



Jewish Federation OF GREATER HOUSTON

April 23 PM - Jran Email

Dear Jran Community:

Today, we will go over updates from the City and County, mental health services, a call for plasma and blood donors, cyber security during COVID19, and updates on the Paycheck Protection Program.

Updates from the City of Houston and Harris County

On the heels of yesterday's face covering mandate, Mayor Turner has instructed Houston Police not to issue citations to those not wearing masks. Instead, the Mayor has asked police to give masks to those in need. To that end, the Mayor participated in a [face covering drive](#) in Northwest Houston. Mayor Turner has committed to giving away [200,000 face masks to vulnerable communities](#). Constable Alan Rosen has partnered with churches in the northside to [give away 100 free masks at 7 different church sites](#). Constable Ted Heap handed out over [6,000 free masks and COVID19 kits](#) in Katy Prairie. Finally, Houston Metro will give free masks to passengers.

The City of Houston set up a new website to help victims of domestic violence. In partnership with the Houston Area Women's Center, the City's website, [nocovidabuse.org](#), will offer resources to people in a domestic crisis. Area shelters continue to follow social distancing, mask wearing, and sanitizing to ensure they can offer a safe refuge for those who need it. People in crisis can also call 713-528-2121. District C Council Member Abbie Kamin helped lead this initiative in response to the Houston Police reports of a [rise in domestic violence](#) cases during this time.

Harris County Public Health released a new simplified COVID19 assessment tool today. The County Judge is encouraging all persons who suspect they might have COVID19 to get tested. Tests are no longer reserved for individuals showing symptoms. You can access the new tool [here](#).

Mental Health Services

[Mental Health America](#) has a website dedicated to helping people experiencing anxiety or other mental health effects from the COVID19 crisis. The website has a long list of resources people can access during this time. Locally, [Jewish Family Service](#) continues to offer group and individual telehealth counseling. They can assist with economic, educational, health/wellness, and nutrition services. The Federation is proud to partner with JFS on this effort.

Plasma and Blood Donors Still Needed

Methodist Hospital is still conducting its [plasma drive](#) for individuals who have recovered from COVID19. This new therapy to treat critically ill COVID19 patients is promising and donors are

still needed. If you or someone you know has a positive COVID19 test, is fully recovered for two weeks or more, and have no underlying health conditions, call 346-238-4360 to donate.

The [Gulf Coast Regional Blood Bank](#) is still in need for blood donations. They are by appointment only in order to maintain proper social distancing.

Security During COVID19

It is important to be aware of cyber threats and fraud during this stressful time. The Secure Communities Network will be hosting a webinar on April 30th called “[Cyber-Threat, Fraud, and Crime.](#)”

Second Round of Paycheck Protection Program Funding

The Senate passed the fourth COVID19 relief bill last Tuesday. This new round of funds will include [\\$310 billion additional Paycheck Protection Program funds](#). It is expected that most banks will take applications out of the queue from the last round of funding, however, it is up to bank discretion. If you did not receive PPP funds in the first round, you are still eligible to take advantage of the program during the second phase. Be sure to check-in with your bank to see the status of your application.

In other news...

[Chabad of Uptown found itself creating community](#) during this time by providing a daily “Torah minute” from the balcony of their building. People enjoying walks in the morning can stop by and say “hi” to Rabbi Chaim—just be sure to BYOC (bring your own coffee)!

Do you have a community story to share? Let me know what you are doing to promote a sense of togetherness...6 feet apart. And if your organization has any volunteer activities you would like shared, send me an email. I would love to highlight you in a future Jran email!

Take care today and I hope you find time for a moment of calm,

Jackie

Jackie Fisherman | Director of Government Affairs

[Jewish Federation of Greater Houston](#)

[5603 S. Braeswood Blvd. | Houston, TX 77096](#)

[Main: 713.729.7000 ext 325](#)

jfisherman@houstonjewish.org | www.houstonjewish.org