



Wendell Young IV
UFCW 1776KS
President

All UFCW 1776KS Members:

Since the arrival of the Coronavirus, we have all been concerned about workplace safety. Many of our members are at the front line of essential services in grocery stores, in food processing plants, and in nursing homes. They are doing the work that America needs to survive this pandemic and they are at risk.

Please read my op-ed in PennLive demanding Governor Wolf and the PA state legislature enact more safety protections for our members:

<https://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2020/04/we-need-to-protect-all-workers-risking-everything-in-the-face-of-covid-19.html>

From day one, we have demanded better protective equipment and the training to properly use it. We have demanded changes to the workplace to minimize the risk of exposure; to ensure appropriate distancing from each other and the customers we serve. We have demanded increased sanitizing. We have demanded improved washing facilities and the time to properly wash on a regular basis. And we have demanded adequate sick leave so that if you become sick you do not have to choose between your health and feeding your family.

Many of our employers have stepped up to the plate by adopting improved sick leave rules and implementing hazardous duty pay. Many have implemented enhanced work rules consistent with the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. But those rules are meaningless if they are not enforced.

I am writing to make sure that you know that you have the right to decline work that is likely to cause serious harm to you. The Occupational Safety and Health Act requires that an employer ensure that its workplace is free of recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious harm. The Labor Management Relations Act protects your right to decline to work in abnormally dangerous conditions.

I am not writing to tell you to stay out of work. I am writing to tell you to help us ensure that your employers protect you at work and to remind you that if they don't, you have the right to decline to work in abnormally dangerous conditions.

If you are sick or your doctor tells you to quarantine, stay home but call your employer.

If you have someone sick at home and you need to care for them, stay

home but call your employer.

If you go to work and your employer is not enforcing distancing of 6 feet or more between coworkers and workers and customers; if you are not being given gloves and masks and/or shields; if the work place is not being regularly sanitized or if you are not being given ample opportunity to wash thoroughly and regularly, tell your employer and tell us. If the Company does not address these issues, then you have a decision to make.

No one has the right to ask you to risk your life and the lives of your family for a paycheck. Whatever good faith decision you make, whether to go to work or refuse to work in abnormally dangerous conditions, your Union will stand by you. We are in it together. These are extraordinary times. We all need to stand by each other.

If you have concerns or worries, never hesitate to contact us. Make sure to use our toll-free number at 866.329.1776.

And please visit our [COVID-19 RESOURCE CENTER](#) for more information on our efforts to help you and your family navigate this crisis.



Thank you,
Wendell W Young IV
President,
UFCW Local 1776 Keystone State

**IF YOU SEE (484) 589-1357 CALLING YOU, PICK UP THE PHONE!
IT'S YOUR UNION CALLING WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION!**