

April 13, 2020



JBS facility in Greeley closes after deaths of two workers from COVID-19

Source: JBS USA, [KTLA News](#)

JBS USA has announced that its facility in Greeley, Colo., has closed for a deep cleaning, and all of its workers will be tested before they can return for their jobs, reports [KTLA News](#). The company's beef facility has experienced increased absenteeism as the Coronavirus has spread in the local community, JBS said in a statement.

"While the measures we have taken within our facility to improve safety have made a positive impact, COVID-19 remains a threat across the United States and in Weld County, which is why we are investing more than \$1 million in COVID-19 testing kits for our team members" said Andre Nogueira, JBS USA CEO. "Greeley is our home and more than 6,000 JBS team members and their families live in Weld County. We currently have 36 JBS employees who have tested positive in Weld County and we are offering support to our team members and their families. No matter what measures we take in our facilities, we must all work together to prevent the continued spread of coronavirus in our communities."

Last week, the United Food & Commercial Workers Local 7, the union that represents the Greeley plant, asked Colorado Governor Jared Polis to close the facility following the death of a second plant employee. Saul Sanchez, 78, and Conchas de la Cruz, 60, had died of COVID-19, reported the [Denver Post](#).

"One death is a tragedy — two deaths at the same plant is simply beyond human understanding," wrote Kim Cordova, the Local 7 president, in [a letter to Polis and Weld County health officials](#). "With regret, we have no option but to conclude that the time for collaborative efforts has ceased. JBS has left us with no alternative." JBS had announced that the facility would be closed for the three-day weekend for deep cleaning efforts at the plant and to coordinate employee testing.

https://www.provisioneronline.com/articles/109196-jbs-facility-in-greeley-closes-after-deaths-of-two-workers-from-covid-19?id=109196-jbs-facility-in-greeley-closes-after-deaths-of-two-workers-from-covid-19&oly_enc_id=9918A7561689J8T

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Smithfield plant in South Dakota closes indefinitely, CEO warns of meat shortages

Smithfield Foods, Inc. announced today that its Sioux Falls, SD facility will remain closed until further notice. The plant is one of the largest pork processing facilities in the U.S., representing four to five percent of U.S. pork production. It supplies nearly 130 million servings of food per week, or about 18 million servings per day, and employs 3,700 people. More than 550 independent family farmers supply the plant.

"The closure of this facility, combined with a growing list of other protein plants that have shuttered across our industry, is pushing our country perilously close to the edge in terms of our meat supply. It is impossible to keep our grocery stores stocked if our plants are not running. These facility closures will also have severe, perhaps disastrous, repercussions for many in the supply chain, first and foremost our nation's livestock farmers. These farmers have nowhere to send their animals," said Kenneth M. Sullivan, president and chief executive officer, for Smithfield.

[According to CNN](#), South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem said that Smithfield employees account for more than half the active Coronavirus cases in the state — about 240 employees in 430 South Dakota cases. She had recommended that the Sioux Falls facility close for at least two weeks...

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