



Jewish Federation OF GREATER HOUSTON

March 20 PM - Jran Email

Dear Jran Community:

This morning the Mayor held a call for faith-based leaders. For those of you who were unable to listen in, below is a brief summary:

Update on COVID-19 Cases:

- There are 79 confirmed (tested) cases in the Greater Houston Region
- There are 11 confirmed (tested) cases in Houston
- These are an undercount due to lack of testing, should expect a huge jump once we have more testing sites up and running
 - Public sites
 - The CDC has authorized four public sites for our area
 - 2 will be City of Houston
 - The first City site will open today for first responders and medical workers only
 - Hope to have the other one open next week
 - Locations will not be announced in order to prevent people from just showing up, must pre-screen for symptoms
 - 2 will be Harris County
 - Private sites
 - There are private testing sites popping up around Houston. All will screen on site for symptoms and will only test those who are symptomatic ([cough, fever, shortness of breath](#))
 - [United Memorial Medical Center](#) (free with insurance)
 - [My Doctor in Hilcroft](#) (charging \$150 per test, note it is closed today due to weather)
 - [Legacy Community Health](#) has four locations

Religious Institutions

- Should practice social distancing as much as possible
 - Religious organizations were not specifically mentioned in the Governor's or Mayor's orders to limit crowd size, but are highly encouraged to take guidelines seriously and limit congregant contact
- Funerals and Weddings
 - Still can hold religious ceremonies, just need to practice social distancing
 - Several area funeral providers are limiting cars to grave-side funerals to 10 or less, including the hearse and lead car. Please make sure to call in advance and ask about specific restrictions.

- There are several disaster relief bills on the Federal and State level
 - The Mayor is not aware of any bill providing direct relief to nonprofits or religious institutions.
 - He encouraged people to [reach out to their representatives](#) and ask that those organizations be included
- *Separately, the Jewish Federations of North America have put out the same call to action
 - They have [sample language](#) to guide you when speaking with your representatives

City of Houston Assistance

- The City will be offering relief efforts to individuals in the following ways:
 - Evictions will be stayed for 30 days
 - Water will not be disconnected through the end of April
 - Electricity will not be disconnected through the end of April

Community Resources

- The [Houston Food Bank](#) is still in need of help
- The Gulf Coast Regional Blood center needs healthy, asymptomatic donors. You can [reserve a spot online](#) to avoid crowded lines

I wanted to share several resources with you all as we wind down and prepare for the next couple of months:

- The Secure Communities Network has shared several great resources
 - [Safety and Security Considerations for Facility Closures](#)
 - [Addressing Cyber Safety and Security in the Age of COVID-19](#)
 - [CyberSECURE Initiative Overview](#)
 - [How to Spot a Phishing Scam](#)
 - [Social Media Awareness](#)
- The Texas Workforce Commission has set up two resource pages
 - [Employers](#)
 - [Job Seekers](#)

Finally, the Federation's new website will launch next week. We will be reaching out to partner organizations, synagogues, and other Jewish institutions with information on sharing your virtual events and resources early next week. If you have any questions, please contact Taryn Baranowski at tbaranowski@houstonjewish.org.

If you know of anyone who would like to get the Jran email updates, please send me their contact information and I will be sure to add them to the listserv. You are also welcome to forward this email to anyone you think might benefit.



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We will get through this—together.

Shabbat Shalom,

Jackie

p.s. in order to respect Shabbat, I will send the next Jran email on Monday. If there are any urgent developments, I will be sure to send those as timely as possible. If there is a major announcement/order from the government (city, county, state or federal), I will send ASAP.

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