

## **2020 Census FAQ for Colleges and Universities**

- **Should we put our school address even if we won't be here April 1?**
  - YES. We've received written confirmation from a Census Bureau spokesperson that [college students should use their college addresses that they would have used, had the shutdowns not occurred.](#)
- **What if I recently moved out of my room and checked out of my building due to COVID-19?**
  - You should still fill out your form using the college address that you would have used had the COVID shutdowns not occurred.
- **What if my college campus ends up closing for the rest of the semester or for an indefinite period of time?**
  - Even in this case, you should still fill out your form using the college address that you would have used had the COVID-19 shutdowns not occurred.
- **Do I need a Census Response ID number to fill out my Census form online?**
  - If your Census ID was mailed to your college address after you left campus, you can still respond online without an ID. Visit the online form and select "Start Questionnaire." Below the ID field, click the link that says, "If you do not have a Census ID, click here." You can start [here](#).
- **What if my family already counted me on their form since I moved back home?**
  - We believe it's best to fill out the form of what was your previous situation, before classes were suspended – so, fill it out as you would have on April 1<sup>st</sup> had these shutdowns not occurred, even if your parents have already include you on their form. The Census Bureau will verify and remove any double-counts when they are processing all responses.
- **What if I was living off-campus and have returned to my hometown because of the COVID closures? Do the same rules apply to me?**
  - YES. You should still fill out your Census Form using the address that you would have been staying at most of the time for school if the COVID closures had not occurred. If you had housemates, fill out the form as if they were still living with you in that usual off-campus address.

- **I was filling out the Census form and it's asking me how many people will be living in my current dorm or address as of April 1st. What number should I use?**
  - We believe it's best to fill out the form of what was your previous situation, before classes were suspended – so, fill it out as you would have on April 1<sup>st</sup> had these shutdowns not occurred.
- **Do international students need to fill the form?**
  - YES. International students **should fill out the form where they would have been on April 1<sup>st</sup> (i.e. their university)**. The Census aims to count everyone in the U.S. and serves as a snapshot of the decade and all international students should be included in the count.
- **I am currently doing a co-op outside of the United States. Is it correct for me to respond to the census? I lived in Boston until December 2019, and will be returning to continue my studies in September 2020.**
  - If you are out of the country but are enrolled in a U.S. school, the residency rules from the Census Bureau state you are not to be counted “in the state-side census.”
- **If I lived off-campus, should all of my roommates fill out the Census for our apartment?**
  - We believe that it's best for students who lived off-campus to have one person respond for everyone living at that address. However, if that is not feasible, we advise every single resident of the address to fill out their information and let the Census Bureau's deduplication process sort out any double counts that may have occurred. Just to be on the safe side to have everyone counted, it's better to have everyone fill out individually than someone be missed. Remember, be sure to include those who were living at the address that would have been there on April 1<sup>st</sup> and before any shutdowns changed the living arrangements.
- **If we were living on-campus, a "group quarters administrator" will make sure we are accounted for, right? What if I recently moved out of my room and checked out of my building due to COVID-19?**
  - We believe that it's best for students who lived on campus but had to leave to manually self-respond and let the Census Bureau's deduplication process sort out any double counts that may have occurred. Just to be on the safe side to have everyone counted, it's best to complete your own response.

- **This census asks where I'll be living on April 1, 2020. Does it negatively affect the university's funding to say that I will not be living here?**
  - Federal funding to communities (which include schools) will be affected depending on population counts. We've received written confirmation from a Census Bureau spokesperson that college students should use their college addresses that they would have used, had the shutdowns not occurred.

*Any questions, please email [Census2020@sos.nj.gov](mailto:Census2020@sos.nj.gov) .*