



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Office of the Director  
Washington, DC 20233-0001

June 2, 2020

TO: Desk Officer for the U.S. Census Bureau  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs/OMB

FROM: Victoria Velkoff, Associate Director for Demographic Programs, U.S. Census Bureau

SUBJECT: Request for Approval for Non-Substantive Change: Household Pulse Survey

The Census Bureau is writing to request approval of a Non-Substantive Change to the questions administered on the Household Pulse Survey questionnaire approved on April 19, 2020 (OMB No. 0607-1013). This notice is in keeping with the Census Bureau's commitment to foster transparency in its efforts to produce new, relevant and timely data on the social and economic experiences individuals are having during this period of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The revisions to the Household Pulse Survey questions are designed 1) to ensure clarity in the collection of responses to existing questions; and/or 2) to collect new relevant information.

Refinement to existing questions include in the domains of employment (clearer response options regarding the reasons someone did not work); education (to ensure we were collecting information on teacher-led instructional hours for all K-12 students in the household); and respondent-provided address information (to clarify we are asking for current address).

New questions have been added to the domains of employment/spending (1 new question); food security (1 new question); education (1 new question); and one open-ended question so participants may write in about other experiences they wish to convey.

Please see Attachment NSC-2 for documentation of these changes.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

**Proposed changes to Household Pulse Survey**

June 2, 2020

**Employment**

(Implement line break in Q11. Consider adding new response option to Q13: "I did not work because I was concerned about getting or spreading the coronavirus")

(Q11:) Now we are going to ask about your employment.

In the **last 7 days**, did you do **ANY** work for either pay or profit? Select only one answer.

- Yes
- No

(Q13:) What is your main reason for not working for pay or profit? *Select only one answer.*

I did not work because I/my:

- did not want to be employed at this time
- am/was sick with coronavirus symptoms
- am/was caring for someone with coronavirus symptoms
- am/was caring for children not in school or daycare
- am/was caring for an elderly person
- was concerned about getting or spreading the coronavirus
- am/was sick (not coronavirus related) or disabled
- am retired
- employer experienced a reduction in business (including furlough) due to coronavirus pandemic
- am/was laid off due to coronavirus pandemic
- employer closed temporarily due to the coronavirus pandemic
- employer went out of business due to the coronavirus pandemic
- Other reason, please specify

(Q20:) Thinking about your experience in the **last 7 days**, which of the following did you use to meet your spending needs? *Select all that apply.*

- Regular income sources like those received before the pandemic
- Credit cards or loans
- Money from savings or selling assets
- Borrowing from friends or family
- Unemployment insurance (UI) benefit payments
- Stimulus (economic impact) payment
- Money saved from deferred or forgiven payments [to meet your spending needs]

**Food Security**

(Consider new question to follow Q24)

(New. Ask if Q24 =2, 3, 4 AND there are children in HH:) Please indicate whether the next statement was often true, sometimes true, or never true in the **last 7 days** for the children living in your household who are under 18 years old. "The children were not eating enough because we just couldn't afford enough food."

- Often true
- Sometimes true
- Never true

**Education**

(Change Q48 to account for multiple children. Consider new question to follow Q48)

(Q48:) During the **last 7 days**, about how many hours did the student(s) have live contact either by phone or video with their teachers? Enter the total number of hours for all students. *If none, enter 0.*

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(New. Ask if Q42=1:) During the **last 7 days**, about how many hours did the student(s) spend doing learning activities on their own? Do not include time spent with teachers or other household members. Enter the total number of hours for all students. *If none, enter 0.*

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**Address**

(Add "current")

(Residence:) The U.S. Census Bureau is interested in understanding geographic differences in experiences with the coronavirus pandemic. To help us analyze survey responses across the entire United States, please provide your complete **current** street address below.

Your address information will only be used for statistical analyses conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau and will not be used for any other purpose or shared with any other parties.

(Rural\_address:) Please provide the Rural Route address where you **currently** reside.

Also, provide a description of the physical location in the space provided.

(Other\_address:) Please provide the city and state or ZIP Code where you are **currently** living.

Also, describe the physical location in the space provided.

**Open-ended feedback item**

(New:) Thank you.

(New2:) Is there anything else related to the coronavirus pandemic you would like to tell us?  
(open-ended text box)