

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –10/162020**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

COVID-19 STATISTICS – WILL THERE BE A SURGE?

Last week the numbers reported for COVID-19 in the San Antonio/Bexar County area looked very good – a positivity rate of under 5% (4.9%) for the first time in months. Guess what? The positivity rate (the percentage of tested cases which are positive) for the week of October 4-10, 2020 jumped to 5.8%! The virus is still prevalent in our community and with cooler weather coming and more people being inside, the numbers are expected to rise. Mayor Ron Nirenberg and Judge Nelson Wolff communicated what was learned this summer when a surge in numbers occurred between Memorial Day and 4th of July: we need to expand testing and contact tracing for people with and without symptoms. Call 311, (210) 207-5779, or go online to www.covid19.sanantonio.gov , to find testing locations. Many testing sites are free and no appointment is necessary. Keep your mask on (there is a \$250 fine for not wearing one) and keep your distance of 6 feet. Wash hands and stay home if you feel sick. Avoid large gatherings – numbers are limited to 10 people.

What counts as *close contact*, which increases the likelihood of you becoming infected with the virus?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more;
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19;
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them);
- You shared eating or drinking utensils;
- An infected person sneezed, coughed or somehow got respiratory droplets on you.

These guidelines can be used to determine if you need to schedule a COVID-19 test to see if you test positive.

As of October 15, 2020, the total number of cases reported in Bexar County is 60,258, a 1.6% increase in 8 days. There were 1,209 total deaths reported on October 16th, a 3.2% increase in 8 days. There was an increase in the number of current daily hospitalizations, 185 to 203. These numbers are not alarming, but the goal is for these numbers to go down, not up. Currently there are 1400 active COVID-19 cases in the County.

It is recommended to get a flu shot to help protect you from the seasonal flu, especially in the time of COVID-19.

UPDATE ON VOTING DURING COVID-19

Early voting began on October 13th and continues through October 30th for the November 3, 2020 election. Judge Wolff announced that after 3 days of voting over 100,000 citizens have voted in person and over 40,000 mail- in ballots have been received. Every vote counts! Leon Valley Conference Center is an early voting and election day site which has 16 voting machines. Please be sure you review your ballot to be sure you have the correct ballot for Leon Valley, since all early voting sites are open to any registered voter in the County (there are 26 suburban cities). Deadline to apply to receive a mail in ballot is October 23rd. Leon Valley's ballot is three pages long because of charter amendment proposals; if you mail in your ballot you need 70 cents postage, not 55 cents. You can also hand deliver your mail-in ballot to the Bexar County Elections office (1103 S. Frio) and drop it off. You must show your identification. For more information and to call for a mail-in ballot, contact the County Elections office at (210) 335-8160.

At the October 20th city council meeting, the council will discuss a recommendation to open up the city's basketball courts and expand our

library's services. Slowly, but surely we are learning how to implement safety precautions in everything we do to keep us safe from COVID-19.

How will the holidays change this year?

Please take care and keep safe!

Sincerely, Chris
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