



# Jewish Federation OF GREATER HOUSTON

May 1 PM - JРАН Email

Dear JРАН Community:

Today, we will kick off Mental Health Month 2020, give resources for re-entry planning, go over updates from the State and County, and share what local Jewish institutions are doing for summer programming.

## **Mental Health Month 2020**

May marks the beginning of Mental Health Month. Mental Health America has released a free toolkit called "[Tools 2 Thrive](#)". This is important, particularly in times of crisis, as more people experience anxiety, fear, and other mental health related issues. As a reminder, Jewish Family Service is [offering free group counseling and telehealth services](#). PBS Kids has created a [great resource](#) on how to talk with young kids about COVID19. The [Institute for Spirituality and Health](#) has several free online programs to take during this time.

The Federation has conducted two "[Super Community Check-ins](#)" for our senior community to see how they are doing. Continue putting those [rainbows in your windows](#) and checking-in on your neighbors. This is what makes us #HoustonStrong.

## **Planning for Re-entry**

As a reminder, the Federation will be hosting a "[Conversation Starter](#)" **webinar on Thursday, May 7th at 11:00 a.m.** on re-entry. We are finalizing the details and will send them around next week. Please register by clicking on the [link](#) and save the date and time.

The Jewish Federations of North America is hosting a 2-hour webinar on Scenario Planning. They will be offering three sessions, but you must register in advance: [Wednesday, May 6th, 12 Noon – 2 pm ET](#), [Thursday, May 7th, 3 – 5 pm ET](#), [Tuesday, May 12th, 12 Noon – 2 pm ET](#).

## **Updates from the State, City and County**

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton issued [further guidance](#) to the Governor's [Open Texas](#) order. He stated that the Governor's order specifically "requires all Texans to 'minimize in-person contact with people...except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services or reopened services.'" Further, he clarified that only the limited businesses in Phase 1 may open and with certain conditions to maintain social distancing and safety.

Harris County announced that all [special event permits previously issued](#) for the month of May are revoked and any new applications will not be accepted until May 31st. During the County Judge's press conference today, Judge Lina Hidalgo stressed that Houston is not out of the woods just yet, despite the Governor's order to allow limited businesses to open. Judge Hidalgo stated that opening some businesses does not mean "mission accomplished." Rather, we must continue to be vigilant and smart about how we go about our daily lives. We need to continue wearing masks, practicing proper hygiene, and distancing ourselves from others.

Dr. Timothy Boone from Houston Methodist announced that now is not the time for religious institutions to begin resuming in-person religious services. We must continue to limit the size of gatherings and practice social distancing. Dr. Paul Klotman, executive dean of Baylor College of Medicine, stated that we are close to a [therapeutic breakthrough](#) but are still waiting on trials and results. Both doctors stressed that if you need medical care then you should seek that care immediately.

Fort Bend County held their weekly faith leaders call. The Ft. Bend County Judge echoed much of what was said by the Harris County Judge—we need to continue social distancing and proper hygiene, including wearing masks. The virus is not out of the Greater Houston area, and we must preserve the strides we have made thus far.

The Mayor of Houston announced that all city and permitted events are cancelled throughout May. The City of Houston will resume normal operations beginning June 1st. The City is working on ramping up its contact tracing capabilities.

### **Houston Jewish Institution Updates and Summer Announcements**

- Greene Family Camp – closed through summer, will reevaluate as needed
- Chabad of Texas (and all affiliates) – virtual programming to continue, will reevaluate in mid-May
- Congregation Beth Yeshurun – virtual programming to continue, invite-only minyan, will reevaluate as needed
- Goldberg Montessori School – June camp cancelled, will reevaluate July options in May

If you have any updates, please [email me](#) and I will be sure to include them in future Jran emails.



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## **Mensch Out – Supporting Local Jewish Businesses**

A group of local Jewish public relations professionals launched a website today, [MenschOut.com](http://MenschOut.com). The goal is to drive business to area Jewish-owned operations while giving a percentage of sales to the Federation and Houston Jewish Community Foundation's joint [COVID19 Emergency Appeal](#).

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

Yesterday, the Union for Reform Judaism came to the heartbreaking decision to close all summer programs, including our own Greene Family Camp (GFC). Although camp is cancelled, you can enjoy GFC's fun online via Greene Screene on their FaceBook page. Here's a throwback music video from GFC's "[garage band](#)" singing Ehud Banai's "Hebrew Man." Next year in Bruceville!

Shabbat Shalom and take some time to take a break this weekend,

Jackie

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