How well is Maryland protecting different types of frontline workers from COVID-19?

The answer is:
“We just don’t know because Maryland is not collecting data in a way that helps us answer this question.”

Currently, MDH reports data on the employment of those infected in ONLY the following categories:

- Barber/Salon/Spa Services
- Childcare/Education
- Commercial Construction and Manufacturing
- Healthcare
- Hotel/Hospitality/Janitorial
- Police/Fire/Military
- Restaurant/Food
- Retail – Essential Workers
- Transportation
- Other Non-Public Facing
- Other Public Facing

We Need Better Public Health Policy
A change to using standardized NAICS industry and SOC occupational codes will result in data that will assist the public health community to identify spikes and outbreaks in workplaces and to better evaluate the risks among various groups of workers. Using standardized data codes allows data to be compared across industries and states for future public health efforts.

For further information contact Marylanders for Food & Farm Worker Protection Coalition:
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Why is this important for public health? Because frontline workers are members of our communities and have sustained the state even before the pandemic. The pandemic has further revealed the great vulnerabilities faced by many frontline workers, who are disproportionately workers of color in low-wage industries. Current data collection, for example, masks infections in the meat and poultry processing industry, which nationally was a COVID-19 hotspot.