



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEIU Local 73 Statement on COVID Vaccinations

Chicago, IL – SEIU Local 73 believes that getting vaccinated is the best thing our members can do to protect themselves, their families, and the people they serve. While the Supreme Court has ruled that employers may mandate vaccination, we still have an obligation to bargain the impact of any mandate.

We have already seen breakthrough cases of COVID in vaccinated individuals. That is why we are discussing testing, reporting, quarantine policies, masking, social distancing, and more. Labor union contracts have to take into account that we are still in a pandemic and we have to look at full solutions towards stopping it. For any employer to suppose that simply getting vaccinated solves the problem is naïve. We have seen many of our members suffer and even die under COVID. Many have used up their benefit time to take care of themselves and their loved ones.

It is our responsibility to consider what happens next when the delta variant causes an outbreak and employers turn around and tell workers to quarantine for 14 days when they have no paid time to do so. This pandemic has already taken an economic toll in Chicago and Illinois. We need to be forward thinking to prevent that from happening again.

Our members have kept their cities, counties, and the state running throughout this pandemic. And while millions of children under the age of 12 remain unable to get vaccinated, our union, whose members serve children and their families statewide, is working to ensure that we do not go backwards.

This is not simply a question of should people be vaccinated. It's a question of how do we fight this pandemic together.

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SEIU Local 73 represents more than 31,000 workers, primarily in public service and publicly funded positions in school districts, municipalities, social service agencies, and many other job classifications in Illinois and Indiana. We are dedicated to improving the lives of workers and their families.