

5 Things to Know About the 2019 Census Test

The U.S. Census Bureau is now conducting a practice run in preparation for the Census count that will happen in 2020. These tests help the Census Bureau identify issues that might come up during the actual Census count and address those issues ahead of time to make sure that all people in the U.S. are counted. Your family might be asked to participate in this test or someone else who's been asked to participate may turn to you for more information about it. Here is what you should know about the 2019 Census test:

1 This is just a test – the actual Census takes place in 2020 with the reminders and forms being mailed out between March and April of 2020.

2 But in the next few weeks, 480,000 households all around the country will receive a test survey – half will receive a survey that includes a question on citizenship status and half will receive a survey without that question.

3 Putting the citizenship question on the test was originally intended to see whether including it makes people less likely to fill out the 2020 Census form.

4 The citizenship question has effectively been blocked from being on the 2020 Census form.

5 Strong privacy protections that apply to other census surveys also apply to the test (see the next column for more on census privacy laws).

Census Data Is Private

- ✓ It is illegal for the Census Bureau to disclose census responses in any way that would personally identify anyone who filled out or is counted on the form;
- ✓ It is illegal for anyone to see census responses except for employees of the Census Bureau, who are sworn to secrecy under the threat of criminal punishment;
- ✓ It is illegal for the Census Bureau to disclose census responses to other government agencies;
- ✓ It is illegal for data collected for the census to be used for any non-statistical purpose, such as immigration regulation or other law enforcement; and
- ✓ It is illegal for the Census Bureau or any other federal agency to use census data to harm the person whose information it is.

Still have questions?

Call the toll-free national census hot line run by the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), a nonprofit advocacy organization.

The hot line is open Monday-Friday from 8:30am-8:30pm ET and can take your call in English or Spanish.

Call 877-EL-CENSO
or 877-352-3676

