

**Author Full Name :** Melissa Mazur**Received Date :** 05/31/2023 08:34 AM**Comments Received :**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the upcoming changes to the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey. I appreciate the Bureau's continued commitment to gathering information about the COVID-19 pandemic which has proven to be valuable, and I support the agency continuing to administer the survey.

I respectfully submit the following suggestions for the agency to consider as it updates the survey questionnaire; the survey should collect additional information on the following:

- children's COVID-19 infections and Long COVID symptoms;
- the total number of COVID-19 infections respondents have experienced, by year, to better understand the impact of COVID-19 reinfections (especially in light of the NIH's RECOVER initiative's recent findings that reinfections may lead to Long COVID and/or increase the severity of Long COVID symptoms);
- COVID-19 disease severity, including whether patients were hospitalized during their acute infection and why/why not;
- respondents' attitudes on safety in hospitals and medical facilities following the end of the COVID-19 emergency order and the decision by most healthcare providers to rescind mask mandates for their staff;
- the severity of Long COVID when respondents were at their worst;
- the duration of Long COVID symptoms, whether symptoms have improved or worsened, and whether Long COVID symptoms have impacted respondents' ability to work (if still working);
- whether respondents began experiencing Long COVID symptoms after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine;
- whether respondents have experienced a serious health event following a COVID-19 infection, including a heart attack, stroke, aneurysm, blood clot, organ failure, and/or a new serious health condition;
- information on access to laboratory testing for COVID-19; and
- whether respondents have had increased mental health symptoms, including suicidal ideation, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), sleep disturbances and disorders, memory loss, difficulty multi-tasking, changes to their mood or personality, and impaired judgment.

As to specific questions, please consider the following suggestions:

- For question "PASC2"...the following additional symptoms should be included: allergies and allergic reactions, diabetes, high or low blood pressure, headache, migraine, exercise intolerance, worsening of symptoms after physical or mental exertion, skin conditions, and sexual dysfunction.
- For question "EMP4"...the answers to this question should allow respondents to distinguish between being sick with COVID-19, caring for someone who was sick with COVID-19, being concerned about being exposed to COVID-19 in the workplace, and being unable to work because of their Long COVID-19 symptoms—to better identify the reason for the absence.

Thank you for considering my recommendations. I appreciate the work you do to ensure that we have accurate and timely information to inform our country's response to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.