



Jewish Federation OF GREATER HOUSTON

May 7 PM - Jran Email

Dear Jran Community:

Today, we will cover updates from the State, City and County, recap today's conversation starter on reopening, look at review new findings on the effectiveness of face coverings, and tips for hurricane preparedness during a pandemic.

Updates from the State, City, and County

Governor Greg Abbott [modified his prior executive order](#) to remove the enforcement portion of any executive order—state, county or city—retroactively applied to April 2, 2020. This means that no person in Texas can be fined or jailed for intentionally violating governmental orders in place to protect the public from the spread of COVID19.

When asked about this modification, Mayor Turner observed that a [law without enforcement](#) is just a statement. The Mayor stated that COVID19 is still present in our City and we are not where we need to be to declare victory.

The City is reporting 88 new cases of COVID19 and 3 more fatalities. Additionally, Mayor Turner announced the three essential tools we need to have in place in order to effectively fight COVID19 in the Houston region:

1. Testing
 - a. Need adequate testing capabilities to identify infected individuals
 - b. The City will be adding 24 new testing sites by the end of May
2. Contact Tracing
 - a. Need the ability to quickly identify and isolate individuals who may have been exposed
 - b. The City will be ramping up to 300 contact tracers in the coming weeks
3. Individual Behavior
 - a. People need to continue wearing masks, washing hands
 - b. Social distancing is key to slowing the spread

Jran Conversation Starter: Reopening Our Community Institutions

For those who missed it, the Federation hosted a conversation starter webinar on how to begin thinking about preparing our institutions for opening as the Governor lifts the stay at home orders. All information shared today can be found on the [Federation's website](#). The recording should be posted soon. If you have any specific questions, please [email me](#) and I will do my best to assist you.

New Findings on the Effectiveness of Masks

There is a [new study](#) coming out of New York State that suggests face masks and other preventative measures are working to prevent the spread of COVID19. The study looked at the antibody rate between the general population of certain areas of New York compared to the antibody rate in healthcare workers in those same areas. The infection rate of the general public is higher than the infection rate of frontline health care workers, suggesting that masks, gowns, and other measures taken are in fact slowing the spread of COVID19. And if you consider the exposure rate of frontline health care workers compared to the general population, the findings seem to have some merit.

Hurricane Preparedness During a Pandemic

The Centers for Disease Control is encouraging people who live in areas affected by Hurricanes to take [extra measures this year](#) as we prepare. That includes giving ourselves more time to gather supplies, including face masks, gloves and plenty of hand sanitizer in our emergency kits.

The Federation is working on our next JРАН Conversation Starter on Hurricane Readiness. It will take place on **Thursday, May 21, at 11 a.m.** More details to come as we finalize the webinar.

In other news...

[Space City Weather](#), my favorite hype-free weather resource, is predicting some stormy weather beginning tomorrow. As a result, the [Flight to the Finish](#) fly over is postponed to Sunday at 2 p.m. This is not all bad news! The storms Friday will bring some pretty amazing weather for Saturday and Sunday. There's no better way to celebrate Mother's Day than with a cool breeze, [free face masks](#) (this Sunday, 2-4 pm at the J), and some vintage war planes!

Take care today and #MaskUpHouston,

Jackie

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