



GENE WU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 137



Issue 52

NEWSLETTER

October 2020

Friends,

With much uncertainty concerning the Coronavirus (COVID-19), my office is closely following the guidance of the CDC, our health professionals, and our city and state's leadership to support preventive action that will help slow down the spread of COVID-19. **If you need assistance finding resources, please reach out to my office.**

Face-to-face instruction begins this month at HISD and other schools around HD 137. Learn more about plans to keep our students safe, and information on meal programs.

The HPD storefront in Asiatown is back in business!

Bounce Back Westchase has more great deals this month for HD 137 businesses and residents.

This year marked the 75th Anniversary of WWII's conclusion, I was honored to meet veterans from Southwest Houston who served our nation.

Houston METRO is offering free rides to the polls on selected days during early voting, and on Election Day.

It is an honor to serve and represent you in the Texas Legislature. Please feel free to contact my office at any time.

Sincerely,



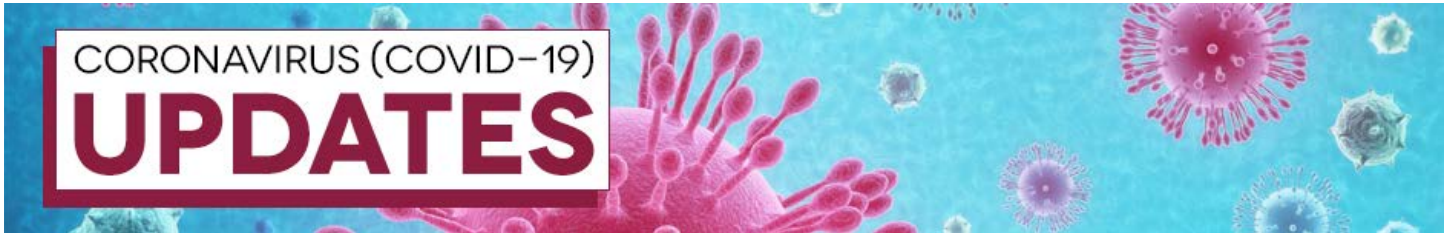
Rep. Wu practicing social distancing at the reopening ceremony of the HPD Ranchester Storefront

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Houston ISD Reopening

Houston ISD is set to begin face-to-face instruction on October 19, 2020. For further information regarding HISD COVID-19 policies, please click on the picture below to be redirected to their website.



HISD Important Information

- ❖ **Free COVID-19 Testing** - HISD will continue to provide free testing for COVID-19 in conjunction with the Houston Health Department. Those interested in taking advantage of this opportunity may call 832-393-4220 for an access code and directions to the nearest testing site. For more information, please visit the [Houston Health Department](#) website.
- ❖ **Reopening Timeline Fall 2020** - HISD will continue with the plan to open up schools and begin face-to-face instruction unless otherwise stated by the city. Parents who do not want their child to attend have the ability to opt out and continue virtual instruction for either the rest of the semester (through January 29) or entire school year (through June 11). For more information, please visit [this site](#).
- ❖ **HISD Technology Hotline** - Online education comes with many difficulties. However, for all technology issues, HISD recommends calling their hotline for help. This service is available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and is available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Arabic. Students and Parents are encouraged to call 713-556-4636.
- ❖ **HISD Continues to Provide Meals** - HISD will continue to provide breakfast, lunch, snacks, and afterschool suppers in classrooms for students engaged in in-person learning. Curbside meals will be available for students enrolled in virtual learning (will need proof of enrollment such as student ID or report card). Employees will continue to accommodate student health, medical, and special dietary needs, as well as allergy concerns. Department employees will follow public health hygiene recommendations and enhance custodial cleaning and surface disinfection. For more information such as pick up information for curbside meals please visit the [Nutrition Services](#) website.

