

## Texas Medical Center CEOs align in full support of extension to “Stay Home, Work Safe” order

HOUSTON – (March 31, 2020) – Based on the current data observed across the world, in Houston and its surrounding communities, the CEOs of the Texas Medical Center, together, are in full support of Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner’s decision to extend the Harris County “Stay Home, Work Safe” order set to expire at 11:59 p.m. on April 3 until April 30.

“The world’s leading physicians and scientists are working diligently every day to care for patients who need us, and now is the time for significant escalation of our joint efforts with our local government to control the COVID-19 pandemic in the Houston region. We fully understand the sacrifices that our community is making in these difficult times - and the next few weeks are critical. Based on data we are reviewing daily, if we enhance and expand our ‘Stay Home, Work Safe’ order, we will save the lives of many – and we firmly believe will ultimately speed the return to our daily lives and economic activities. By making the decision to extend the ‘Stay Home, Work Safe’ order through April 30, local government officials are taking the necessary steps to save lives and protect our patients, families and the region,” said William F. McKeon, President and CEO of the Texas Medical Center.

We are tracking the data for our 9-county region, and as of March 30, 2020, we had 876 COVID-19 positive cases (with even higher numbers being reported by local media outlets). As of yesterday, 249 COVID-19 patients are currently admitted to the Texas Medical Center member institution hospitals (in addition to hundreds that are “persons under investigation” and in the process of being tested), including 114 in ICU units across our institutions. COVID-19 cases in the greater region – normalized for population size and age – are tracking a similar infection trajectory to those of New York and Italy, though the Houston area is at an earlier stage of the infection cycle. We are planning accordingly, and over the coming weeks, we will carefully track the daily case progression and stage the execution of our mitigation plans as the situation unfolds.

“We strongly urge the Harris County community to closely follow the stipulations that are clearly outlined in the ‘Stay Home, Work Safe’ order so that we may continue to properly care for seriously ill patients while minimizing the overflow of our facilities,” added McKeon. “A reduction in a prolonged surge in cases requires a concerted effort by all of us across Harris County to vigilantly adhere to social distancing.”



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