



# HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** All Officers and Members  
**From:** Matthew White, Assistant Fire Chief *MW*  
**Through:** Justin Wells, Executive Assistant Fire Chief *JW*  
**Subject:** COVID19 Preventive Measures Continue  
**Date:** June 12, 2020

**Mayor**  
Sylvester Turner

**City Council**

**District A**  
Amy Peck

**District B**  
Jerry Davis

**District C**  
Abbie Kamin

**District D**  
Carolyn Evans-Shabazz

**District E**  
Dave Martin

**District F**  
Tiffany Thomas

**District G**  
Greg Travis

**District H**  
Karla Cisneros

**District I**  
Robert Gallegos

**District J**  
Edward Pollard

**District K**  
Martha Castex-Tatum

**At-Large 1**  
Mike Knox

**At-Large 2**  
David Robinson

**At-Large 3**  
Michael Kubosh

**At-Large 4**  
Letitia Plummer

**At-Large 5**  
Sallie Alcorn

**Controller,**  
Chris Brown

On June 3, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued an Executive Order to announce the third phase of the ongoing plan to open additional businesses and activities in Texas. This announcement expands upon the businesses and activities included in the first two phases of the plan to Open Texas while minimizing the spread of COVID-19.

This does not mean the threat is over or members can discontinue practicing pandemic preventive measures such as wearing of masks, practicing social distancing and conducting daily employee screenings. On the contrary, COVID-19 cases in Houston have increased since Texas reopened.

Increased cases of COVID-19 in the Houston area have led to an increase in COVID-19 interactions for HFD members. Firefighters are responding to an increasing number of COVID-19 positive patients as well as having interactions with more COVID-19 positive personal friends and family members. Actual HFD exposures to COVID-19 will continue to increase as the virus continues to spread in the Houston Community.

- COVID-19 Cases are increasing in the Greater Houston Area.
  - COVID-19 Cases in ER's have increased. ( <https://tmc.edu/> )
  - There has been a daily increase of new positive COVID-19 cases for the past 9 days. (TMC)
  - The average daily new positive count for 6/1-6/7 was 52% higher than the count for 5/25-5/31 (407 vs. 267) and was over 300 for the first time since the week of 4/6-4/12, when the average hit 415 daily cases. (TMC)
  - There has been a sustained growth in the percentage of test positivity (percentage of COVID-19 tests that result positive) for the past 24 days (2 weeks after Phase 1 Reopening).
  - Available data indicates that positive cases will continue to increase and put additional pressure on healthcare systems. (TMC)
  - 9,261 Current Cases in Harris County (HCPH)
  - Harris County currently has 352 confirmed cases in general/isolation beds, compared to 186 on May 24 and 234 on May 31. (SETRAC)

20-180



**Samuel Peña, Fire Chief**  
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- HFD Numbers
  - Based on reports from participating hospitals, HFD is currently transporting an estimated minimum of 50 COVID+ positive patients weekly.
  - 36 HFD members are currently in quarantine.
  - HFD coworker exposures have decreased dramatically due to the use of masks/social distancing at the station.
  - Exposures to confirmed COVID-19 positive cases outside of HFD (family members and community contacts) has increased in the past week.
  - HFD has had a total 53 reported positive COVID-19 cases among HFD members, with 8 current cases.
  - HFD has seen a 56% increase in daily average of members in quarantine this past week (an average of 21.42 for 5/28-6/3 to an average of 33.57 for 6/4-6/11).

Jurisdiction	Monday, June 8				Tuesday, June 9		
	Total cases	Case Increase	Total Fatalities	Fatality Increase	Total cases	Case Increase	Total Fatalities
U.S.	1,956,499	19,525	110,932	607	1,973,803	17,304	111,751
Texas	75,888	780	1,844	5	76,476	588	1848
Harris Co.	6,073	25	119	0	6,230	157	119
City of Houston	8,845	307	143	1	9,008	163	143

Members are reminded that the most up-to-date Memorandums and General Orders pertaining to COVID19 related PPE, reporting to ICO and station behavior are still in effect.

Members interested in being tested for COVID-19 may find information at [www.hfdhelp.com](http://www.hfdhelp.com) or [HHD testing center map](#).

Questions regarding this memorandum will be addressed through the chain of command.



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