

2020 Census Operational Adjustments Due to COVID-19

The 2020 Census is underway and more households across America are responding every day. Online, phone, and mailed self-responses will continue throughout the data collection process. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the U.S. Census Bureau is adjusting 2020 Census operations in order to:

- Protect the health and safety of the American public and Census Bureau employees.
- Implement guidance from federal, state, and local authorities regarding COVID-19.
- Ensure a complete and accurate count of all communities.

Under the adjusted 2020 Census operational plan, field activities would resume after June 1, 2020, as area census offices begin returning to full staff capacity. **In-person activities, including enumeration, office work, and processing activities, will incorporate the most current guidance from authorities to ensure the health and safety of staff and the public.**

Activity/Operation	Original Schedule	NEW SCHEDULE
Self-Response Phase Online, phone, and mailed self-responses continue throughout the data collection process.	March 12–July 31	March 12–October 31
Group Quarters (e-Response and Paper Enumeration) Many group quarters have already begun responding through our e-response enumeration option.	April 2–June 5	April 2–September 3
Remote Alaska Early operation to reach parts of Alaska that may be difficult to reach later in the year and whose populations depart for other activities. The operation will be mostly completed on the original planned schedule, though some areas with year-round populations will be enumerated when it is safe to do so.	January 21–April 30	Tentatively January 21–June 19, but may need further review and coordination

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Activity/Operation	Original Schedule	NEW SCHEDULE
Field Offices at Peak Operations Managers and staff commence administrative, training, deployment, and support activities for peak data collection operations. This includes selecting and hiring field staff.	March 1	June 1
Update Leave—Stateside Census takers drop off invitations to respond and paper questionnaires at the front doors of 5 million households stateside while updating the addresses.	March 15–April 17	June 13 –July 9
Update Leave—Puerto Rico Update Leave Operation for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, approximately 1.7 million households, will be coordinated separately.	March 15–April 17	Needs further review and coordination with outside partners and stakeholders.
Update Enumerate Census takers interview about 2,000 households in remote parts of northern Maine and southeast Alaska.	March 16–April 30	June 14–July 29
Nonresponse Followup (NRFU) Census takers will interview households in person.	May 13–July 31	August 11–October 31
In-Person Group Quarters Enumeration Group quarters that remain a part of our in-person group quarters enumeration efforts will begin in July.	April 2–June 5	July 1– September 3
Service Based Enumeration We're working with service providers at soup kitchens, shelters, and regularly scheduled food vans to count the people they serve.	March 30–April 1	Needs further review and coordination with outside partners and stakeholders.
Mobile Questionnaire Assistance Census Bureau staff assists people with responding online at places people gather (events, grocery stores, etc.).	March 30–July 31	Needs further review and coordination with outside partners and stakeholders.

Activity/Operation	Original Schedule	NEW SCHEDULE
Count of People Experiencing Homelessness Outdoors Census takers count people under bridges, in parks, in all-night businesses, etc.	April 1	Needs further review and coordination with outside partners and stakeholders.
Enumeration of Transitory Locations Census takers count people staying at campgrounds, RV parks, marinas, and hotels if they do not usually live elsewhere.	April 9–May 4	Tentatively September 3–September 28, but may need further review and coordination.
Process Apportionment Counts After collection activities are complete, Census Bureau experts run and review output from programs to unduplicate responses, determine final housing unit status, populate any missing housing unit data on household size, and finalize the universe to be included in the apportionment count file.	July 31, 2020–December 31, 2020	October 31, 2020–April 30, 2021
Process Redistricting Data Census Bureau experts run and review programs to populate any missing demographic data for each household, run differential privacy programs to ensure confidentiality, and run tabulation programs for each state delivery.	January 1, 2021–March 30, 2021	May 1, 2021–July 31, 2021
Deliver Apportionment Counts to the President By law, the Census Bureau will deliver each state's population total, which determines its number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.	By December 31	Deliver by April 30, 2021
President Delivers Apportionment Counts to Congress	Within 7 days of start of legislative session or approximately 10–20 days after receipt.	Within 14 days of receipt.
Deliver Redistricting Counts to States By law, the Census Bureau will deliver the local counts each state needs to complete legislative redistricting.	By April 1, 2021	Deliver by July 31, 2021