



# Jewish Federation OF GREATER HOUSTON

June 18, 2020

Dear Jran Community:

There is a lot to cover today...so let's get to it.

## **COVID19**

### City of Houston

Mayor Sylvester Turner stated that we have seen two days in a row of 700+ new cases of COVID19 (taking out the spike from yesterday due to the prison system releasing a huge backlog at once). We have exceeded our peak back in April. The Texas Medical Center is predicting that at this rate, TMC institutions will [exceed ICU capacity in two weeks](#). The Mayor is also asking that if have been around people who were not wearing a mask that you should [get tested for COVID19](#) at one of the free testing sites.

Mayor Turner and fellow mayors from eight of Texas' largest cities signed a [joint letter](#) to Governor Greg Abbott asking him to restore the local authority to mandate best practices for combating COVID19, namely, wearing face coverings. Currently, the Governor's [most recent executive order](#) prohibits the enforcement of individuals wearing face coverings or masks. Some have argued that measures to combat the spread of COVID is a violation of Constitutional rights, however officials are quick to point out that [spreading a potentially lethal disease is not a Constitutional right](#).

Due to the Governor's order prohibiting individual mandates and fines for not wearing masks, County Judges and Mayors across Texas have decided to [mandate mask wearing for employees and visitors of businesses](#), putting the burden on the business to enforce. Establishments found in violation of the mask orders can be fined up to \$1,000. Mayor Turner announced that we can expect to see something similar in Harris County and Houston, soon.

Nearly 2,000 people have [signed a petition](#) asking H-E-B to mandate mask wearing for all who enter their stores. Currently, H-E-B's policy is for team members to wear masks and customers to follow local rules.

Physicians warn that it is important to remember that [masks are not for children under age 2](#).

### Fall Plans for School

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Houston Independent School District have begun to roll out fall plans. TEA released a [statement](#) that Texas schools will be open this fall but have given flexibility to districts and students to decide how that looks. On-campus will be an option, but online learning and blended models of in-person and online will also be available. HISD has not released their specific plans yet but has released their calendar. HISD will [keep the original fall calendar](#) and will not move to an 11-month school year.

### Other COVID19 News

The U.S. airline industry association, Airlines for America, [issued a statement](#) that all major U.S. carriers will be cracking down on people who refuse to wear a face mask while on board a plane. United Airlines stated that they will [place violators on an internal travel restriction](#) list.

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission has [officially warned all restaurants and bars](#) that violating the Governor's order to operate at 50% capacity for bars and 75% capacity for restaurants will result in an emergency suspension of the establishment's liquor license.

The [JLAN Re-opening Toolkit](#) has been updated to include more [free, downloadable graphics](#) for you to use as your organization begins to open. We have graphics on quick tips for your workstation, FAQs for managers of non-healthcare workers, procedures for checking symptoms and temperature, proper handwashing, and many others. If you find a resource missing, please [let me know](#). We hope this is of value to you and your organization.

Some good news on treating COVID19 comes out of the University of Oxford. Scientists and doctors have found dexamethasone, a steroid drug, to reduce mortality rates in the sickest patients. The [CDC welcomes this news](#) as it puts a second treatment in our toolkit to fight COVID19. Additionally, doctors have found better ways to treat [COVID19 patients, like placing people on their stomach](#) instead of their backs to reduce stress on the lungs.

### **Hurricane Preparedness**

JLAN was asked to join last week's Interfaith Ministries/Greater Houston Partnership call to talk about the steps the Federation is taking for Hurricane season. You can [watch me present a teaser](#) for a future JLAN Conversation Starter on asset mapping as a form of disaster preparation (at the 45:36 mark).



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## Security

PBS has released a documentary called [Viral: Antisemitism in Four Mutations](#). It addresses the increase in antisemitic incidents and interviews people who have first-hand accounts as victims and witnesses. You can catch Brad Orsini, Senior National Security Advisor for the Secure Community Network (SCN), [talk about his experience](#) training members of the Tree of Life Synagogue before the horrific massacre that claimed 11 lives.

The recording of the JРАН Conversation Starter on Security, featuring Dena Marks from the ADL and Brad Orsini from SCN, is [online](#). If you want to watch it again or didn't have a chance to watch it live, you may now do so at your leisure.

## In Other News...

If you thought plush animals was a good for baseball, then wait until the [NBA begins basketball season...at Walt Disney World!](#) Camp NBA (my words) will begin this fall where teams will take over the Grand Flordian, Yacht Club, and Gran Destino. Teams were seeded and received hotel assignments based on rankings. Your Houston Rockets will be living it up at the Grand Floridian where they will be enjoying a players-only lounge, movie screenings, DJs, pool time, and park access (!!). Players can watch each other's games, but will not be allowed to leave the resort or co-mingle with the outside world during the season...but would anyone want to!?

Take care today and I hope you found a fun Disney-Rockets mask for your future outings (#MaskUp),

Jackie

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