, testing, contact tracing, proper cleaning, and even basic cleaning supplies like soap and paper towels. UFCW Local 7 members who serve the general public are especially vulnerable to physical and verbal attacks on them from customers who do not want to wear masks or follow other safety protocols. Grocery workers' vulnerability to the virus also fails to be recognized by their employers, who have not provided hazard pay to their employees since last spring, even as the virus continues to spread across communities.

“While the vaccine roll-out continues to progress in Colorado, we are nowhere near the level of immunity in the state to warrant a no mask policy. Our meat packing members still have not received their second vaccine, and most of our grocery workers are still in the process of scheduling appointments for their first vaccine dose. To take away the state mask mandate is not an acceptable public health policy because our members are currently still exposed to the virus at work and have no control over their work environments. UFCW Local 7 has already lost 11 members to the virus and have had 1,665 confirmed positive cases. With this unfortunate new policy, our frontline members will continue to pay the highest price in this pandemic.”

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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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