



September 10 PM – Jran Email

Dear Jran Community:

Today, we will look at COVID19 testing data, go over the Mayor's plans for live events, take a brief look into the storms in the Atlantic, and review all of the High Holiday webinars from the Secure Community Network.

COVID19

Let's start off a deep dive into data. We will begin with a brief primer on the definition of the numbers we have been talking about for the past six months and then look at where we are today. Here are some *very basic* definitions:

- **Case increase by day:** this number is how many positive cases were released by the various labs (government, private) that day.
- **[Epi Curve](#):** Measures positive cases from the date of illness onset.
- **[Positivity Rate](#):** Number of positive cases out of all tests taken at that time. Allows us to know if we are conducting enough tests to find active infections. High number indicates we are only testing those with symptoms or who are sick, missing the milder/asymptomatic cases. A lower positivity rate indicates that we are casting a wide net when it comes to testing and therefore have a better finger on the pulse. The WHO would like to see this number around 5%.
- **[Effective Reproduction Rate](#):** How contagious the disease is from one person to another. Under 1.0 means virus spread is slowing, over 1.0 means the virus is spreading around the community.

As City and County officials learn more about the virus, they are rethinking what numbers (from the list above) are a better way to measure the virus. Back in August, I mentioned the "epi curve" on the City/County combined dashboard. This curve shows us a better picture of the history of the virus. We can see that, based on illness onset, the Houston area hit its peak back on July 1st. Whereas, if you look at the "case increase by day" it suggests that peak was on July 31st. However, case increase by day is not as good a representation of what is happening in our community because some peaks are due to backlogs in lab reporting—not due to an increase in people getting sick at that time. If you look at each individual COVID19 test as a snapshot in time, then the epi curve seems to be a more accurate way of gauging the virus' spread.

On today's Interfaith Ministries Faith Leaders Call, Dr. David Persse mentioned that area health authorities will be re-looking at how they interpret the data. Officials are beginning to think that the epi

curve may be a better indicator than reporting daily new cases from the labs. You can expect to see a lot of data talk moving forward. You will also see more 14-day averages rather than day-by-day numbers.

Turning to the [City/County Dashboard](#), the epi curve (the orange graph) continues the downward trend. It would be premature to look at the immediate past week, just in case some back logged cases shift the data, but going back as far as last month, we see that the number of new cases is consistently moving down. The combined City and County [14-day average positivity rate is 9.2%](#) (Houston's rate is 6.6%). [The Texas Medical Center Dashboard](#) looks like Tuesday. The Effective Reproduction Rate is 0.86, marking three days under 1.0. The test positivity rate for TMC institutions is 4.7%, marking 4 days below 5%.

Mayor Turner announced yesterday the City of Houston will move into the next phase of opening. The City will begin to restart live events in controlled settings with the following restrictions:

- Cannot open to more than 25% capacity
- Must require all patrons to wear masks
- Must have social distancing measures in place
- All patrons must answer the COVID19 symptoms questionnaire

This falls in line with the [Governor's order](#) allowing local authorities to reopen to more than 10 people as long as certain restrictions are met. The first live events to welcome guests will be the Houston Dynamo, Houston Dash, Houston Symphony, and a tailgate for the Houston Texans. We can expect these to be the canary in the coal mine and if we do not see huge spikes in the next two weeks, we may see more openings around the city.

Be sure to continue wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and washing your hands.

Hurricane Season 2020

There is a [lot going on in the Atlantic Hurricane region](#), but none look like a threat to our area. We have two named storms out in the Atlantic Ocean, Paulette and Rene, marching our way down the alphabet. Make sure you have those kits and plans just in case we see some activity coming our way.

Security

The Secure Community Network continues with their High Holiday trainings. In case you missed them, below is a full list of all the trainings and follow-up resources:

- **Outdoor Services and Gatherings**
 - [Webinar recording](#)
 - [Follow-up resources](#)
- **Firearms and the Faithful**
 - [Webinar recording](#)
 - [Follow-up resources](#)
 - [Full report](#)
- **Cyber Preparedness**
 - [Webinar recording](#)
 - [Follow-up resources](#)
 - [Register for the September 16th re-run webinar](#)
- **Professional and Lay Leadership During the High Holidays**
 - [Webinar recording](#)

In Other News...(ear buds in, volume up!)

Netta Barzilai, the award-winning Israeli singer who took the world by storm when she won the Eurovision Song Contest in 2018, has us enthralled again. Disney invited her to put her unique spin on "[Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious](#)." It's not what you think...but by the 10th time it really grows on you...

Take care and I hope you have a supercali...weekend!

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