



Jewish Federation OF GREATER HOUSTON

May 4 PM - Jran Email

Dear Jran Community:

Today, we will be discussing plans for re-opening our doors, updates from the City and County, bulk purchasing of masks and hand sanitizer, and a free mask give away this weekend.

Planning for Re-entry

This Thursday, the Federation will be hosting a “Conversation Starter” webinar on reopening our Jewish institutions. We will have Houston City Council Member Abbie Kamin give an update from the City; Taylor Landin, Senior Vice President of Public Policy for the Greater Houston Partnership, will go over their “[Work Safe 2.0: Principles to Guide Reopen Houston Safely](#),” and Dr. Ed Septimus, infectious disease expert at Memorial Hermann, will help walk us through some practical applications.

I sent an email out earlier this afternoon (apologies for the first blank email!). Please [RSVP](#) in advance so we can send the Zoom log in information to you on Wednesday.

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 City and County

Mayor Turner and the County are reminding people that we continue to see new cases of COVID19 in our area. Between the [City of Houston and Harris County](#), we have 6,967 confirmed cases; 4,323 active cases; 140 deaths; and 2,504 recovered individuals. The Texas Medical Center is reporting a [flattening of our curve](#) as of today. While our hospital system is still [within its capacity](#), it does not mean now is the time to lift restrictions and go about life as usual. As one doctor put it, being within the hospital’s capacity just means they have a bed for you when you need it—not that the virus is gone.

There is a [lot of concern](#) about the Governor’s order to slowly re-open Texas, with experts disagreeing on how the Governor’s office is gathering its data and the low test rate for the state. Additionally, Texas doesn’t fit the [White House’s criteria for re-opening](#).

Mayor Turner is asking that the [public be mindful](#) and continue wearing masks, as the virus is still in our City and 25%-30% of people do not show symptoms and are still infectious.

Mask and Hand Sanitizer Co-op

The Federation is currently looking into a bulk purchase of tri-fold non-medical masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer as we look forward to opening our doors possibly in the fall. Masks will be critical in protecting our community until a vaccine or therapy is developed to eliminate COVID19. Providing masks will be like providing kippot—we always need to have some on hand just in case someone forgets theirs at home.

If your organization would like to participate in the cost savings of a bulk purchase, please [fill out this survey](#) so we can get a sense of the need and quantity.

Houston City Council District C Mask Give Away – Sunday from 2-4 pm

The Federation has teamed up with Council Member Abbie Kamin and the Evelyn Rubinstein Jewish Community Center to give away 2,000 free masks this Sunday from 2-4 pm at the ERJCC. Masks will be provided for free courtesy of Council Member Abbie Kamin. Please stop by and pick up masks for everyone in your family—and help us spread the word!

In other news...

The skies over Houston are about to get a little more interesting this week. The Navy's Blue Angels and the Air Force's Thunderbirds will be [conducting a fly over on Wednesday](#) to honor health care workers, first responders, and all essential personnel, times to be announced tomorrow. Then on Friday, from 11:45 am – 1:10 pm, the Lone Star Flight Museum will conduct a [vintage war plane fly over commemorating the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day](#).

Take care and this week take a moment to look up at the sky,

Jackie

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