



Jewish Federation OF GREATER HOUSTON

March 24 AM - JРАН Email **Stay Home, Work Safe**

Dear JРАН Community:

I'll get right to it: this morning during a [press conference](#), Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo issued a **Stay Home, Work Safe** order for all of Harris County, including the City of Houston. The order is **effective tonight at 11:59 p.m. through April 3rd**. The County Judge and Mayor underscored that **this is not shelter in place**. Rather it is a measure to restrict movement throughout Harris County—not halt it. Mayor Turner explained that shelter in place is reserved for hurricanes, chemical plant fires, flooding, and active shooting incidents—events that make it unsafe to go outside. Here is what Stay Home, Work Safe means:

- Everyone should stay home unless your job is part of the [essential critical infrastructure workforce](#) (attached is a graphic, I put *some* examples to the major ones affecting our daily activities):
 - Chemical Sector
 - Commercial Facilities Sector
 - Communications Sector
 - Critical Manufacturing Sector
 - Dams Sector
 - Defense Industrial Base Sector
 - **Emergency Services Sector** (police, fire and EMT will still operate)
 - **Energy Sector** (gas stations will remain open)
 - Financial Services Sector
 - **Food and Agriculture Sector** (restaurants, big box stores, grocery stores remain open)
 - **Government Facilities Sector** (still have mail and trash service)
 - **Healthcare and Public Health Sector** (Texas Medical Center, doctor's offices, emergency rooms, hospitals remain open)
 - Information Technology Sector
 - Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector
 - **Transportation Systems Sector** (METRO will remain in service)
 - **Water and Wastewater Systems Sector** (will still have water, sewer service)
- Persons allowed to work must do so safely, keeping 6 feet between employees
- Manufacturing businesses who can retool to produce essential medical supplies like hand sanitizer or face masks can ask for an exemption
- All gatherings outside of a private home are prohibited, inside the home are limited to members of that household
- **You can still do the following activities**, if you keep 6 feet between you and others:
 - Go to the grocery store
 - See your physician/receive medical care
 - Go to the pharmacy

- Exercise outside (but cannot use playground or exercise equipment)
- Violations will be addressed though local law enforcement, penalties can include:
 - A fine
 - Up to 180 days in jail

Harris County and the City of Houston are still providing COVID19 testing. [District C Councilmember Abbie Kamin](#) sent a great list of public and private testing in our area:

- **Houston Health Department and Harris Health Department**
 - Testing is free and available for people who have symptoms (cough, difficulty breathing, and fever) as well as chronic illness.
 - Examples of chronic illnesses include heart disease, asthma, chronic lung disease, cancer, HIV/AIDS. Transplant recipients, people with weakened immune systems and pregnant women are also eligible for COVID-19 testing.
 - You can fill out the online screening tool or call the Houston Health Department COVID-19 call center at 832-393-4220 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Anyone requiring technical assistance or translations services is encouraged to call the Harris County Public Health call bank, which is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., at 832-927-7575.
 - The health departments are not releasing the locations of the sites to prevent people from showing up without first going through the online screening process (if someone shows up without the initial screening they will not be able to be tested).
- **Private testing locations include:**
 - [United Memorial Medical Center](#) has free COVID-19 testing at 510 W. Tidwell Road. The testing program is initially testing only the highest-risk individuals. You are required to fill out the pre-screening test online before you show up (click here for the test). Testing hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 - [Legacy Community Health](#) has COVID-19 testing at three of its locations in Houston: Montrose (1415 California St.), Fifth Ward (3811 Lyons Ave.), and Southwest (6441 High Star Dr.). Legacy is only testing those who screen positive for the virus, meaning:
 - People who are experiencing symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other respiratory conditions, AND
 - Have either traveled recently (domestic or international) OR had contact with someone diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19
 - Patients with questions should call a primary care physician or Legacy's contact center at 832-548-5000.



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- [MD Anderson's Diagnostic Imaging Clinic in Bellaire](#) is offering COVID-19 testing to current MD Anderson patients and employees only.
 - Testing is by appointment only and no walk-ins are permitted. Current MD Anderson patients who think they may need testing must call their MD Anderson clinic for further direction.
- [My Family Doctor](#) has one drive-thru testing facility, at 6430 Hillcroft Ave., open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - They are only testing those with fever and/or symptoms of respiratory illness (e.g., dry cough). Priorities include older adults and people with chronic medical conditions.
 - This testing site is currently cash only. You'll need \$25 cash even if you have insurance coverage. They advise all patients to bring \$150 cash for the test just in case they cannot verify your insurance.

As a reminder, anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should contact a doctor first. If you don't have health insurance or a doctor, please call Harris County's triage line at 713-634-1110 any day from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. with questions.

Finally, a reminder that the Federation's Chief Marketing Officer, Taryn Baranowski, will be reaching out to organizations today to review the process for adding virtual events to the Federation's new website and calendar.

That's all for now.

Be well, stay home and work safe today,

Jackie

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