

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

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

WINTER WEATHER EMERGENCY DECLARATION

This week I signed an emergency declaration for the extreme winter weather event in Leon Valley and the State, which was unprecedented.

This enables our city to request support from the state and federal governments to help cover expenses during this time.

Thanks to Public Works who worked to keep our streets safe by spreading road materials and blocking unsafe streets. The police and fire departments also continued to respond to calls through the extreme weather. City Hall opened as a “warming center” for those who lost power and needed warmth and/or cell phone charging. Leon Valley Water Company survived the extreme cold and provided potable water to its citizens/customers; whereas SAWS customers, comprising 25% of Leon Valley, had to boil water because power was lost at the pumps.

Tiger Sanitation was unable to provide garbage service last week due to the extreme weather event. The garbage dump was closed and not accepting trucks even if the trucks could pick up the trash/recycling. **Tiger Sanitation will resume regular service beginning on Monday, Feb. 22nd**

. All customers will be able to add more garbage bags if needed due to the missed pickup.

I heard from several citizens over the 5 ½ day ordeal who had lost water and power. My heart goes out to anyone in our community who was negatively impacted by the storm. The staff and I will meet next week to debrief this occurrence, so that we can make recommendations for improved service to our residents in the future.

CURRENT HOSPITAL NUMBERS

Due to the extreme weather, there were no updates this week on COVID case numbers, including the positivity rate. As of February 18th, only hospital statistics were available. There were 696 patients in area hospitals (missing several hospitals' data), 69 new admissions, 257 patients in ICU and 149 patients on ventilators. PLEASE continue mask wearing, social distancing and proper hygiene. It was also noted that the COVID 19 virus spreads slower in a cooler environment, so setting your thermostat at 68 degrees may be beneficial.

VACCINATION SCHEDULES AFFECTED

Many vaccination appointments, at both the Alamodome and University Health System at Crossroads Mall, were rescheduled this week due to the weather event. I received my first vaccine on Wednesday,

February 17th after rescheduling. It was a very efficient system at Crossroads Mall taking about an hour and fifteen minutes to go through a line of several hundred people. It was a first come, first served situation for those whose prior appointments had been cancelled. Judge Wolff was there asking people how they felt after they received their shot. He said there would be 3500 people vaccinated that day.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- **CPS Energy** is urging all of us to conserve energy by lowering thermostats to 68 degrees, unplugging all lights and electronics, close blinds and curtains to retain heat, to help get the energy grid back up for *all* the community.

- **SAWS water customers** are still under a boil water mandate due to power outages and low water pressure. Robert Puente, SAWS CEO said customers will be billed for the amount of their previous water bill and will *not* be responsible for any higher bills due to leaks. There is an estimate of 100,000 water leaks in the SAWS system.

- **South Texas Blood and Tissue Center** still has a **critically low** supply of O negative blood on hand. 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.

We would like to get a feel for how many of our residents were affected by power or water outages. Please email me (mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov) or leave a message on my work phone (210) 684-1391, Ext. 218, leaving your street name, block number and length of time of outage.

Sincerely, Chris

(210) 618-2092 (cell)