

OMB Nonsubstantive Change Request

Department: Commerce

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau

Title: 2020 Census – May 2020 Update

OMB Control Number: 0607-1006

Expiration Date: 11/30/2021

Request:

This nonsubstantive change request is to document and inform the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of where the 2020 Census program is today and changes that will be made due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The U.S. Census Bureau continues to evaluate current plans. In order to maximize flexibility to adapt quickly in face of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Census Bureau will make operational changes as needed and will communicate regularly with OMB about the changes. As plans are finalized, the Census Bureau will document the changes in subsequent nonsubstantive change requests monthly for the affected time period.

The 2020 Census is underway- more than half 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.

On March 18, 2020, the Census Bureau announced a two-week suspension of 2020 Census field operations to help protect the American public and our employees from the COVID-19 outbreak. The press release is available here: <https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/press-releases/operational-updates.html>. On the same day, the Census Bureau also made temporary adjustments to operations at two Census Bureau facilities in Jeffersonville, Indiana: the National Processing Center and Paper Data Capture Center East. Until April 1, 2020, these two facilities transitioned to the minimum number of on-site staff necessary to continue operations. The press release is available here: <https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/press-releases/jeffersonville-statement.html>.

On March 28, 2020, the Census Bureau announced an additional two-week suspension of 2020 Census field operations to April 15, 2020. The press release is available here: <https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/press-releases/update-on-2020-census-field-operations.html>.

On April 2, 2020, the Census Bureau announced that many households across Puerto Rico would receive a letter by mail inviting them to respond to the 2020 Census, and that census takers will drop off census materials to all Puerto Rico households, at a later date. In keeping

with guidance from public health officials in Puerto Rico, the Census Bureau suspended hand-delivering census invitations and paper forms to households in mid-March because of health and safety concerns with COVID-19. The press release is available here:

<https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/press-releases/puerto-rico-2020-letter.html>.

On April 10, 2020, the Census Bureau announced that to increase call center capacity, the Census Bureau reinstated a callback option and made more employees available to respond to the requests for a callback. The callback option enables callers to leave a message and receive a timely call back from a census taker to process their 2020 Census response when all call center agents are busy assisting others or after hours. The Census Bureau had temporarily turned off the callback option because of staffing adjustments. The full press release is available here:

<https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/press-releases/increase-call-center-capacity.html>.

On April 13, 2020, the Census Bureau announced that it was adjusting 2020 Census operations in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. The Census Bureau temporarily suspended 2020 Census field data collection activities in March. Steps would be taken to reactivate field offices beginning June 1, 2020, in preparation for the resumption of field data collection operations.

In order to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau is seeking statutory relief from Congress of 120 additional calendar days to deliver final apportionment counts. Under this plan, the Census Bureau would extend the window for field data collection and self-response to October 31, 2020, which will allow for apportionment counts to be delivered to the President by April 30, 2021, and redistricting data to be delivered to the states no later than July 31, 2021. The full press release is available here:

<https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/press-releases/statement-covid-19-2020.html>.

The schedule for the 2020 Census operational adjustments due to COVID-19, as of April 13, 2020, is the following:

2020 Census Operational Adjustments due to COVID-19 Schedule		
		As of April 13, 2020
Activity/Operation	Original Schedule	New Schedule
Self-Response Phase	March 12–July 31	March 12–October 31
Group Quarters (e-Response and Paper Enumeration)	April 2–June 5	April 2–September 3
Remote Alaska	January 21–April 30	Tentatively January 21–June 19, but may need further review and coordination

Update Leave— Stateside	March 15–April 17	June 13 –July 9
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
Nonresponse Followup (NRFU)	May 13–July 31	August 11–October 31
In-Person Group Quarters Enumeration	April 2–June 5	July 1–September 3
Service-Based Enumeration	March 30–April 1	Needs further review and coordination with outside partners and stakeholders.
Mobile Questionnaire Assistance	March 30–July 31	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.
Enumeration at 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, 2020	Deliver by April 30, 2021
Deliver Redistricting Counts to States	By April 1, 2021	Deliver by July 31, 2021

On April 27, 2020, the Census Bureau announced that guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management has given Federal agencies guidelines to resume 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 and in selected states.

Information provided daily to the Census Bureau from the Federal Emergency Management Agency as well as State and Local authorities, will be used to guide 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. The full fact sheet is available here: <https://www.census.gov/library/fact-sheets/2020/dec/2020-operational-adjustments-covid-19.html>.

Further changes to field operations, contact strategy, or additional mailings may occur. Changes made to the 2020 Census program will be documented and announced in press releases on the 2020census.gov website (the direct link is <https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/press-releases.html>). In addition, the Census Bureau plans to submit monthly nonsubstantive change requests documenting the changes to the program.