

## CENSUS FAQs IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

### Q: WILL THE CENSUS BE DELAYED?

**A:** As of June 10, the Bureau has delayed or extended certain operations by several months. For example, *the self-response phase has been extended to October 31, 2020 from August 14 (and initially from July 31st)*. You can see the entire updated timeline [here](#).

Ultimately, it is important to know that the Bureau's current belief is that, "it has never been easier to respond on your own, whether online, over the phone or by mail—all without having to meet a census taker." At this point in time, a postponement of the ultimate December 31st deadline does not seem likely. Given this, it is critical that *we continue to encourage community members to self-respond online, phone, or mail through mid-August*.

### Q: WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO PLAN REMOTE AND DIGITAL OUTREACH?

**A:** Instead of tabling in-person, consider phone bank, text bank, digital organizing, or social media community building. The Funders Census Initiative, a national funders group focused on the census, shared the following examples:

Create group events like tele town halls, Facebook Live streams, or Zoom meetings.

- Ensure there are informational flyers, palm cards, and materials at grocery stores, community centers, clinics and other essential locations with your website, ways to engage online or by phone.
- Consider creating digital ad campaigns for Twitter or Facebook to spread more information about the census. You can use the Census Counts Campaign in a Box toolkit.
- Working with local radio, print, and TV outlets to place free PSAs.

As we go remote and digital, be mindful of the following:

- Be vigilant of mis- and disinformation. Ensure best practices are followed and false information isn't pushed out.
- Institute privacy and security practices. Ensure staff and volunteers are familiar with basic phishing scams.

Please check out our [Census Resource Page](#) for more ideas.

### Q: WHAT ARE REMOTE WAYS TO FILL OUT THE CENSUS?

**A:** There are three ways to respond to the 2020 Census remotely – online, by phone or by returning the paper questionnaire.

### Q: WILL EVERYONE RECEIVE THE PAPER QUESTIONNAIRE?

**A:** Ninety-five percent of households will receive an initial invitation to respond to the 2020 Census in the mail -- a letter asking you to go online to complete the census questionnaire or to respond by phone. Depending on how likely your area is to respond online, you'll receive either an invitation encouraging you to respond online or an invitation along with a paper questionnaire. In areas where 20 percent or more of the households need Spanish assistance, the invitations will be in both English and Spanish.

**Q: WILL MY GEOGRAPHIC AREA RECEIVE THE PAPER FORM FIRST OR ONLY THE INVITATION TO RESPOND?**

**A:** Take a look at the Mail Contact Strategies Viewer -- if your census tracts are in green then your area will receive the invitation to respond and the paper questionnaire in the first mailing. Link to the Viewer [here](#). Remember, anyone who does not respond by phone or online will receive a paper questionnaire as part of their 4th mailing.

**Q: WHAT DOES THE INVITATION TO RESPOND LOOK LIKE?**

**A:** See visuals of the mailings [here](#).

**Q: CAN I FILL OUT THE ONLINE CENSUS WITHOUT THE CENSUS ID CODE IN THE PAPER MAILING?**

**A:** Yes. Visit [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov) to complete the questionnaire with or without a code.

**Q: IF I FILL OUT THE PAPER QUESTIONNAIRE, WILL I NEED TO PAY TO MAIL IT BACK?**

**A:** No, it has postage on the return envelope and is ready to mail.

**Q: WILL THE CENSUS ASK FOR CITIZENSHIP INFORMATION OR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS?**

**A:** No. The census will not ask any questions regarding one's citizenship. It will also never ask for your Social Security number, bank or credit card account numbers, money or donations, or anything on behalf of a political party.

**Q: WILL THE CENSUS AFFECT MY ABILITY TO RECEIVE A STIMULUS CHECK?**

**A:** No. Your answers cannot be used to impact your eligibility for any government benefits, including any potential stimulus package. The Census Bureau is bound by Title 13 of the U.S. Code to keep your information confidential, and the answers you provide are used only to produce statistics.

**Q: WHAT ARE THE CENSUS PHONE NUMBERS?**

**A:** See [here](#) for the complete list of helplines in different languages.

**Q: WHERE CAN I FIND LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE FOR THE CENSUS?**

**A:** See print guides in 59 languages [here](#).

**Q: WHEN WILL I BE ABLE TO SEE HOW WELL MY COMMUNITY IS RESPONDING?**

**A:** You can monitor the Census Self-Response Rates [here](#).

**Q: BEYOND THE CENSUS, CAN ROBIN HOOD HELP ME SUPPORT MY COMMUNITY DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS?**

**A:** Yes. In response to the devastating and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we have reactivated the Robin Hood Relief Fund to help provide stability to the historically disadvantaged communities that Robin Hood has been dedicated to serving for more than 30 years. We know these communities will be disproportionately harmed by the immediate and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. Please see [our website](#) for more details. We've also pulled together a set of resources that offer guidance on navigating COVID-19 and addressing organizational support needs [here](#).