



Jewish Federation OF GREATER HOUSTON

April 22 PM - Jran Email

Dear Jran Community:

Today, we will go over the new Harris County face covering order and celebrate Earth Day!

Harris County and City of Houston Updates

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo signed an executive order today requiring all people to wear a face covering when out in public. This order begins on Monday, April 27th, and is effective for 30 days. Here's what the order means:

- All persons out in public are to wear a face covering
 - not requiring a medical mask
 - can make your own face covering using a bandana, scarf, or handkerchief
 - this does not replace the social distancing order—must still maintain at least 6 feet from people outside of your household
- Exemptions from wearing a face covering
 - People with medical or mental health conditions that would be exasperated by wearing a face covering
 - People under the age of 10 years old (encouraged to wear one, but not required)
 - People exercising alone
 - People eating
- Enforcement
 - Law enforcement officers are being encouraged to concentrate on education about face coverings and staying at home
 - But violations can result in a fine

Mayor Turner announced a partnership with Lone Star Community College to hand out face coverings and hand sanitizer to vulnerable populations. The Mayor especially encourages people using mass transit to wear a face covering. [Dr. Umar Shah has created a video](#) on the proper type of face covering and Harris County Public Health has a [helpful infographic](#) on why face coverings are one of the tools in combating the spread of COVID19.

Both the Mayor and County Judge stated that April is a key month for our area. The longer we see a decline in positive cases and once we see a sustained decline in COVID19 hospital bed occupancy, then restrictions can be lifted. The County Judge announced that, according to [Rice University, about 4,500 lives have been saved](#) by social distancing and the Stay Home, Work Safe order.

In other news...

Today is Earth Day! While we Earthlings are stuck down here, there is a group of astronauts in the [International Space Station](#) (ISS) who are orbiting 240 miles away from COVID19. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the ISS is giving you [fun facts about life in space](#). These scientists are experts in social distancing, staying in space anywhere from 6 months to a year. I can only imagine how many Zoom calls they must make during their stay. Go ahead and put on an official NASA [Earth mask](#) over your face covering to show your support for our lovely planet.

I hope you find an environmentally friendly face covering for your essential outings today,

Jackie

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