



July 24 PM - Jran Email

Dear Jran Community:

Today, we will go over COVID19 case trends, the tropical depression in the Gulf, and recap our security training.

### **COVID19**

First, let's look at the infection rate in Houston and see what the numbers mean. There is good news and bad news. First, the bad: the positive daily new infections of COVID19 continue to rise in Greater Houston. The Texas Medical Center is reporting [12 days of positive growth](#) in new daily cases. Additionally, we are seeing [an increase in average daily new cases](#) week over week. Of all the tests results returned last week, [20%-25% came back positive](#). You might be wondering: didn't we see reports that daily cases are decreasing? The short answer: yes...but not so fast.

The good news: the past three days we have seen daily new positive cases slightly decrease. Experts from the medical center are urging caution when looking at the day-to-day trend in new cases. There is a severe backlog in test turnaround. The public sites are taking around 10-12 days to get results back, which is hampering contact tracing efforts and the ability to contain the virus. It is also making medical experts cautiously optimistic about the day-to-day case count. These could be an undercount and we may see a spike as results get returned. Dr. James McDeavitt, Dean of Clinical Affairs with Baylor College of Medicine, stated that while the [three day decrease in new cases is good news, it is far too early to call it a trend](#). Dr. McDeavitt is urging the community to continue wearing a mask and practicing social distancing. He warns that relaxing standards, opening too soon, and complacency can undermine our efforts to contain the virus.

Mayor Turner stated that the current positivity rate of around [25% needs to come down to 5%](#) and the average growth rate of 2,300 new cases a day needs to come down to 200-300 new cases per day. Until these events happen, the Mayor and County judge are strongly urging Houstonians to stay home. Both the Mayor and County Judge have asked Governor Abbott for a two-week stay-at-home order, but one has yet to be issued.

More focus has been on the spread of COVID19 in economically challenged neighborhoods and the City and County are directing messaging and resources to areas with the highest positivity rates. The socioeconomic [disparity between Houston's wealthier neighborhoods and those with less resources](#) is apparent in both infection rates and [school openings](#).

The World Health Organization is encouraging people to make sure that they [are aware of anxiety and stress](#) during this dynamic health crisis. They are encouraging people to build awareness and practice coping skills to help manage feelings of anxiety.

### **Hurricane Season 2020**

There is a tropical depression forming in the Gulf that has potential to become Tropical Storm Hannah by the weekend. The forecast keeps shifting and the [latest models suggest heavy rainfall for our area and some possible street flooding](#). The Governor's Office is preparing to [deploy resources to the Rio Grande Valley, the Coastal Bend, and the Hill Country](#). We can expect to see most of the rain Saturday and Sunday. This is a good reminder to [build a kit, have a plan, and get ready](#). Be sure to sign up for the [Ready Harris Alerts](#) so you can get real time information on the risks to our area. You can also track the status of the storms on the [National Hurricane Center website](#).

Meanwhile, further down in the Atlantic, [Tropical Storm Gonzalo is expected to turn into a hurricane](#) in the next 24 hours. This will be the earliest we've seen a "G" named hurricane since 1966. We do not expect Gonzalo to affect Texas and will continue to watch the storm.

The good news is that the Atlantic Hurricane season typically fizzles out by the end of September. Two more months to go!

### **Security**

Thank you to everyone who attended our first JРАН Training on "Countering An Active Threat." For those of you who missed it, you can [watch the training online](#).

### **Upcoming Programs**

We have [three upcoming JРАН programs](#) for our community. Please save these dates:

- Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>: Back to School Webinar: Lessons Learned from Summer (register today!)
- Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>: Community Resiliency and Collaboration for a Natural Disaster (register today!)
- Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>: Jran and ADL Presents: Zoombombing Training (invitation to come)

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

Tuesday, we had “Adon Olam” to the tune of “You’ll Be Back” and, today, we have stands filled with dancing robots! It doesn’t get much better than some [robots cheering on a baseball game in Japan](#). The robots, named “Spot” and “Pepper” (missed opportunity for “Salt ‘n Pepa” pun) dance to what seems to be two different songs. I guess if you can’t have out of sync fans, the next best thing is out of sync robots cheering you on!

Take care today and I hope you dance like Spot and Pepper this weekend,

Jackie

**Jackie Fisherman** | Director of Government Affairs

Jewish Federation of Greater Houston

5603 S. Braeswood Blvd. | Houston, TX 77096

Main: 713.729.7000 ext 325

[jfisherman@houstonjewish.org](mailto:jfisherman@houstonjewish.org) | [www.houstonjewish.org](http://www.houstonjewish.org)