



October 22 PM – JРАН Email

Dear JРАН Community:

Today, we will go over the rise in COVID19 cases in Texas, Harris County's data landscape, City of Houston's mental health line, the final stretch of the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane season, and security leading up to November 3rd.

COVID19

This week, the State of Texas is reporting a rise in COVID19 cases. Most of the new cases are coming from the Texas panhandle region and El Paso. The [Governor has deployed additional Department of State Health Services personnel](#) and resources to those areas to help.

Although most of the Texas cases are coming from one area, the Houston region is seeing a slight increase in new cases. The [Harris County COVID-19 Data Landscape](#) is reporting that hospital ICU trends are no longer declining and new cases are increasing at 4 per day. The Harris County [14-day average positivity rate is 6.6%](#). Officials are citing at-home gatherings where people feel comfortable taking off their masks as a reason for the increase in cases. On today's Faith Leaders call, Dr. Marc Boom stressed that the one thing we can do to get us through this pandemic is to always wear a mask when around others outside your household. He stated that glancing interactions, like when walking quickly past someone on the street, is not something to worry about. The biggest areas of concern are family or friend gatherings where people are not wearing masks.

The Houston Health Department has a COVID19 Mental Health Helpline. Those with stress related to the pandemic may call 713-999-9442 daily from 1 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Hurricane Season 2020

[Hurricane Epsilon](#) is churning in the northern Atlantic and currently poses no threat to the United States. The [Atlantic Hurricane Season ends on November 30th](#), so we are in the final stretch!

Security

The biggest areas of security concern right now are times of civil unrest leading up to the November 3rd election. The [ADL has released a toolkit](#) to help in countering potential election-related extremism.

In Other News...

If the pandemic has taught us one thing, it is that online gatherings are not always a bad thing. Seventy-one years after meeting at a displaced persons camp in Austria in 1949, [Holocaust survivors Ruth Brandspiegel and Israel Eisenberg spotted each other on their synagogue's Zoom](#) Yom Kippur service. It is a sweet story that could only have happened in this uber-digital age. So, next time you are on Zoom, go ahead and scan that participant list...you never know who you might see!

Take care today and I hope you take time to virtually reconnect with friends and family 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 | www.houstonjewish.org