

# Coronavirus outbreak at German slaughterhouse infects more than 1,000 employees

FRANKFURT - More than 1,000 employees at German meat processing firm Toennies have tested positive for coronavirus, prompting local health authorities to order all 6,500 employees and their families to go into quarantine.

The localized lockdown is a setback for Germany's reopening strategy. Chancellor Angela Merkel had favored maintaining lockdown discipline for longer but eased restrictions following pressure from regional premiers.

Even though its management of the coronavirus crisis has been among the most successful in Europe, Germany has seen repeated outbreaks in slaughterhouses, whose employees are often migrants living in crowded company-provided accommodation.

Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, the meat company's proprietor, Clemens Toennies, said the outbreak presented an "existential crisis" for his firm, which has suspended operations as authorities seek to control the outbreak.

"As a company, we thought we had done everything right," Toennies said, adding that his firm had struggled to collect the personal data of employees and contractors so that authorities could trace the outbreak.

"As an entrepreneur, I can only apologize. We have caused this and are fully responsible for it," Toennies said.

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Source:

<https://nypost.com/2020/06/22/german-coronavirus-outbreak-at-abattoir-infects-more-than-1000/>

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