



October 1 PM – Jran Email

Dear Jran Community:

Today, we will go over our area's COVID19 metrics, why you should get a flu shot, the City's new COVID19 mental health hotline, how you can learn more about the COVID19 vaccine, early voting, two disturbances in the Atlantic, and an FBI security webinar for faith-based leaders.

COVID19

The Harris County officials expect that if current data trends continue, we can expect to reach "Level Orange" status soon. Currently, [we are still meeting four out of five indicators for orange](#), but we are hung up on the test positivity rate. Before we can move to the next level, officials would like to see Harris County at 5% or lower and [we are currently at 6.6%](#).

The [Texas Medical Center dashboard](#) and the City of Houston are reporting better numbers for positivity rate. On September 28th, the City of Houston reported the lowest positivity rate—5.6%—since we began tracking data for COVID19. The City is targeting testing and outreach based on [Super Neighborhood hot spots](#) in order to better educate and equip areas with high rates of transmission.

County and City medical officials are asking that everyone get their flu shot this year as you can get both COVID19 and the flu at the same time. This could prove to be deadly for some, particularly those with preexisting conditions or in a vulnerable category. The CDC has released [guidance on how to spot the difference between the flu and COVID-19](#).

Mayor Turner announced the [City of Houston's COVID19 mental health helpline](#) which will include resources for people adjusting mentally and emotionally during the pandemic. Beginning today, you can call 713-999-9442 seven days per week to reach a trained mental health professional.

Johns Hopkins University will be hosting a [vaccine symposium on October 6th](#) about the scientific integrity of a COVID19 vaccine. Dr. Anthony Fauci is one of the featured speakers.

It is important to register to vote early this year so you can take advantage of the early voting or mail-in options in order to better avoid crowded voting on election day. You can [check your voter registration](#) online with the Texas Secretary of State.

Hurricane Season 2020

We finally made it to October, dodging two major storms. While the weather feels good (and should for a while) there are [two disturbances in the Atlantic](#) that storm watchers are keeping an eye on. An

October hurricane is rare for our region, but not outside the realm of possibilities. So go out and enjoy the weather this weekend but keep an ear to your trusted weather source.

Security

The FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and InfraGardNCR will be hosting “[Security and Safety Symposium for Faith-Based Communities](#)” on October 27th. Speakers include:

- Stephanie Yanta, Supervisory Special Agent, FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit
- Kathleen Kooiman, Chief Chaplain, Orange County Sheriff’s Department and Faith Liaison Officer/Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center
- Todd Richins, Director of Field Operations, Church Security Department, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Michael Masters, National Director & CEO, Secure Community Network
- Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, Undersecretary of Homeland Security, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- Keri Kei Shibata, Police Chief, University of Notre Dame Police Department

In Other News...

This weekend marks the beginning of sukkot—so here is a fun checklist for our harvest festivities:

- Small outdoor gathering with family
- [Sukkot face masks](#) (really)
- [Lemon scented hand sanitizer](#)
- Etrog flavored cocktail

Wait, what? That’s right, you can partake in 2020’s favorite activity this sukkot by mixing up some [etrog liqueur](#) or making your own etrog infused vodka. I’ll have an etrog martini—shaken, not stirred (naturally).

Take care and I hope you enjoy putting up your sukkah this weekend,

Jackie

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