

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

RESPONDING TO CENSUS 2020

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE REQUESTED?

The 2020 Census will collect basic information about the people living in your home, including: age, race, and sex.

WILL THE CENSUS ASK ABOUT CITIZENSHIP?

No, the 2020 Census **will not** ask about citizenship status.

WHO COUNTS?

If you are filling out the census for your home, you **count everyone living there as of April 1, 2020**. This includes anyone living and sleeping there most of the time. If someone is staying in your home on April 1 and has no usual residence, you should count them in your response.

WHERE SHOULD I BE COUNTED?

People are counted at their usual place of residence (where they live and sleep most of the time). If usual residence cannot be determined, they are counted at the residence they are staying on Census Day, April 1, 2020.

WHEN WILL I COMPLETE THE CENSUS?

Beginning in mid-March, households will receive an invitation in the mail to complete the 2020 Census with a unique Census ID for that address. Once received, **you can respond online at my2020census.gov, by phone (see numbers available for multiple languages here), or by mail**. In May, the U.S. Census Bureau begins following up in person with households which haven't responded.

WHAT IF I HAVEN'T RECEIVED AN INVITATION?

While households can respond to the census online without a Census ID, we encourage you to wait for the initial invitation. Invitations are staggered to ensure the my2020census.gov website is not overburdened. All households should receive an initial invite by March 20.

WHAT LANGUAGES IS CENSUS AVAILABLE IN?

The paper questionnaire will be available in English and Spanish. Thirteen languages will be available online or by phone. The Census Bureau also provides language guides in 59 non-English languages.

WHY DOES CENSUS ASK THESE QUESTIONS?

Information collected by the Census helps determine how **more than one trillion dollars** of federal funding is spent on infrastructure and services. Your answers help federal, state, and local leaders make decisions about: schools, hospitals, emergency services, roads, bridges, job training centers, and many services that affect your community.

WILL MY INFORMATION BE CONFIDENTIAL?

Census Data has some of the **strongest protections in law**. It is against the law for any Census Bureau employee to disclose or publish census information which identifies an individual. Census Bureau employees take a lifelong pledge of confidentiality to handle data responsibly and keep respondents' information private. The penalty for wrongful disclosure is a **fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both**. No law enforcement agency (not the DHS, ICE, FBI, or CIA) can access or use your personal information at any time. Data collected can only be used for statistical purposes to inform decisions, including how much federal funding your community receives. The Census Bureau has robust cybersecurity, incorporating industry best practices and federal security standards for encrypting data.

HOW CAN I IDENTIFY SCAMS?

The Census Bureau **will never ask** for:

- Social security number
- Money or donations
- Anything on behalf of a political party
- Bank or credit card account numbers

If you are visited by someone from the Census Bureau, here are some recognition tips to assure their validity:

- Must present an ID Badge which contains: photograph of field representative, Department of Commerce watermark, and expiration date.
- Will provide you with supervisor contact information and/or the regional office phone number for verification, if asked.
- Will provide you with a letter from the Director of the Census Bureau on U.S. Census Bureau letterhead.
- May be carrying a laptop and/or bag with a Census Bureau logo

IS THE CENSUS HAPPENING AMIDST COVID-19?

Yes. Per the Constitution, the country is required to take a Census every ten years. While COVID-19 is impacting operations and dates are being adjusted, the U.S. Census Bureau is still planning to deliver state apportionments to the President by December 31, 2020 as required.

Thankfully, **it has never been easier for residents to respond to the Census from the comfort and safety of their own homes** whether online, by phone, or by mail.

Your response will be vital in helping us respond to future public health crises like the one we're living through now.

Respond to the Census at my2020census.gov

