

For Immediate Release

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Venceremos is delivering over 170 signatures from Tyson workers to Tyson management at the Berry St. Plant on Wednesday, April 22 at 1 pm.

Springdale, AR, Wednesday, April 22nd, 2020 – Over 170 Tyson workers have signed a petition demanding Tyson Foods provide full benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has made their work more dangerous over the last month. Venceremos, an organization dedicated to ensuring human rights for poultry workers, is partnering with these workers to deliver the signatures to the Berry St. Tyson plant in Arkansas.

Under President Trump's Coronavirus Guidance for America, released on March 16th, poultry workers are deemed "essential" and must continue working. However, poultry workers face life-threatening conditions every day at meat processing plants. [As reported by Meatingplace](#), over 49 outbreaks have occurred at meat processing plants, and those numbers are likely far under-reported. Several facilities have closed, faced worker walkouts, or slowed production due to heightened concerns of worker mistreatment.

"We, essential workers, deserve to have essential benefits to be able to perform our job safely during this pandemic," said an anonymous worker at the Tyson Berry St plant. "If we get sick and die, there won't be workers left to process the food we put on families' tables every day."

Last week, workers from the Berry St. plant were told there is one case of COVID19 at the plant, yet plant management has taken few actions to protect employees. More than 170 workers are now demanding adequate protections by delivering a petition to plant management via Venceremos. The advocacy organization is supporting the workers' petition because many fear retaliation from the plant. Additionally, many were afraid to sign the petition for fear of retaliation, but they also support these demands.

Tyson is one of the largest meat companies workers and their advocates are urging to improve their response to COVID-19. As reports surface of Tyson workers falling ill--and as at least nine have died from the virus--workers are uniting across the country and demanding paid sick leave and safer working conditions.

In March, Venceremos launched [an online campaign](#) asking Tyson Foods to provide full sick leave benefits, compensated quarantine, adequate protective gear and hazard pay. Nearly 10,000 consumers and supporters have signed the petition, which originally caused Tyson to implement

new regulations and to relax some of their existing policies. However, Tyson's actions do not go far enough.

"This is an urgent problem, and we must act now. Workers feel terrified of going to work because they're so unprotected," said Magaly Licolli, cofounder of Venceremos. "Day in and day out, workers find themselves caught between life and death as they head to work out of necessity, but they're terrified they're being led to slaughter."

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