



**Residential Life**

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**Subject: 2020 US Census Information for Residential Students**

**Date: April 2, 2020**

Dear Students--

[Every ten years, the U.S. Census Bureau counts the U.S. population and collects information on where they normally live](#) on April 1st of that year.

The Census Bureau has issued updated guidance that college students will be counted AS THEY WOULD HAVE IF COVID-19 HAD NOT OCCURRED. In other words, you should be counted as living at your on-campus residence as if the health crisis did not cause your living arrangements to change. Even if you have returned to your family home or are residing somewhere else temporarily, you should still be counted as part of the university community where you normally live.

If someone else has counted you in their Census questionnaire, the Census Bureau asks that they “return to the online questionnaire and resubmit your information.” The Census Bureau has procedures in place to resolve duplicate submissions.

UMBC originally intended to offer in-person census collection for residential students. The Census Bureau provided guidance yesterday to shift to an [eResponse option](#) due to COVID-19.

**About the eResponse Process**

- Residents do not need to submit a Census questionnaire.
- Residential Life will provide the Census Bureau with information, so you will be counted!
- Residential Life respects your privacy and, further, complies with federal privacy regulations (FERPA). We will only share “[directory information](#),” which includes name and age. Residential Life will not disclose “non-directory information,” such as sex, race, and ethnicity.
- In the event that you have opted to be excluded from this “directory information,” please visit [my2020census.gov](#), select “If you do not have a Census ID” and complete the Census using your campus address.

Completing the Census is required by law, and your response matters: it will help determine Congressional representation and the allocation of hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding. Your personal information is kept confidential by law, and your responses can only be used to produce statistics. For more information about the 2020 Census, please visit [civicliflife.umbc.edu/learning-engagement/census-2020-resources/](#) and [2020census.gov/](#).

For questions about Residential Life’s eResponse process, please email [reslife@umbc.edu](#).

Thank you for counting!