

Census Safety Information

United States®
Census
2020

This year, the United States Census Bureau is conducting its every-10-year census to count every living person in the United States and its five territories. In March, you should have received a mailed invitation to complete the census either online, by phone or by mail.

The Census Bureau is encouraging the public to complete their forms either online or by phone to conserve resources and to limit in-person completion due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you do not have access to the Internet, call 1-844-330-2020, toll-free, to receive help completing your form.

For those who do not complete the form online or by phone, the bureau plans to visit households to assist with completion. Due to the pandemic, however, the start of this has been delayed until at least May 28, 2020.

Recognizing and Avoiding Census Scams

Unfortunately, scammers see the census as an opportunity to access citizens' personal information and may unlawfully represent themselves as a representative of the Census Bureau by phone, email or in-person.

It's important to know when and how the Census Bureau may legitimately contact you so that you can identify and avoid falling prey to these scammers. The Census Bureau will not:

- Send unsolicited emails to request your participation in the 2020 Census
- Ask for your information via email
- Ask for your Social Security number, bank account or credit card numbers, anything on behalf of a political party, money, or donations
- Threaten jail time
- Ask when you return from work

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

See the back of this sheet for ways to spot census scams.

TIPS TO SPOT CENSUS SCAMS

- 1** 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).
- 2** Contact the Bureau's National Processing Center or the regional office to verify the validity of a census communication. The regional office covering Ohio is located in Philadelphia and may be reached at 1-800-262-4236. The National Processing Center phone number is 1-800-523-3205 or 1-800-642-0469 or 1-800-877-8339 (TDD/TTY). Report a suspected scam to the regional office.
- 3** Check that the census mailing has a return address of Jeffersonville, IN, the site of the National Processing Center. If it's from somewhere else, it's a scam.
- 4** Check the web address of any supposed census website. Make sure it has census.gov in the address and look for https:// or a lock symbol in the browser window.
- 5** Don't give your Social Security number, mother's maiden name, or bank or credit card numbers to someone claiming to be from the Census Bureau.
- 6** Don't reply, click links or open attachments in a suspicious census email.
- 7** 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 at one of the numbers above to verify that a phone survey is legitimate.