



Jewish Federation OF GREATER HOUSTON

April 28 PM - Jran Email

Dear Jran Community:

Today, we will go over additional symptoms associated with COVID19, updates from the City and County, what we can expect to see from private businesses as the State begins to open up, further guidance on the Paycheck Protection Program, and how to nominate an outstanding Jewish professional for the Federation's annual awards.

Centers for Disease Control – Additional Symptoms

The Centers for Disease Control has announced [six new symptoms of COVID19](#), reminding us that there is still so much we do not know about this virus. In addition to cough, fever, and shortness of breath, symptoms can also include one or more of the following:

- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Updates from the City and County

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo held a press conference today to address the Governor's Open Texas plan. She announced a three-point plan to contain COVID19 in our area:

1. **Test** (Identify)
 - a. Widespread
 - b. Affordable
 - c. Fast
2. **Trace** (Contain)
 - a. Recruit around 300 contract tracers, expand if needed
3. **Treat**
 - a. Ensure we have hospital capacity in case of a spike in cases requiring hospitalization
 - b. Currently, not where we need to be in order to ensure hospitals are in a positive position
 - c. Need to continue wearing face masks and taking precautions

The County Judge recognized that while her office has been working on a timeline and framework to open the county, it had to be moved up before they were ready due to the Governor's order. The [nursing home strike team](#) will begin today and additional mobile and pop-up testing sites will open. The County has about 20 tests per positive person, which can be used for testing contacts. The County Judge stated that we need to keep new cases per day below 100. Our only way to contain the virus is to continue social distancing, wearing face masks, testing, and tracing.

Dr. Umar Shaw emphasized that while the Governor is allowing certain businesses to reopen, we must remember that the virus has not gone anywhere. It is still in Houston, all that we have done is practiced social distancing. As we revert back to going out and if we do not take precautions, we will very likely see a spike in cases.

During today's press conference, the Mayor announced that there will be an additional testing site opening tomorrow in the Sunnyside area. Dr. Persse made a plea to employers and individuals to continue to protect each other as the Governor opens the state. He asks that people continue to wear masks, wash your hands, and practice social distancing. The Mayor announced that although some business are opening up, it does not mean that you have to go—still be very cautious until the virus is out of Houston. All City of Houston owned parks, libraries, and venues will remain closed through the month of May.

Due to the inclement weather today, all Harris County Public Health testing sites are closed. They will re-open tomorrow. The City of Houston's Kashmere site has reached capacity, the Delmar site is closed due to weather, and the Butler Stadium site is operational.

Private Corporations Picking Up Where Government Left Off and Life Post-COVID19

On a call today with the Greater Houston Partnership, Patrick Jankowski, Senior Vice President of Research, gave an update on the Houston economy and what indicators we can expect for an economic recovery. While the picture is grim for 2020, there are models that predict the economy will begin to recover in 2021. As people feel more comfortable going about their daily lives, we can see the economic indicators begin to go up—it all boils down to consumer behavior and how safe we feel.

Mr. Jankowski opined that just as we saw our lives forever change after major crises in the past, we will see a new normal emerge from COVID19. He gave examples of safety seals on food and drugs following the [Chicago Tylenol Murders](#) in 1982, [car seat laws](#) appeared in the 1980's after studies showing their effectiveness in saving lives, and how the way we [travel and fly](#) has been forever changed by the terrorist attacks after 9/11.

To this end, we can expect to see the private sector begin picking up the [White House's recommendations for individuals and employers](#) as state governments start lifting them. For example, yesterday we saw an announcement from [American Airlines](#) that all staff must wear face masks, and today Jet Blue Airlines announced that [staff and customers must wear face coverings](#) during check-in, boarding, the entire flight, and deplaning. At the beginning of April, [H-E-B implemented mandatory face masks and gloves](#) for all employees and, recently, [face masks for all customers](#), plus increased sanitization. Saint Arnolds Brewery stated that they will [only open when they are prepared](#) to safely serve all their guests, but will continue curbside.

Houston Police are concentrating on educating people on the use of masks and their importance. A private business may require customers to don a mask prior to entering. Police Chief Art Acevedo stated that a private business has the right to refuse entry to persons not complying with the business' rules for wearing a mask. People refusing to leave may face criminal trespass, which is subject to up to a \$2,000 fine and 180 days in jail.



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Here is a [list of places](#) handing out free face masks.

Paycheck Protection Program

A quick update from last week's JРАН email about additional guidance for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). I reached out to our friends at the Jewish Federations of North America about whether they think the [Treasury's FAQ #31](#) requiring additional certification that a business had no other options to access liquidity or funds through other available means. JFNA does not think this will apply to nonprofit organizations. While some organizations may have endowments or other sources of income, many are subject to restrictions and state and local laws.

Nominate Outstanding Jewish Professionals

Once a year, the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston has the opportunity to honor individuals who exemplify the qualities of an outstanding Jewish communal professional through the Hans Mayer award, and two outstanding, young leaders through the Barbara & Harold Falik Young Leadership Award and the Ben Susholtz Young Leadership Award. The [award nomination form](#) is available now on the Federation's website and will close at 3 p.m. on May 8th.

In other news...

Tomorrow is Yom Ha'atzamut and at 1 p.m., the Jewish Federations of North American will [host a virtual celebration](#) on FaceBook and YouTube. If you can't wait until then, the Maccabeats released their 1 minuet cover of "[From Now On](#)" in honor of Israel's 72nd birthday. I hope you enjoy it!

Take care today and I hope you see a rainbow after the storm,

Jackie

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