YES Prep & KIPP Reopening

YES Prep

- ❖ **In-person Instruction Timeline** - YES Prep will begin in-person instruction with staggered grades. Below you can find a list of when each cohort (collection of grades) will begin. For more information please visit [their website](#).

Beginning Tuesday, September 29:

| Elementary students and limited number of students grades 6-12

Beginning Monday, October 5:

| Students in transitional grades 6, 9 & 12

Beginning Tuesday, October 20:

| Students in grades 7, 8, 10 & 11

- ❖ **YES Prep Continues to Provide Meals** - YES Prep is committed to serving students free healthy meals via grab n' go breakfast and breakfast in the classroom, and will serve a hot lunch to students in their classrooms or socially distanced in the cafeteria. Curbside meals will also continue to be available for students who are enrolled in online at-home instruction and to all students 18 years or younger. Five days' worth of meals will be available every Monday each week at all non-partnership YES Prep school from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., until further notice and students or parents will be required to give their student's name and YES Prep ID number. For more information please visit the same website as above and scroll down to the meals section.

KIPP

- ❖ **In-person Instruction Timeline** - KIPP will begin in-person instruction October 13th. In accordance with the Texas Education Agency, they will also give parents the option to keep their kids in online education. For more information, please see the following [newsletter](#).
- ❖ **KIPP Continues to Provide Meals** - Although many students are participating in remote learning, KIPP still has breakfast and lunch available to all KIPP students daily. Our distribution services run Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at all campuses. For more information regarding distribution centers, menus, or any other inquiries, please visit the KIPP [meals website](#).

HPD Ranchester Storefront Reopening

The Houston Police Department has re-opened its Asiatown storefront office in response to feedback from a worried community.

The storefront, located at 9160 Bellaire Blvd., Suite F, will continue to serve as an excellent model for relational and community policing as it has for many years.

I want to thank the men and women of HPD and everyone who has been involved for making sure the Asian community, and everyone who shops and visits in our neighborhood, feels safe in Asiatown.



Gene with community and business leaders welcoming HPD officers back to the Ranchester Storefront in Asiatown

Bounce Back Westchase

Bounce Back Westchase is a great program aimed at helping our business community bounce back from this economic downturn, by connecting them with residents and offering great deals to help you shop local. Deals change weekly - click on the picture below to learn more.



Honoring WWII Veterans

This year saw the 75th Anniversary of World War II's conclusion.

I was honored to join the Chinese American Citizens Alliance in their efforts to pay respect to our Chinese American WWII veterans in Southwest Houston.

A drive-by parade was conducted by friends, family, and members of the community, and my office was proud to have presented official flags from the State of Texas to honor and commemorate their service.

Thank you again to the Chinese American Citizens Alliance for their wonderful work in ensuring our hometown heroes are not forgotten, and an extra big thank you to the veterans I had the pleasure of meeting for your service to this country, and to Southwest Houston.



Gene visiting with a WWII veteran and HD 137 constituent

Houston METRO Rides to the Polls



RIDE FREE TO CAST YOUR VOTE

EARLY
VOTING

Saturday, **Oct. 17**,
Saturday, **Oct. 24** &
Monday-Thursday **Oct. 26-29**

ELECTION
DAY

Tuesday, **Nov. 3**

Exercise your right to vote with **FREE round-trip service** to the polls on all METRO local bus, light-rail and METROLift paratransit service.

Houston METRO is providing complimentary trips to polling locations in our service area.

Voters can ride at no charge on METRORail, local buses, METRORapid and METROLift - voters only need to inform bus operators and/or fare inspectors they are going to, or returning from, the polls.

Patrons needing customized directions can map out their trip with the RideMETRO mobile app or on RideMETRO.org. **For information on polling locations** visit the [Harris Votes website](#).

METRO's Customer Service team is also available to answer questions and provide trip planning information. Contact 713-635-4000 for more information. Se habla español.

Free round-trip transportation to the polls will be available during the times listed on the flier. You can also click on the image for more information.