

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –01/29/2021**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

MY EXPERIENCE IN GETTING A VACCINE APPOINTMENT

Last Friday evening on my way home, I was listening to the daily COVID-19 briefing on the radio. Judge Wolff announced that University Hospital's website, wecandoitsa.com, was then open to schedule vaccination appointments the last week in January and the week of February 8th and 15th. I contacted my neighbor who had been trying for weeks to get an appointment and to my surprise she had an appointment already for the last week in January. I was now determined to tackle this challenge as well. For the next two and one half hours, I was at my computer constantly trying to get into the website. I would open a date, say February 8 and before I finished putting in my information, I was kicked off. Finally, my persistence paid off! I have an appointment for mid-February. I have heard and read in the paper accounts of how difficult it is to get an appointment, which I experienced. Some have given up! As stated last week, more vaccines are scheduled to be distributed with the Biden administration's goal of distributing 100 million doses in 100 days. The infrastructure is in place to get vaccines into the arms of

citizens, all we need is the supply. If between 70-85% of our population can be vaccinated, then our community will develop “herd” immunity, protecting everyone.

VACCINE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Currently, health care professionals and nursing home and assisted living staff and patients, are being vaccinated since they are in the top priority group (Tier 1A). Tier 1B is anyone over 65 years of age, or over 16 with an underlying medical condition; they are now also eligible to be vaccinated. Metro Health is also urging pregnant women to be vaccinated. You must register (by phone or email) and will receive confirmation with a bar code which you must take to the vaccine site.

Here is some contact information to register to receive the vaccine:

1. Well-Med Clinics: Call: 1-833-968-1745 tomorrow (Jan. 30th) at 8 AM. Hotline will reopen to schedule appointments since Well Med expects to receive more doses of the Moderna vaccine.

2. San Antonio Metro Health District (City of San Antonio) currently does not have any 1st doses of the vaccine available. The vaccination hub is located at the Alamodome. Call (210) 207-6000 or 311 to check when they will be receiving any vaccines. Email: covid19.sanantonio.gov/vaccine.

3. University Hospital – has filled all slots for the available vaccine at this time. If you would like to receive an email letting you know when more doses will arrive, subscribe at **healthfocussa.net**. UHS contact information is: (210) 644-1960. Email: WECANDOITSA.com.

4. HEB.Com/vaccine – *They are currently out of the vaccine.* Once HEB gets more supply they will activate a scheduler tool on the website above.

Please listen to the local media for announcements when more vaccine doses will arrive and where you can sign up. All of these sites are open to the general public. There is no charge for the vaccine and no prescription necessary, but you must have an appointment. A second dose is necessary for full protection.

There are more sites available and are listed daily on page 2A in the San Antonio Express News, including the VA Hospital for veterans.

POSITIVITY RATE GOES DOWN – 3RD STRAIGHT WEEK

The local positivity rate, the percentage of tested COVID cases which are positive, dropped from 17.5% last week to 15% this week (January 25th, 2021). This is a good indicator that the virus spread **may** be waning. Hospitalizations yesterday were down 65 from the day before. Last week there were 426 people in ICU; this week 397. Last

week 255 people were on ventilators; this week 249. Health experts are cautiously optimistic with these trends, but still concerned we are not out of the woods yet. The COVID-19 variant originally from England now in the US and is reported to have even worse symptoms and spreads faster.

COVID-19 STATISTICS

As of January 28th , there were 166,022 total cases reported in Bexar County, a 6.7% increase in 7 days. There were 2,027 total deaths reported on January 28th, a 9.2% increase in 7 days.

It is hard to believe the first month of 2021 is coming to a close. It is even more mindboggling that we are still dealing with COVID-19, which began a year ago in March, 2020. We are continually reminded to: Mask up, socially distance, wash your hands, avoid large crowds, and stay home if you are sick. Good luck in registering to receive the vaccine!

Sincerely, Chris

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