

Fw: PFT COVID-19 Update 8-5-20: Reopening Perspective- COVID & Census- links

CORONA VIRUS

Updates

Dear Dan:

Perspective On Reopening Schools Across The Country.

It's one of the subjects on everyone's mind as the Coronavirus pandemic rages on—an issue we've certainly been hip deep in for quite some time. Recently, *USA Today* reprinted an article originally appearing in *The Des Moines Register* written by Andrea Ward, a teacher in central Iowa.

She is saying what so many have been thinking—and her article might serve as a basis to help explain the excruciating challenges we've all faced when trying to make reopening considerations, decisions and plans.

[Click here to read “9 ways America is having the wrong conversation about 'reopening' schools”.](#)

The 2020 Census & COVID-19 Are Not Mutually Exclusive.

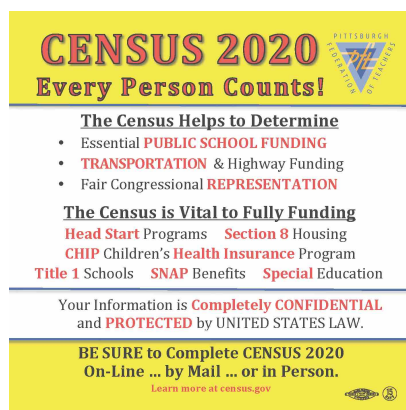
As one of the key components of determining Federal funding for the entire nation, the 2020 Census is now inexorably intertwined with the current (and future) challenges of the coronavirus pandemic.

The reason is simple—we can reasonably assume COVID-19 is here to stay well beyond the confines of this year. For the Federal government to have an accurate representation of every person living in America (and where they live), the Census is the counting tool that sets the baseline of resource allocation for the next 10 years.

The nation currently sits at a only a 63% Census response rate, and with door-to-door visitations made even more complicated in the age of COVID-19, the threat of yet another undercount of black and brown residents—as well as undocumented residents—is looming even larger this year.

What's more, the deadline for the collection of Census information may have just been moved up one month—from October 31st to September 30th.

[Please click here to check out the story on NPR and draw your own conclusions](#)—however the potential ramifications, political and otherwise, are evident. And our need to maximize full Census participation is particularly urgent.



CENSUS 2020
Every Person Counts!

The Census Helps to Determine

- Essential **PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING**
- **TRANSPORTATION** & Highway Funding
- Fair Congressional **REPRESENTATION**

The Census is Vital to Fully Funding
Head Start Programs Section 8 Housing
CHIP Children's Health Insurance Program
Title 1 Schools SNAP Benefits Special Education

Your Information is **Completely CONFIDENTIAL**
and **PROTECTED** by UNITED STATES LAW.

BE SURE to Complete CENSUS 2020
On-Line ... by Mail ... or in Person.
Learn more at census.gov

FULL Census Participation Means Proper Education Funding, Infrastructure Investment, Accurate Representation and More.

With Pennsylvania facing a potential multi-billion dollar state budget shortfall, the 2020 Census is now even more critical to the well being of all Pennsylvanians. The entire nation will be competing for Federal dollars—funding, resources and representation that is proportionally allocated using Census figures.

Every person living here must be counted to make a measurable difference when it comes to **education funding**, infrastructure and human services allocations, and accurate, fair congressional representation.

Responses on a mail-in, on-line, or in-person Census form are **COMPLETELY** confidential and protected by U.S. law. **This is about accurately counting people—plain and simple—not citizenship status!**

[Click here to fill out \(or share the link\) for the 2020 Census.](#)

[Click here to track Census response progress across the country, state or locally.](#)

[Click here to learn more about the acute costs of Census undercount.](#)

Information Links That Bear Repeating:

Below please find additional links providing helpful information you can bookmark and count on as the COVID-19 situation changes and evolves.

[AFT/AFTPA Coronavirus Resources & Updates for Members](#)

[AFT/PFT Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#) A Negotiated, Free Benefit to Members

[Click for EAP Information Flyer](#)

[Click for Life Skills Solutions Website](#) (*login upper right*)

[National Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) Coronavirus Resources](#)

[PPS Coronavirus Resources and Links](#)

[PA Department of Health Coronavirus Resources](#)

[PA-Specific Resources from Senator Casey](#)

[Student Debt Relief Resources](#)



Coronavirus Self-Checker

A guide to help you make decisions and seek appropriate medical care

[Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) Rumor Control](#)

[Allegheny County Health Department Rumor Control](#)

**** PFT Coronavirus Updates Released Weekly ****

Missed an update or message? [View our archive of COVID-19 Updates here](#).

Please keep in touch—keep sharing your ideas, your questions and your concerns.

In solidarity—

Nina Esposito-Visgitis

Sent via [ActionNetwork.org](https://www.actionnetwork.org). To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, please [click here](#).