



# COVID-19 & THE CENSUS FACT SHEET



\* As of 4/7/2020

## HOW HAS COVID-19 (AKA THE CORONAVIRUS) AFFECTED THE 2020 CENSUS?

While we encourage you to stay safe during this crisis, the 2020 Census is still active! The Census Bureau has made some operational timeline shifts due to COVID-19:<sup>1</sup>

- The deadline for responding to the Census is now August 14 (pushed back from July 31)
- In-person follow-up for those who have not yet completed the Census has been delayed to May 7
- Other miscellaneous operational adjustments

While these changes mostly represent delayed deadlines, there's no reason for you to delay! You can easily respond to the Census right now without leaving your home!

## HOW CAN I RESPOND TO THE CENSUS WITHOUT LEAVING MY HOME?

You can respond to the Census right now online or over the phone:<sup>2</sup>

- **Online:** Visit [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) to complete the Census online
- **By Phone:** Call (844)-330-2020 to complete the Census by phone
- **By Mail:** Just mail back the paper questionnaire

If you have not yet received a paper questionnaire, the Census Bureau will begin mailing them out beginning April 8.<sup>3</sup>

## WHY IS RESPONDING TO THE CENSUS SO IMPORTANT?

Counting everyone ensures that your community gets its fair share of funding for programs like schools, childcare, health care, transportation, and housing. When you or your family members aren't counted in the Census, your community and the people in your community lose out on funding for these vital programs.<sup>4</sup>

## WHY DOES COVID-19 MAKE IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO RESPOND TO THE CENSUS NOW?

Census data is critical to many of the emergency and health care efforts that have become so important due to COVID-19. For example, programs like Medicaid, Medicare, unemployment insurance, and food assistance are all tied to Census counts.<sup>5</sup> Completing the Census helps ensure that these services are provided at the level they should be in your community.

## HOW CAN I RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FILLING OUT THE CENSUS IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE?

The Census Bureau has made language guides for the Census available in 59 different languages, [available here](#). In addition, individuals can complete the Census over the phone in many languages — [click here for phone numbers to call in order to do so](#). Finally, our partners have established Census resource pages in [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#), and [Asian languages](#) to provide further assistance to those speaking other languages.

## QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS IN COMPLETING THE CENSUS?

Call the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law's Census Protection Hotline at 888-COUNT20 (888-268-6820) or email [888COUNT20@lawyerscommittee.org](mailto:888COUNT20@lawyerscommittee.org).

<sup>1</sup> 2020 CENSUS OPERATIONAL ADJUSTMENTS DUE TO COVID-19, <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/factsheets/2020/dec/2020-census-operational-adjustments-long-version.pdf> (last visited Apr. 7, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> RESPONDING TO THE CENSUS, <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html> (last visited Apr. 7, 2020).

<sup>3</sup> HOW THE 2020 CENSUS WILL INVITE EVERYONE TO RESPOND, <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/factsheets/2019/dec/how-census-invites-everyone.pdf> (last visited Apr. 7, 2020).

<sup>4</sup> *Counting Children in the 2020 Census: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*, CENSUS COUNTS, 1 (2020), <https://censuscounts.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Count-All-Kids-ENGLISH-FAQs.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> See, e.g., Marcia Hotchkiss and Jessica Phelan, *Uses of Census Bureau Data in Federal Funds Distribution*, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU (2017), <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/program-management/working-papers/Uses-of-Census-Bureau-Data-in-Federal-Funds-Distribution.pdf>.