

# Impact of COVID-19 On 2020 Census



## HOW WILL COVID-19 IMPACT CENSUS OPERATIONS?

### Field Operations (Suspended Until June 1)

Based on continuing assessments of guidance from federal, state and local health authorities, the U.S. Census Bureau is suspending 2020 Census field operations until June 1, 2020. The Census Bureau is taking this step to help protect the health and safety of the American public, Census Bureau employees, and everyone who will go through the hiring process for temporary census taker positions.

### Self-response (Extended until October 31)

The public is encouraged to respond online, via phone or via mail from March 12-October 31.

### Census Takers (Extended from August 11-October 31)

Census takers will interview households in person that have not responded online, by phone, or by mail starting in August until October 31.

## ARE RECENTLY HIRED CENSUS TAKERS STILL EMPLOYED?

### Census Employees

Although field operations have been suspended, the majority of recently hired Census Enumerators are still employed by the U.S. Census Bureau and are awaiting field operations to resume.

In the meantime, the U.S. Census Bureau is working to ensure these employees are properly on-boarded, trained and prepared to commence enumerating efforts when it's safe.

## HOW CAN PEOPLE DISPLACED BY COVID-19 ENSURE THEY ARE COUNTED?

### College Students

Even though it's unclear how long college campuses will be closed due to COVID-19, college students should be counted where they live most of the time under normal circumstances. For most, this is on campus. If they normally live on campus then they will be automatically be counted by their college through a system called Group Quarters. This means, they do not have to take action because their college will work directly with the U.S. Census Bureau to report them. If uncertainty remains in the respondent's mind and they cannot determine where they live most of the time based on these rules, then they should be counted where they reside on April 1st.

### Group Quarters

The U.S. Census Bureau is working closely with colleges, universities, service providers, transitional shelters, nursing homes, and correctional facilities to ensure individuals dwelling in institutional group quarters are counted, especially if they have been impacted or displaced by COVID-19.

## HOW DOES COVID-19 IMPACT REPORTING FOR PEOPLE WITH PO BOXES?

### Reporting & PO Boxes

Almost 5% of households receive their census invitation when a census taker drops it off. In these areas, the majority of households may not receive mail at their home's physical location (like households that use PO boxes or areas recently affected by natural disasters). These invitations will include a 12-digit ID number and directions on how to complete the 2020 Census online, by phone, or via mail.

However, since the U.S. Census Bureau has suspended field operations, these invitations may not be delivered. If your mail is normally delivered to your PO Box, and you haven't received your census invitation, you can complete your census online at [my2020.gov](https://my2020.gov) or by calling 844-330-2020.

You do not NEED the 12-digit ID number to complete your 2020 Census online. Click the "If you do not have a Census ID, click here" button located directly under the login button on the second page.

If you do not complete your census online or by phone then you might encounter a census taker at your door when field operations resume when it's safe.

## HOW CAN WE ENSURE A COMPLETE COUNT DURING TIMES OF SOCIAL DISTANCING?

### 2020 Census Outreach in Times of Social Distancing

There are a myriad of activities you and your community can facilitate to ensure every person counts in the 2020 Census. Large gatherings are off the table as many communities prioritize social distancing and shelter in place policies. Below, are some ways you can continue to engage while simultaneously promoting the health, safety, and well-being of all Arkansans:

- Turn to e-mail, social media marketing and phone calls to help educate community members about the #2020Census
- Post pictures/videos of community members completing their census on social media and encourage folks to share their 2020 Census stories
- Ask people to apply the official 2020 Census filter to their profile picture on social media
- Share flyers, handouts, and display boards virtually so folks stay updated on COVID Census changes
- Virtually remind community members to complete their 2020 Census form by visiting [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) or by calling 844-330-2020 (English)
- Discuss how census data supports programs that help communities respond to major crisis.

## WILL I ENCOUNTER A CENSUS WORKER IN-PERSON OR AT MY DOOR DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS?

### Encountering 2020 Census Workers During COVID-19

The U.S. Census Bureau has suspended field operations until June 1. Census Takers will not begin conducting door-to-door, in-person interviews until it is safe. According to the new operational guidelines they aim to resume operations in August and continue until October 31, 2020.

The only reason a Census Taker will come to your home is if you have not completed your 2020 Census. To prevent the physical presence of a Census Taker at your home, complete your 2020 Census ASAP at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) or by calling 844-330-2020.

# HOW IS CENSUS DATA USED IN COVID-19 RESPONSE?

## Census Data & COVID-19 Response

The 2020 Census data determines how more than \$675 billion in federal funds will be distributed to the states each year to support a variety of health, education, and infrastructure initiatives and programs.

For example, data from the Census determines how the federal government will allocate funding to the states for the National School Lunch Program and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Undercounts on the Census will result in less federal funding for these critical programs and services for the next decade. In Arkansas a 1% undercount could result in the loss of \$1 billion, that's \$33,000 per person over the span of 10 years.

Participation in the Census is a vital investment in the long-term education, health and well-being of our communities. It also provides important foundational data that experts use to respond to public health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

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