



July 14 PM - Jran Email

Dear Jran Community:

Today, we will go over the County and City's request to go back to a stay-at-home order, more confusing numbers from our medical center and what they mean, what life might look like if you survive the COVID19 ICU, viral mask wearing videos, the Merfish Teen Center's testing site, and upcoming webinars to help you get ready for High Holidays.

### **COVID19**

Officials in Houston are pushing Governor Abbott for a new Stay Home, Work Safe order to "crush the curve" of COVID19 in our area. County Judge Lina Hidalgo [explained that it's about more than flattening the curve at this point, it's about bringing the curve down](#). Mayor Sylvester Turner and Judge Hidalgo have both made pleas to Gov. Abbott to reinstate a stay-at-home order for at least two weeks to give our area time to bring cases down to a more manageable number.

Data trends are all the rage right now, but as last week's Jran mentioned, it's confusing. There are debates about which numbers are most important. The Texas Medical Center (TMC) has a [chart on hospital capacity](#), indicating that there are around 855 intensive care unit (ICU) beds available. However, the State of Texas official site is showing that in our [Trauma Service Area \(TSA\), only 95 beds remain](#). What's the cause of discrepancy and why are [we seeing on the news that TMC is full](#) and transferring patients to other hospitals? One explanation offered is that TMC data emphasizes the number of beds but does not consider staffing. TSA data shows the number of staffed beds, since an unstaffed bed is basically unusable.

What do we make of all the numbers and which ones are the most important? The County Judge makes the case that pushing our hospital capacity to the brink should not be the goal. Rather, if we all work together to bring the curve down as quickly as possible, the better we will be overall. We can all do our part to stop the spread by wearing a mask, practicing social distancing, and washing our hands. The most important number: each one of us.

Johns Hopkins is reminding us that life after COVID19 can be a long road for many, especially if you spent time in the ICU. Experts from the [Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health explain what things could look like after life in the COVID19 ICU](#).

Bill Nye, The Science Guy, released a video explaining how masks work to prevent the spread of droplets. In a [one minute TickTok video](#), Bill shows us that masks do work. Speaking of videos...

The Federation's "[Do A Mitzvah. Wear A Mask.](#)" video has been making the rounds—nationally! Please feel free to share the video on your social media channels and help us spread the word on the importance of mask wearing in our community.

The Merfish Teen Center is an official [City of Houston free COVID19 testing site](#). Here is information on the site:

Merfish Teen Center

9000 S Rice Ave, 77096

July 12-17, 2020 – Operated by City of Houston

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or when daily limit is reached

Walk-up site; no appointment required; free

July 20 – August 21—Operated Privately

M-F, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or when daily limit is reached

Walk-up site; no appointment required; free

<https://houstonemergency.org/covid-19-testing/>

## **Security**

Many of our Houston area Jewish congregations have announced that this year, for the first time for many, High Holiday services will take place virtually. In order to make sure we are all prepared for a Zoom-filled New Year, JРАН has teamed up with the ADL to present a webinar on how to prevent Zoombombing. This comes on the heels of recent Zoombombing incidents. You can [read about the scare Brith Shalom experienced](#) during one of their virtual adult education classes. It seems like yesterday that we were all hosting Zoom Seders.

Please [register for our first JРАН Training on countering an active threat](#). Brad Orsini, senior national advisor for the Secure Community Network, will be presenting on best practices that you will be able to use at work and in everyday life. Brad is the former security director for the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh where his trainings have been credited in saving lives during the Tree of Life tragedy. A former FBI Special Agent and Captain in the Marines, Brad is uniquely qualified in security training.

### **In Other News...**

A Japanese theme park is [asking customers not to scream or yell while on rides](#) in order to prevent the spread of COVID19. Fuji-Q Highland amusement park [made a video](#) of two of its executives demonstrating how to ride a roller-coaster with a mask on—and silently. The park is asking that people “please scream inside your heart” ...a very appropriate tagline for 2020.

Take care today and I hope you do a mitzvah and wear a mask,

Jackie

**Jackie Fisherman** | Director of Government Affairs

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