

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY  
COVID-19 CRISIS –02/05/2021**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

**SUPER BOWL SUNDAY – A COVID SPREADING EVENT?**

Both Judge Nelson Wolff and Mayor Ron Nirenberg are urging caution and common sense when gathering this Sunday to watch the Super Bowl. The National Football League conducted a study to determine how to keep their players, staff, and attendees safe. The data showed there were four factors in becoming infected with COVID: 1) Cumulative time you spent with a person who has COVID – in less than 15 minutes you can become exposed; 2) The distance you were from the person who had COVID – 6 feet is recommended; 3) Whether there was good ventilation – were you outside or inside? 4) Were you wearing masks? The research showed that if you violate two or more of these principles listed above, you are at a high risk of getting infected with the virus. The county and city's numbers of COVID cases are on the downward trend and everyone is encouraged to continue to be vigilant in helping to stop the spread. Enjoy the game, be safe and may the best team win!

## VACCINE ATTITUDES

In January, Kaiser Health conducted a national survey polling people on their attitude about taking the COVID-19 vaccine. The results were: Only 47% of those surveyed will definitely get the vaccine; 31% said they were unsure; 20% said they will not take it. With these preliminary numbers, it appears that it will be a challenge to get at least 70% of the population vaccinated to achieve herd immunity. More outreach and education is needed.

## COVID-19 STATISTICS

As of February 4<sup>th</sup>, there were 178,662 total cases reported in Bexar County, a 7.6% increase in 7 days. There were 2,186 total deaths reported on February 4<sup>th</sup>, a 7.8% increase in 7 days.

The local positivity rate, the percentage of tested COVID cases which are positive, dropped from 15% last week to 11.4% this week (February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021), declining for the 4<sup>th</sup> straight week. This is a good indicator that the virus spread **may** be waning. Hospitalizations yesterday were down 45 from the day before. Last week there were 397 people in ICU; this week 374. Last week 249 people were on ventilators; this week 223. January, 2021 was the deadliest month from COVID since March, 2020 with 600 deaths. In today's paper there was an OP-Ed piece "What if this deadly

pandemic never really ‘ends’?” A scary thought, but a possibility according to this writer. The COVID-19 variant originally from England, Brazil and Africa, is now in the US and is reported to cause even worse symptoms.

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

- The **South Texas Blood and Tissue Center** has a **critically low** supply of O negative blood on hand. **500 donations of blood are needed daily to meet the demand in our hospitals.** Please consider donating blood to help this dire situation by calling (210) 731-5555, or call University Hospital at (210) 358-2812 to set up an appointment to give blood.

- **Senior First Home Program** – anyone who is homebound and receives assistance through Meals on Wheels will receive a vaccine at their home. 10,000 citizens have been identified and 812 have been vaccinated. **If you are eligible, you will receive a call.** It will take about 20 weeks to vaccinate this population.

*Thank you* to everyone in our community for keeping yourself, your family and your community safe. Please call if you have any questions/comments.

Sincerely, Chris (210) 618-2092 (cell)