

## **Media Release**

## City of Eau Claire - Update on 2020 U.S. Census

Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> is "Census Day". The 2020 U.S. Census is actually well underway as the initial invitations for the 2020 Census were mailed to households on March 12<sup>th</sup>. But Census Day gives us a chance to remember that the Census is being undertaken and remind us all to complete our Census forms. It contains nine questions... it's easy, important, and confidential.

Because of the Coronavirus, the Census Bureau has adjusted its schedule to allow additional time for households to respond to their Census invitation prior to when Census enumerators would be sent out to contact households that have not responded. The original self-response phase was to last until July 31<sup>st</sup>, but that has been extended until August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Households can respond to the Census in three ways: on-line, by telephone, or complete a paper form. The paper form will be mailed out in mid-April to all households that have not responded by that time. Early tabulations of the 2020 Census show that Eau Claire County and the State of Wisconsin have some of the highest response rates so far in the nation!

The City/County Complete Count Committee continues to work with the Census Bureau with these adjusted schedules and want to encourage all households to complete their Census forms. It is important for future planning in our community and helps ensure that Eau Claire does not miss out in its share of Federal funding over the next ten years. We anticipate rolling out questionnaire assistance centers in late-April or May, with locations announced closer to the time that they will be available. The University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire and Chippewa Valley Technical College are contacting their students to remind them to complete their forms as Eau Claire residents.

For more information about the 2020 Census and the revised schedule, contact Senior Planner Pat Ivory at 715-839-4914 or <a href="mailto:pat.ivory@eauclairewi.gov">pat.ivory@eauclairewi.gov</a>.

Remember: It's easy! It's important! It's confidential!

