



July 9 PM - Jran Email

Dear Jran Community:

Today, we will cover updates in the COVID19 world, the newest named storm (#6 for those keeping count), and an important lesson on how to handle Anti-Semitism.

COVID19

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo issued an [order prohibiting outdoor gatherings larger than 10](#) people in Harris County. Her order mirrors the Governor's order and includes the same exemptions, including:

- Essential services
- Religious services
- Governmental operations
- Child-care
- Youth camps
- Recreational sports
- Other sporting events
- Swimming
- Water parks
- Museums and libraries
- Zoos, aquariums, and natural caverns
- Rodeos, and
- Amusement parks

It is important to note that the exemption is for religious *services*, not other types of events that might occur in a religious building (unless specifically named above, like youth camp).

Houston First, the company that runs the George R. Brown Convention (GRB) Center (I had to Google it, too), [sent the Republican Party of Texas \(RPT\) a letter](#) cancelling their contract for the state-wide convention to be held in Houston next week. The letter uses a contractual provision, called Force Majeure, that allows Houston First or the RPT to cancel the contract if there was an event, such as an "epidemic in the City of Houston," that would prevent the use of the GRB or if there were "orders restricting the size of gatherings at the facility." This comes on the heels of the [letter Dr. David Persse wrote to organizers](#) of the convention detailing the severity of the pandemic in Houston.

Texas school districts have been reacting to the [Texas Education Agency's guidelines](#) for the fall. Houston Independent School District [sent an email to parents](#) that their plans will be released on July 15th.

The Centers for Disease control is reminding parents to [continue with routine well-checks and vaccinations](#) during the pandemic, as many of these shots were developed to prevent other contagious outbreaks.

The Houston Fire Department (HFD) is responding to an [unusual amount of calls](#) where the person is deceased at the time of the call. HFD predicts that many of these calls could be due to COVID19, so the death rate in Houston is likely an undercount. A similar trend happened in New York City during its peak infection period.

Dr. Jim McDeavitt, senior vice president and dean of clinical affairs, [sent a letter](#) to members of Baylor College of Medicine updating them on the status of their hospitals. In his letter, Dr. McDeavitt notes that Baylor system ICUs are full and operating in Phase 2 surge capacity. In two weeks, daily confirmed cases of COVID19 rose from 1,100 to 1,600 and hospitalizations across the Texas Medical Center for COVID19 has doubled. Dr. McDeavitt expects to see the spread of COVID19 and the daily admissions level off, however the hospital rate will continue to be in surge through the end of July. He stresses the need to continue social distancing and mask wearing, as this will be critical to leveling off the spread of the disease on our community.

The Harris County Clerk is ensuring that voting remains safe, including plexiglass barriers, increased distance between machines, and mandatory mask wearing. You can [watch this video](#) by Chris Hollins demonstrating how to vote during the pandemic.

The [JLAN Tool Kit](#) has been updated with [new signage](#) from Harris Public Health on wearing a mask. Be sure to check the tool kit as you prepare to open your buildings as information is updates frequently.

The Federal Reserve has released a new bailout program designed for small businesses. Under the "Main Street Lending Program," small businesses may apply for a 5-year loan with a floating rate. [Four area banks are participating in this program.](#)

Hurricane Season 2020

As if we needed another reminder that its hurricane season, [Tropical Storm Fay](#) just formed off the coast of North Carolina. The National Weather Service is reminding you to be "[Weather Ready](#)" this season.

Security

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...(ear buds in—you'll want to listen, learn, and act)

Julian Edelman, wide receiver for the New England Patriots and fellow Member of the Tribe, gave a master class on how to respond to Anti-Semitism when it comes from someone in your community-- whether it is a co-worker, friend, neighbor or acquaintance.

Over the past few days, DeSean Jackson, wide receiver for the Philadelphia Eagles, put [several Anti-Semitic posts on his social media accounts](#). What DeSean posted isn't as important as Julian's reaction. In a [video on his Instagram account](#), Julian started off by saying [how proud he is of his Jewish heritage](#). He goes on to talk about the similarities between the Black community and the Jewish community and how we need to have uncomfortable conversations to have a real understanding of each other. He ends his response with a proposition to DeSean Jackson: a trip to D.C. where Julian will take DeSean to the Holocaust Museum and DeSean will take Julian to the Museum of African American History and Culture. Afterwards, they will sit down for a meal and have that uncomfortable conversation. The only thing missing from Julian's response was a Houston Texans jersey.

Take care today and I hope you find a little more love, compassion, and empathy,

Jackie

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