

**From:** [Office of Roberta Schwartz](#)  
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It now appears that the Houston area has been largely spared from the impact of Hurricane Laura as the storm is now predicted to make landfall east of Beaumont. Our region should still see minor effects such as strong winds, some rain and minimal storm surge along the coast. As we are now more certain that our area won't be seriously affected, we've amended some of the plans we announced yesterday.

### **Ride Out Teams**

Previous calls to ride out team members to come early and spend the night have changed for all Houston Methodist hospitals **with the exception of Houston Methodist Clear Lake**, which may still be impacted by the storm because of its proximity to the water. We are still needing employees at HMCL who work tonight or tomorrow to arrive early and plan to sleep on campus.

For our other hospitals, if you are a ride out team member who is scheduled to work tonight or tomorrow morning, you can arrive to work as regularly scheduled. But if you want to spend the night as you planned, you are welcomed to sleep at your campus, and you will still receive sleep pay. Please remember to bring your own bedding as linens will not be provided. Please bring a bag with a change of clothes including your mask and face shield if you have one. Hospitals have arranged for socially distanced sleeping quarters.

### **Thursday schedules**

As we are now more certain that our area won't be seriously affected, we plan to open our medical office buildings sometime late tomorrow morning if they have not lost power. Schedulers are working to see what Thursday's elective schedule looks like, specific to each hospital and department. Please be in touch with your manager for details on your schedule. Please note it is unlikely that we will have a robust schedule in most locations tomorrow so we anticipate that most employees will remain on PTO.

As Houstonians we know that we must be ready when a hurricane heads into the Gulf of Mexico. We also know that we must be ready to pivot as these storms are very unpredictable. Thank you for your willingness to make the necessary preparations for this storm. It's this commitment to provide our patients unparalleled safety, quality, service and innovation even in the middle of a hurricane that makes you exceptional. Let's also keep the people along the Texas and Louisiana border in your thoughts and prayers today as they face this category 3 hurricane.

We will continue to monitor this weather situation and communicate with you as necessary. [Space City Weather](#) is a good resource for weather information. Thank you for your continued dedication to our patients.

**Roberta Schwartz**  
Executive Vice President  
Chief Innovation Officer  
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