



Jewish Federation OF GREATER HOUSTON

April 29 PM - Jran Email

Dear Jran Community:

Today, we will cover updates from the City and County and a little more insight into what life is going to look like beginning Friday.

Updates from the City and County

Today, the [Mayor opened](#) the new Sunnyside pop-up COVID19 testing location. It will be operational from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m until May 3rd. People will be screened for the nine COVID19 symptoms. You can register in advance at TXCOVIDTEST.org or call 512-883-2400. Tests are by appointment only and fill fast.

The County Judge announced that [vote by mail](#) will be expanding in time for the July 14th runoffs and November elections. Registered voters may use COVID19 as a reason to request a mail-in ballot.

Our New Normal – Face Masks and Continued Social Distancing

Whether or not open a business is a big decision these days. There is a lot at stake: on the one hand, institutions need to reopen in order to pay their staff, but on the other hand, there is a very real risk that your business might be the one to spark a second wave of infections. Experts have [mixed reviews](#) on the Governor's new phased [Open Texas](#) plan—and it is certainly uncharted territory.

As I mentioned in yesterday's Jran email, we can expect to see retail establishments begin to implement their own requirements for customers as stay at home orders expire or are terminated. Beginning May 4th, Costco will be implementing [several new conditions](#) for shoppers and we can expect other retailers to follow suit. Here is a breakdown of what Costco will be doing:

- Two people per household limit, in certain areas one person per household
- Special hours for vulnerable populations (people age 60+ or persons with disabilities)
- All shoppers must wear a face covering over their mouth and nose beginning May 4th (children under age 2 not subject to face covering)
- Continue social distancing

The [Holocaust Museum of Houston](#) will be opening on May 26th under new conditions. In addition to disinfecting, visitors will be limited to 50 people at a time, group tours are not allowed. All staff and guests will be required to wear a face mask and practice social distancing

while inside. The [Houston Museum of Natural Sciences](#) will be opening on May 15th with similar conditions.

You can find a list of what other museums are doing [here](#).

Don't forget, while the Governor announced that the City and County face covering ordinances cannot be enforced, private businesses may institute their own requirements. Those caught violating can be charged with criminal trespass and fined or jailed.

The Texas Annual Conference on United Methodist Churches [signed a joint statement](#) that their institutions will not be holding in-person services through the end of May, even though the Governor gave them the green light to continue in-person services.

The Federation will be hosting a "Conversation Starter" next week about how we, as a community, should approach the phased re-openings. Stay tuned for more details.

In other news...(ear buds in, volume up!)

Today is Israel's 72nd birthday. To show how international and relevant Israel has become, fellow Texan Kelly Clarkson teamed up with Israeli singer Maya Buskila to create a new song called "I Dare You" in several languages, including [English](#) and [Hebrew](#). Enjoy!

Take care today and I hope you are enjoying what turned out to be an amazing day,

Jackie

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