



United Food & Commercial Workers Union

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August 6, 2020

Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living

Room 302 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Hon. Cameron Friesen:

Re: Covid Positive Cases at Brandon Maple Leaf Plant

Maple Leaf Brandon employs over 2,300 Manitobans in the food production industry. We were advised late last night by the employer that 3 additional employees have tested positive for Covid in addition to an earlier positive test this week.

While we appreciate the employers work on containment, and on instituting public health protocols for this workplace, we are very concerned that 4 confirmed positive cases within 5 days and more anticipated positive cases is showing a dangerous trend. It is our understanding that numerous test results are expected back shortly. We fully expect to hear that many more of those are positive and we strongly believe that the most prudent action is to cease production until more test results come back and we have a better sense of the trend.

We are asking for your department to ensure public health by having the plant inspected by the public health department and to ensure that all health and safety precautions are being followed. We are also asking for a public health order to cease production for a period of time to ensure that this situation is under control.

Workers at the plant need to have confidence that by attending work, they are not taking a risk to their health.

Yours truly,

Jeff Traeger
President
UFCW Local 832

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Workplace Safety & Health

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