



the Breeze

Official news from the City of **portland** the
of possibilities.

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN — CENSUS 2020

September 30 is the final day to respond to the 2020 Census. Your response matters! The data submitted by Portland residents determines the amount of federal funding the Gregory-Portland Independent School District, City, and the State receives for programs and projects over the next 10 years. Examples of these programs and projects include:

- Hurricane recovery funds
- Schools lunch programs
- Special education programs
- Local emergency services
- Coastal and wildlife management programs
- Highway planning and construction projects

For a full list of programs the Census data is used for, visit 2020census.gov/federal-funds-distribution

Responding to the Census

Responding to the 2020 requires approximately 10 minutes of your time to answer 12 questions pertaining to your household. You may view the online questionnaire format and reasons why the questions are asked by visiting 2020census.gov/about-questions-asked. You may also view the mail-in questionnaire by visiting 2020census.gov/print-questionnaire-and-instructions.

These resources are available in English and Spanish.

You may respond to the 2020 Census

- Online by visiting <https://2020census.gov/>,
- Over the phone by calling 844-330-2020 for English or 844-468-2020 for Spanish,
- By mailing the completed packet to the address specified in your packet (either Phoenix, AZ, or Jeffersonville, IN)

Census ID Number

The beginning of the Census asks for your 12-digit Census ID. Your Census ID can be found on the postcard and letter you received earlier this year. There are several numbers on these documents, so if you need help finding which number is your Census ID visit my2020census.gov/example-letter.

If you cannot find the postcard or letter from the U.S. Census Bureau, please call their phone number (listed above) to speak to a representative. If you choose to complete the 2020 Census online, there is an option to continue without your Census ID. Continuing without your Census ID will involve a few extra questions to ensure your address is correct.

Door-to-Door Visits

The U.S. Census Bureau representatives are conducting the final stage of the Nonresponse Follow-up operation. Census Bureau representatives

INFLUENZA SEASON

Influenza (flu) season is around the corner. The flu is a contagious virus that affects the respiratory system, like COVID-19. These two viruses are both spread through contact with an infected person, have similar symptoms, and may require hospitalization or death. Therefore, it is even more important now to practice good hygiene and the health safety protocols.

2020 Flu Season Information

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is stressing the importance of getting a flu vaccination this year to help reduce the number of respiratory illnesses amongst our population. There are many different strains of the flu virus. Each year's flu vaccination is designed to protect against the 3 or 4 strains that research suggests will circulate the present flu season. For more information on the 2020-2021 vaccination, please visit cdc.gov/flu/season/vaccine. The CDC recommends waiting to receive the vaccine until mid-September or October to ensure you are not vaccinated too early.

Similarities of the Flu & COVID-19

Unfortunately, the flu and COVID-19 symptoms are very similar. Each

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LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

All City-owned facilities are closed on Monday, September 7, 2020, in observance of Independence Day. Trash and recycling, and bulk-item pick-up services will operate on the normal schedule and will not be affected by the holiday.

CENSUS 2020, continued

are making home visits to households who have not responded to the 2020 Census. These representatives are following all COVID-19 social distancing and health safety protocols.

You can identify Census representatives by their government ID badge. This badge has the representative's photo, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. For more information on what to expect if a Census representative visits your home, please visit 2020census.gov/home-visits.

Response Goal

In 2010, Portland's Census response rate was approximately 60%. Our response goal for the 2020 Census is 80%! At the end of August, Portland's response rate was approximately 57%.

Let us all do our part to raise our response rate! Provide reminders to yourself, family, neighbors and friends to complete the 2020 Census before the end of the month. Remember, all responses matter!

SPEAK UP PROGRAM

The Portland City Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, and other City meetings will continue to meet virtually. Since residents cannot attend these meetings in-person, the City has implemented the "SpeakUp" program. This program enables residents to make comments on agenda items and prior to the city meetings.

To access the SpeakUp program, visit portlandtx.com/418/Media-Center and click on the [SpeakUp site](#). You will need to create an account to comment on agenda items. City meeting agendas are posted prior to the meetings. You can request to receive email notifications when City agendas are posted, as well.

INFLUENZA SEASON, continued

illnesses' symptoms can have varying effects on people ranging in from no symptoms (asymptomatic) to severe symptoms.

Common symptoms of the flu and COVID-19 the CDC has identified include:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headache
- Diarrhea and vomiting—this is more common in children than adults

Non-medical prevention methods of these viruses are identical. The CDC recommends maintaining social distance from others, covering coughs and sneezes, washing your hands

regularly and avoiding touching your face. If you are not well, stay home! Be sure to stay away from others who are not well and disinfect surfaces that are touched many times a day.

Differences of the Flu & COVID-19

The differences in these viruses are subtle. For example, the flu often causes an infected person to develop symptoms 1-4 days after infection, while COVID-19 infected persons do not show symptoms for 5 days on average. Additionally, younger children are at a higher risk of contracting the flu than COVID-19 and having more severe symptoms from the flu. The CDC recommends everyone 6 months of age and older get the vaccine. There is a medical treatment for the flu, unlike COVID-19. For more information on comparisons of these viruses, please visit cdc.gov/flu-vs-covid19.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Tuesday, September 1, 2020: Portland City Council Meeting
- Monday, September 7, 2020: Labor Day
- Tuesday, September 15, 2020: Portland City Council Meeting