

2020 Census Operational Adjustments Due to COVID-19

The 2020 Census is underway, and more than half of the households across America have responded and more 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 has adjusted 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.

The Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management have provided federal agencies with guidelines for resuming operations on an epidemiologically sound, data-driven basis, adhering to the latest federal, state, and local guidance. The Census Bureau

continues to monitor the changing conditions at the state and local level, and in consultation with the appropriate officials, update its planned start dates for selected operations in selected states.

The information the Census Bureau receives daily from FEMA and state and local authorities guides Census Bureau decisions on timing. As a result, selected field operations will resume on a phased schedule on a geographic basis.

Under the adjusted 2020 Census operational plan, the Census Bureau is conducting a series of preparatory activities so we are fully ready to resume field activities as we continue to advance the mission of the 2020 Census to ensure a complete and accurate count. In-person activities, including enumeration, office work, and processing activities, will always incorporate the most current guidance from authorities to ensure the health and safety of the public and Census Bureau employees.

Activity/Operation	Original Schedule	New Schedule
Self-Response Phase (online, phone, mail)	March 12–July 31	March 12–October 31
Group Quarters (e-Response and Paper Enumeration)	April 2–June 5	April 2–September 3
Update Leave—Stateside	March 15–April 17	Selected Area Census Offices starting May 4
Update Leave—Puerto Rico	March 15–April 17	Needs further review and coordination with outside partners and stakeholders.
Update Enumerate	March 16–April 30	June 14–July 29
In-Person Group Quarters Enumeration	April 2–June 5	July 1–September 3
Mobile Questionnaire Assistance	March 30–July 31	Needs further review and coordination with outside partners and stakeholders.

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Activity/Operation	Original Schedule	New Schedule
Service-Based Enumeration	March 30–April 1	Needs further review and coordination with outside partners and stakeholders.
Count of People Experiencing Homelessness Outdoors	April 1	Needs further review and coordination with outside partners and stakeholders.
Nonresponse Followup (NRFU)	May 13–July 31	August 11–October 31
Enumeration of Transitory Locations	April 9–May 4	Tentatively September 3–September 28, but may need further review and coordination.
Deliver Apportionment Counts to the President	By December 31	Deliver by April 30, 2021
Deliver Redistricting Counts to States	By April 1, 2021	Deliver by July 31, 2021