The Census is Wednesday, April 1, 2020—just 2 months away as you read this. Where will you be, and will you be counted? What about your friends, family, co-workers, customers, clients, and fellow volunteers? While the info is all on the internet, it would be great if you had this info at your fingertips and top of mind so you can help others be counted easily.

For me, this is straightforward. We’ve lived in Bellevue at the same address for over 20 years, and we will be home that day. But what about college students, people spending the winter in Mexico or Hawaii, or people who have just moved? What about people who are not citizens and live here, or are just visiting for a week? I want you to be informed about all these situations so you can be a Census Ambassador and make sure everyone you know and meet get counted accurately.

The 2020 Census will count EVERYONE living in the United States and five U.S. territories. This is important, as many people may not feel they should be counted. If you are living in the U.S. and not just visiting, you should be counted. You don’t have to be a citizen or have been living here for a certain period. It’s all about where you are living on April 1, 2020.

Where will you be counted? You should count everyone who is living in your home as of April 1, 2020. This includes everyone who is living and sleeping there most of the time. If someone is staying in your home on April 1 and has no usual home elsewhere, you should count them on your 2020 Census. Is a newborn baby still at the hospital, but they will live in your home? Count them as living in your home.

Moving on April 1? If you move into your new home, count yourself there. If you move out of your old home, but not into your new home yet, count yourself in your old home.

Having company? Visitors should be counted where they live and sleep most of the time. So, if an old friend stops by for a week, they should not be counted in your home, but in their own home.

Whom do you count? All children should be counted—regardless of how they are related to you—if they are living in your home. This includes foster children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, or a friend’s child who is staying at your home for the school year.

Citizens of foreign countries who are living in the United States, including members of the diplomatic community, should be counted at the U.S. residence where they live and sleep most of time. International visitors in the U.S. for work or vacation should not be counted.

Boarding school students below the college level should be counted at the home of their parents or guardians.

If college students are living at home, count them at their home address. If they are living away from home, they should be counted at the on- or off-campus residence where they live and sleep most of the time, even if they are at home on April 1, 2020. Foreign students living and attending college in the United States should be counted at the on- or off-campus residence where they live and sleep most of the time.
U.S. college students who are living and attending college outside the United States are NOT counted in the census.

**Group Housing**

People who are living in emergency and transitional shelters that provide sleeping facilities for people experiencing homelessness should be counted at the shelter.

People who are patients in a facility on April 1 should be counted at the residence where they live and sleep most of the time, rather than at the facility. For example:

- Patients in hospitals for routine stays.
- Patients at Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals (except for psychiatric units).
- Patients at in-patient hospice facilities.
- Newborn babies (who should be counted where they will live).

These people should be counted at the healthcare facility in which they’re staying on April 1, 2020:

- People with no usual home.
- People in psychiatric hospitals or psychiatric units for long-term, non-acute care.
- People in nursing facilities.

If someone lives or stays in group quarters, such as college dorms, skilled nursing facilities, prisons and military barracks, the Census Bureau will identify a group quarters administrator at each location to ensure that everyone is counted in the 2020 Census.

**The Homeless**

The U.S. Census Bureau follows special processes to count people without conventional housing arrangements. It will devote three days to counting people who are experiencing homelessness across the country, with checks in place to ensure that people aren’t counted more than once. These days follow months of outreach and coordination with local Census offices, partners, shelter directors, service providers, and others:

- March 30, 2020: Counting people who are in shelters.
- March 31, 2020: Counting people at soup kitchens and mobile food vans.
- April 1, 2020: Counting people in non-sheltered, outdoor locations, such as tent encampments and on the streets.

**Other Situations**

Do you know a couple who live out of their RV and travel the country? My husband has an old high school buddy and his wife who are living the life. If they don’t have a home residence, they would be counted in a transitory location. This is complicated based on their travel plans, so they should probably contact the Census office. They should be counted since they are living and sleeping in the U.S.!

**Be a Census Ambassador**

Whether you are working on census activities or just talking to a friend, know how people should be counted so you can guide people on what to do for their situation.

**Resources:**