

# STAY SAFE WHILE YOU TAKE THE 2020 CENSUS

United States®  
**Census**  
**2020**

All genuine **Census 2020** surveys and agents will **never**:

- Ask for your Social Security number, bank, credit card, or account numbers
- Ask when you leave for or return from work
- Ask for money or donations
- Ask for support for a political party
- Threaten jail time

Any of these is a sure sign that a supposed census agent is looking for ways to steal your identity, money or possessions.

Census fraud can hit at home or at work (the Census Bureau conducts business related surveys, too). Be especially watchful for impostors in early and mid spring of 2020, when the actual Census Bureau will be sending out reminders to fill out your form and following up in person at households that don't respond.

## TIPS TO SPOT CENSUS SCAMS

-  Verify that a census taker is legitimate. All should have a Census Bureau photo ID badge (with a Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date). If necessary, do a Census Bureau staff search online to confirm identity. <https://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/main/email.cgi>
-  Don't give your Social Security number, mother's maiden name, bank or credit card numbers to someone claiming to be from the Census Bureau.
-  A Census agent will never ask you for money or financial data, such as your bank account number and balance.
-  A Census agent will never threaten you with arrest. Taking part in the U.S. Census is required by law, but you can't be imprisoned.
-  Don't trust caller ID — scammers can use “spoofing” tools to make it appear they are calling from a real Census Bureau number. Call the **National Processing Center in Jefferson, Indiana** at 800-523-3205 or 800-877-8339 (TDD/TTY) to verify that a phone survey is legitimate. [https://www.census.gov/about/npc.Contact\\_Us.html](https://www.census.gov/about/npc.Contact_Us.html)
-  Contact the Bureau's National Processing Center (see above) or the regional office <https://www.census.gov/about/regions/philadelphia/contact/identify.html> to verify the validity of an American Community Survey or other census communication.
-  Check the web address of any supposed census website. Make sure it has [census.gov](https://www.census.gov) in the address and look for <https://> or a lock symbol in the browser window.
-  Don't reply, click links or open attachments in a suspicious census email.
-  Check that a census mailing has a return address of **Jeffersonville, IN**, the site of the National Processing Center. For household surveys and the decennial census, the agency almost always makes contact by mail. If it's from somewhere else, it's a scam.

# Road to the 2020 Census

## Important Dates

Counting every person living in the United States is a massive undertaking, and efforts begin years in advance. Here's a look at some of the key dates along the way.

### January 21:

The U.S. Census Bureau starts counting the population in remote Alaska.

### March 12 - 20:

Households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail.

### March 30 - April 1:

The Census Bureau will count people who are experiencing homelessness over these three days. As part of this process, the Census Bureau counts people in shelters, at soup kitchens, and mobile food vans, on the streets, and at non-sheltered, outdoor locations such as tent encampments.

### April 1:

Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. When you respond to the census, you'll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.

### April 1 - 30:

Census takers will begin visiting college students who live on campus, people living in senior centers, and others who live among large groups of people. Census takers also begin conducting quality check interviews to help ensure an accurate count.

### May - June:

Census takers will begin visiting homes that haven't responded (nonresponsive followup) to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

### December:

The Census Bureau will deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law.

2020

### IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

Key census activities  
2020-2021

In mid-March, homes across the country will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail.

April 1 is Census Day, a key reference date for the 2020 Census. When completing the census, you will include everyone living in your home on April 1, 2020. Census Day will be celebrated with events across the country.

### March 31:

Complete delivering Redistricting Summary Files to all states (P.L. 94-171)

2021

United States<sup>™</sup>  
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Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
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