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Communications Workers of America Local 13500 AFL-CIO



March 9, 2021

Dear CWA Local 13500 Members,

First, I want to thank you all for your strength and perseverance throughout the past year. Life during the COVID-19 pandemic has not been easy, as members of our local have struggled with serious illness and lost friends and family members to this terrible disease.

Now that several COVID-19 vaccinations are approved and vaccination programs are underway, we are making real progress toward reducing infections, illness and death from the virus. Some of you have already been vaccinated or plan to be vaccinated soon.

CWA's Executive Board has done a thorough review of information about the COVID-19 vaccines. **They strongly recommend that CWA members be vaccinated with an FDA-approved vaccine to protect themselves, their families, their co-workers and their communities.** In addition, while CWA's Executive Board supports voluntary vaccination programs, they oppose mandatory vaccination as a condition of employment.

The COVID-19 vaccines that have been approved by the FDA have been thoroughly tested and the test results have been reviewed by an independent panel of medical experts. They have found them to be safe and very effective at keeping you from getting symptomatic COVID-19 or getting seriously ill or dying from COVID-19.

The vaccines work with your body's natural defenses so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed (this is also called immunity). Experts also think that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help to prevent mild, asymptomatic COVID-19 disease.

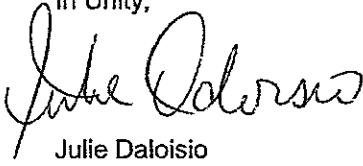
The COVID-19 vaccines cannot give you the disease itself. The vaccines may cause side effects in some people like sore muscles, feeling tired or mild fever. These reactions mean the vaccine is working to help teach your body how to fight COVID-19 if you are exposed.

Stopping this pandemic for good is going to require all the tools that we have available - staying at least 6 feet apart from people who don't live with you, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, washing your hands frequently, wearing masks and getting vaccinated.

CWA has set up a webpage at cwa.org/covid with the latest information about COVID-19 safety and vaccination, including links to information about vaccine eligibility rules and the sign-up process.

So stay informed, be safe, get vaccinated and together we can end this pandemic.

In Unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Daloisio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Julie Daloisio