The meat barons are a powerful lobby and are key players in Irish capitalism. Instead of imposing regulations on business, the right-wing parties of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael prefer to issue voluntary protocols.

Covid-19 shows it is time for change. All meat plants should be closed for two weeks to ensure that they are Covid free. Workers should be put on full pay while this emergency last. We need to move to a system of public ownership of meat plants because the existing owners have shown a reckless attitude to human health.

CONTACT PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT

01 87 22 682

If you feel your safety is being put at risk, and you are ignored when you raise it with your employer, talk to colleagues and your union and consider walking out together to protect your safety.

CONTACT PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT

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PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT

Covid-19: Safety of Meat Plant Workers Needs to Be Addressed Urgently

www.pbp.ie

Meat plant workers need a sickness scheme and an end to sub-contracting to help tackle Covid-19.

In Germany a special law was passed to ban sub-contracting in meat plants because it led to abuse and super-exploitation of migrant workers. There has to be direct employment instead.

If there are no sickness schemes, workers may be forced to go to work – even when there is a danger of Covid 19.

People Before Profit is urging meat plant workers to join a union and fight for a proper sick pay scheme.

On July 9th, the British Medical Journal ran an article about the international crisis in meat plants. They produced a set of guidelines to keep workers safe.
These included:

- **Staggering start, finish, and break times**
- **Reducing crowding by adding outdoor break rooms**
- **Installing barriers between workers, especially on production lines**
- **Screening all workers for symptoms, including fever, on arrival at work, and isolating quickly if required**
- **Reducing the processing rate for animals and carcasses**
- **Mandating face coverings**
- **Embedding good practice in donning and doffing protective equipment**
- **Installing touch-free time clocks**
- **Introducing enhanced cleaning and disinfection regimens**
- **Adequate sick pay during all work absences.**

These measures were not imposed in Ireland – and this is why more than 1,000 meat plant workers have contacted Covid 19.

The Irish government is fully aware of the terrible conditions of workers but they have turned a blind eye.