



NEWS RELEASE

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Census Takers to Start Visiting Neighborhoods Tomorrow

Starting tomorrow, Aug. 11, census takers will visit homes in Wake County that haven't yet responded to the 2020 Census.

"It's critical that we get an accurate census count," said Vickie Adamson, vice chair of the Wake County Board of Commissioners. "The census determines so much—from the amount of federal funding we get for things like emergency services and child nutrition to making sure we are appropriately represented in Congress."

Here are three things to know:

1. Census takers will wear masks and follow public health guidelines when they visit homes. All census takers complete a virtual COVID-19 training on social distancing and other health and safety protocols before beginning their work in neighborhoods.
2. If the census taker who visits your home does not speak your language, you may request a return visit from a census taker who does speak your language.

3. If no one is home when the census taker visits, the census taker will leave a notice of their visit with information about how to respond online, by phone or by mail.

As of today, Wake County's self-response rate is 68.6%. That's higher than North Carolina's rate of 59.3% and the nation's total of 63.2%.

Like everything in 2020, Census efforts were impacted by COVID-19. The self-response period was initially extended from July 31 to Oct. 31, but it was recently announced that the deadline is being pushed up to Sept. 30. That means less time in the field for enumerators.

"If you're visited by a census taker, rest assured that the experience will be short and safe," Adamson said. "That said—there's still time to avoid the knock altogether if you fill out the census online or by phone."

Visit 2020census.gov to complete the census today online or access telephone numbers you can use to respond in a variety of languages.

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