



Jewish Federation OF GREATER HOUSTON

Dear JРАН Community:

Here is a quick update on what has happened since this morning. Three main things to cover: 1) grocery stores are well stocked; 2) restaurants must go to drive-through or to-go, all gatherings should be smaller than 50 people; 3) HISD has extended closure until April 10th.

First, the [Mayor held a press conference](#) with the heads of the major grocery stores. Here is a summary:

- Our area grocery stores are open and well stocked
- Due to the increased activity in-store, several stores are hiring
- The Mayor is asking that people not over purchase items because there is no current shortage of supplies
- Our water supply is unaffected by COVID-19, so bottled water is unnecessary right now
- Only flush toilet paper, please do not use paper towels or baby wipes

The [Mayor and County Judge held a press conference this afternoon](#). Here is a summary:

- The [CDC is asking to limit crowd size to 50 people or less, 10 or less if older or vulnerable](#) populations will be there. The goal is to slow down the spread of COVID-19, flatten the curve, and not overwhelm the health system
 - All larger cities have taken actions to close restaurants and bars
 - The President went further, asking to [limit crowds to fewer than 10 people](#)
- The City Council will hold an emergency meeting tomorrow at 9 am to extend the disaster declaration
 - Extend bans on all City sponsored events through the end of April
 - All City meetings will be limited to 250 people
- Beginning tomorrow at 8 am, for 15 days:
 - Restaurants must offer only delivery, pick-up or drive-through
 - Bars and clubs must close
 - Unless you need essential supplies (medicine, food, health care), stay home
 - Fire department will be issuing a zero-occupancy load to any restaurants and bars found to be open to the public and will fine those in violation
- County will continue to provide critical services
- Price-gouging: County attorneys are working to stop fraudulent practices and price gouging
 - Can report it at [readyharris.org](#) and tomorrow a hotline will be available
- Need volunteers
 - Food Bank needs volunteers for its food pantry
 - Visit [VolunteerHouston](#)
- CenterPoint will provide flexibility with gas bills
- Municipal Utility Districts will also be flexible with payment plans

- Dr. Shaw – Medical director for Harris Health and Harris County
 - Trying to do everything we can to delay the number of people exposed
 - Still recommending people to practice good hygiene habits
 - Gatherings, regardless where they are, can hurt our community
- Dr. Persse – Medical Director for City of Houston
 - These aggressive measures are to prevent deaths in our community
 - Houston will begin testing across the city by the end of the week
 - Only testing people with symptoms to avoid false negatives
 - Consult medical professionals to see if you need to get tested
 - Do not want huge crowds to overwhelm the testing facilities

[HISD has extended school closings until April 10th](#). We will continue to keep you updated as we get more information.

Our local restaurants are going to feel this ban in an extremely negative way. We encourage you to patronize drive-throughs, to-go ordering, and buy gift cards to support them as much as you can. A list of area Kosher restaurants can be found [here](#).

If you can, please take a moment to reply to this email with your responses to these questions:

1. How is your organization supporting its members during this time? What are the individual needs that you are beginning to identify?
2. Are you offering online/livestreaming of programs and/or services? If so, we are happy to do some cross promotion through the Federation's online platforms.
3. While we begin staging a longer term response and triaging our community's greatest long-term needs – do you anticipate any unmet needs in the immediate next two weeks?

As always, we are here for you throughout this crisis. Please reach out if you need anything.

Take some time for self-care tonight,

Jackie

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