



Jewish Federation OF GREATER HOUSTON

May 5 PM - Jran Email

Dear Jran Community:

Today, we will go over update from the city and county, the Governor's new Open Texas orders, plans for re-entry, and a reminder about the District C free mask give away this weekend at the ERJCC.

Updates from the City and County

Mayor Turner continued to stress the importance of wearing a face mask while out in public. This essential in our continued fight to combat COVID19. Houston Health's three testing sites are free and open to all Houstonians. The Mayor announced 70 new cases and 4 new fatalities today.

The County Judge's Stay Home, Work Safe order is still in effect through May 20th for all businesses not specifically opened by the Governor's order. The county jail system is a hot bed for COVID19, with 1/10 cases coming from the jails. And finally, this week is hurricane preparedness week. It is time for everyone to begin thinking about hurricane season. On a side note, the Federation will be hosting a conversation starter on hurricane preparedness in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for more details.

Texas Governor Expands Businesses that May Open

During a press conference today, Governor Greg Abbott stated that in the State of Texas we currently have 15,672 active COVID19 cases, 1,888 people are currently hospitalized, and the State has 906 fatalities related to the virus. The Governor stated that Texas has the current hospital capacity to take new COVID19 patients and we rank third in the United States for COVID19 recovery.

The Governor stressed that taking steps now to continue to slow the spread of COVID19 by wearing mask, washing hands, and practicing social distancing is critical because there is no cure for the virus. Part of Opening Texas relies on following the same safe strategies. He stated that it is up to Texans on whether we open more of it we impose more constraints.

The Governor went on the clarify his executive order from last week.

- Funerals, burials, memorials—and added weddings—that those services are treated the same as church services. People should follow the [guidelines set forth for churches](#) for these types of services:
 - Sit every other row
 - Only households may sit next to each other
 - Designate an area for at-risk populations

- Maintain social distancing while in building
- Wedding receptions are under the same practices as [restaurants](#):
 - 25% occupancy
 - No more than 6 people per table
 - 6 feet separation between tables
- Beaches, Lakes, Rivers (including river tubing) are under the same guidelines as parks:
 - 6 feet separation from others
 - No more than groups of 5
 - Masks are strongly encouraged, but not required

Next, the Governor announced the next phase of opening businesses.

- Beginning May 8th:
 - cosmetology salons, barber shops, hair salons, nail salons and tanning salons may open, but are not required. Each salon must ensure that prior to opening they are able to follow the [Open Texas guidelines](#):
 - One customer per stylist
 - Recommend appointment only scheduling
 - Can wait inside if you can maintain 6 feet separation, otherwise wait outside or a car
 - Operating stations must be 6 feet apart
 - Strongly recommend, but not requiring, face masks for both the stylist and customer because of the close proximity
- Beginning May 18th:
 - Gyms and exercise facilities may, but are not required to, open. Gyms must also follow guidance from Open Texas, including:
 - Operating at 25% capacity
 - Showers and locker rooms remain closed
 - All equipment must be disinfected after each use
 - Customers must wear gloves covering whole hand and fingers
 - Outside facilities can operate at capacity so long as 6 feet between customers is maintained
 - Non-essential manufacturers may open up under certain conditions:
 - Must stagger working conditions to make sure that not all employees congregate
 - can maintain 6 feet separation or plexiglass between workstations.
 - Businesses in an office building can open under certain circumstances:
 - Can open up to 5 employees or 25% of workforce provided employees can maintain proper social distancing

Finally, the Governor addressed possible flare up areas. The National Guard will be deployed to help in areas where there are flare ups in an effort to help contain them.

Planning for Re-entry



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As a reminder, 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. Please [RSVP](#) in advance so we can send the Zoom log in information to you on Wednesday.

If your organization would like to participate in the cost savings of a bulk PPE 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...

It’s time to fess up. Yesterday, I made a huge mistake...I used a perfectly good baby Yoda reference on May 1st when I should have saved it for May the 4th. I am learning and growing from my mistake and have judiciously saved a great mask purchase opportunity for today. Oh yeah, I also sent you all a blank email. Sorry!

Today is Cinco de Mayo, a holiday that in Mexico celebrates the victory at the [Battle of Puebla](#), and in Texas it celebrates all food things Mexico, like tacos and cervesas (I did NOT say Corona!). So, to celebrate, you can purchase a [lucha libre mask](#) made by Hijo del Soberano, a freestyle wrestler in Mexico, to help you fight COVID19. Each mask pays homage to Mexico’s luchadores and costs less than \$7. It’s just too perfect.

Take care on this Cinco-de-Mayo-Taco-Tuesday at home,

Jackie

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