

# COVID-19 Occupation & Industry data collection in Orpheus

5/19/2020

## Occupation and Industry

Industry and occupation data will help us inform our COVID-19 response in Oregon. You will be filling out both fields: industry and occupation.

**Occupation:** The kind of work someone does (e.g., registered nurse, janitor, cashier, auto mechanic, barber, civil engineer). Occupation applies to the individual worker. Worksites can have one or many occupations.

**Industry:** The kind of activity at someone’s place of work (e.g., hospital, law office, retail sales, foundry, dairy farm, library).

## Occupation

What kind of work do you do? For example, registered nurse, janitor, cashier, auto mechanic. If respondent is unclear, ask “What is your job title?”

- Use the drop-down options, which have more common occupations
- Use text to enter anything not in the drop down.
- If unknown or refused, specify that, do not leave blank
- If respondent has more than one job then ask, “What is your main job?” and record that answer.
- Sometimes people aren’t very specific:

Non-specific occupation answer	Follow-up question	Specific occupation answer
technician	What is your job title?	laboratory technician, cable technician, computer repair technician
Healthcare provider	What is your job title?	registered nurse, doctor, dental hygienist, physical therapist, pharmacist
engineer	What type of engineer?	mechanical engineer, civil engineer, aerospace engineer, engineering technician, drafter

- Sometimes people confuse industry and occupation. For example:

Someone tells you their occupation is:	The actual occupation might be...
administration	office manager, administrative assistant, file clerk, shipping clerk
advertising	designer, salesperson, editor, public relations specialist, photographer
agriculture	ranch manager, agricultural worker, animal breeder, fisherman, logger
banking	bank teller, loan officer, database administrator, accountant

business	chief executive, market research specialist, purchasing agent
computers	computer programmer, web developer, computer scientist
construction	construction laborer, carpenter, roofer, sheet metal worker, electrician

## Industry

What kind of business or industry do you work in? For example, hospital, elementary school, clothing manufacturing, restaurant.

- Use the drop-down options which have more common industries
- Use text to enter anything not in the drop down.
- If respondent says “healthcare”, ask “In what type of setting, for example, hospital, nursing?”
- If unknown or refused, specify that, do not leave blank

## Data coding process

Occupation and industry text collected by interviewers (from the dropdown or what is written in) will be coded into numbers called Census codes. These coded fields will help us categorize the types of occupations and industries most important for COVID-19 and will let us find patterns from your data. We are working with CDC [NIOSH \(the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health\)](#) to integrate their coding system into Orpheus. A script will run the occupation and industry data through a computer program developed called [NIOCCs \(NIOSH Industry and Occupation Computerized Coding System \(NIOCCS\)\)](#) that assigns codes automatically using artificial intelligence.

The quality of your data will help us implement this process! The Occupational Health Program will be searching for the “missing data” codes and working to resolve any errors.

## How to Improve Coding of Industry and Occupation Text Entries

- Use the dropdown lists for common occupations and common industries, but don’t worry about needing to write in answers.
- A text entry cannot be coded if it is too vague, such as “office worker.” If the response is vague, ask probing questions to get more specific information, such as “what is your job title?” or “what type of office worker?”
- Industry and occupation can be obtained in just 2–3 words. Most of the time, more words do not improve coding.
- Do not enter company names in the industry field
- It is very important to spell correctly. It is hard to code misspelled words. Misspelling contributes to “missing” industry and occupation data.
- Everyone knows what their job is. If they do not respond to the questions, probe for their industry and occupation.

## Questions?

For any follow up questions, email Crystal Weston in the Occupational Public Health Program at: [crystal.s.weston@state.or.us](mailto:crystal.s.weston@state.or.us)