



Jewish Federation OF GREATER HOUSTON

March 19 PM - Jran Email

Dear Jran Community:

Today, Governor Greg Abbott issued an [executive order](#) in a state-wide effort to contain the spread of COVID-19. His order, **effective Friday, March 20th at midnight – April 3rd at midnight**, covers a lot of what we are already seeing in Houston. The Governor's order is subject to renewal based on changing conditions.

Here is a breakdown of what was announced:

- COVID-19 is now considered a public health disaster
- **The executive order requires:**
 - All bars and restaurants in the state must move to drive-thru, delivery or pick up
 - Separately, the Governor also waived some regulations allowing establishments with a license to add alcohol to their delivery and to-go orders
 - All persons in the State of Texas must keep group sizes to 10 or less
 - All gyms and massage parlors are ordered to temporarily close
 - All schools in the State must temporarily close their physical buildings, but may move to online instruction
 - People are banned from visiting nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and retirement homes
 - Exception is to provide essential services or supplies
- **Here is what it does not prohibit:**
 - This is not a shelter in place
 - You can still go to grocery stores, gas stations, parks and banks
 - Critical government services will still be available
 - Can still travel domestically
 - Offices and workplaces can remain open, but continue good hygiene practices
 - Employers are encouraged to institute work from policies

The City of Houston announced that the first private, free testing site is up and running. There are four free private drive thru COVID19 testing sites run by [United Memorial Medical Center](#). You will be screened onsite for symptoms. Only those who are symptomatic will be tested.

The first public testing site will open tomorrow for first responders and health care workers only. The city will scale it up as Personal Protective Equipment becomes available. The public sites will be free. Individuals will need to self-screen online and will be screened for symptoms upon arrival.

Finally, the [Mayor held a press conference](#) this afternoon. Here is a break down of what was covered:

- City of Houston is reporting its 11th case of COVID19, resulted from community exposure
 - The numbers being reported at this time is understood to be an underestimate, it is expected to rise
 - Important for social distancing and avoiding large crowds
- Millennials
 - Are contracting the virus and spreading to parents and grandparents
 - New data from the CDC shows that people between the age of 20-54 are requiring hospitalization

Take care of each other and support our Jewish community so we can emerge from this stronger than ever,

Jackie

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