

March 12, 2020

Leaders of the Texas Medical Center have been working closely with Mayor Sylvester Turner, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and city and county public health professionals since the early outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in China.

The announcement of a presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in Montgomery County that is unrelated to any recent travel is the first indication of possible community spread of the virus. As such, it is essential that we continue to limit large community gatherings and utilize social distancing to best protect our community. We are particularly concerned about the exposure of our elderly population—especially those with existing health conditions—and patients with compromised immune systems. As leaders of the major hospital systems and academic health centers across Houston, we unanimously support the difficult yet necessary decision to cancel all events sponsored by the city and county.

We will continue to work as a team to further prepare for this pandemic. Houston has faced many formidable challenges, and we will persevere, together, in the days ahead.



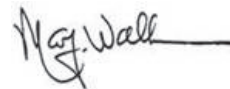
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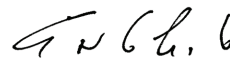
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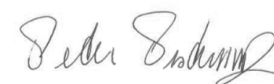
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