

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –10/30/2020**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

HAPPY HALLOWEEN IN LEON VALLEY DURING THE PANDEMIC

This Saturday, October 31st the City of Leon Valley is hosting a **Drive-Through Halloween event at the Community and Conference Centers from 5:30 pm to dark or until treats are gone.** This option is for families in Leon Valley who are concerned about the possible spread of the COVID-19 virus if they go trick-or-treating door to door in the neighborhoods.

Participants will not have to get out of their cars and families can drive through several stops along the drive through to receive goodies. The event is sponsored by the City of Leon Valley and area businesses. Safety protocols will be followed when giving out the goodie bags.

Many thanks to all the city staff who organized this event and donated their time and money to provide an alternative this year for our residents.

Hope to see you there!

For anyone who still plans on *handing out treats at their houses*, the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District has developed the following guidelines for a safer Halloween:

- Don't hand out candy if you or someone in your household is sick

- Don't require trick-or treaters to come to your front door – Be creative in finding ways to create space between you and the trick-or-treaters
- Prepare individually wrapped treats/goodie bags for families to grab and go on a disinfected table at the end of a driveway or your sidewalk
- Be sure to disinfect the table periodically
- Wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds before and after passing out the treats (from a distance)
- Wear an effective cloth mask (not just a Halloween mask if you are dressing up)

Happy Halloween – stay safe.

POSITIVITY RATE & THE LOCAL COVID EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

At the October 20th city council meeting, the council voted to re-open the basketball courts and allow organized sports on the soccer field in Raymond Rimkus park. The playgrounds and tennis courts were opened weeks before.

The council also voted to call an emergency meeting if the positivity rate (the percentage of tested cases which are positive) exceeds 7% to discuss if any changes need to be made to protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens. The positivity rate on October 20th was at 5.8%. The positivity rate reported on October 26 jumped to 6.9%! I have requested the positivity rate be sent to council as soon as Metropolitan Health Department has it. This will give council the data they need in order

to decide what action to take to try and keep the virus from spreading, such as closing down the parks again.

COVID-19 CASES

As of October 29, 2020, the total number of cases reported in Bexar County is 65,423, a 2.2% increase in 8 days. There were 1,407 total deaths reported on October 29nd, a 1.5% increase in 8 days. These numbers include deaths under investigation and reported to the state. There were 223 hospitalizations reported yesterday, with 80 patients in ICU and 38 patients on ventilators.

Mayor Nirenberg announced several initiatives to help contain the spread of the virus, as the colder weather sets in. These include more pop up-sites where local residents can get tested for coronavirus for free; greater outreach to residents, especially in areas where COVID-19 numbers are high; and pro-active enforcement of Governor Abbott's executive order to monitor any violations that may add to the spread of the virus. Lastly, he will not approve any gatherings of 10 or more people amid the uptick in cases.

Please continue taking this virus seriously, even though we may all be a little tired of following the mantra: wear masks, social distance, wash

hands, avoid large crowds and stay home if you are sick – it is extremely important that we continue to try our best.

ELECTION 2020 DURING COVID

Friday, October 30th is the last day to early vote at any of the early voting sites until 10 pm. As of Thursday, October 29th, Bexar County voters had cast more than 608,000 ballots, which passed the total vote count from the November, 2016 election. This is about 51% of all registered voters in the county. Polls will be open on November 3rd from 7am to 7 pm and curbside voting is available. Leon Valley Conference Center is an election day polling site. Thanks to Bexar County elections office for implementing safe protocols for voters during COVID-19, and to everyone for wearing a mask to contain the spread of the virus.

Sunday, November 1st is the end of Daylight Savings and we gain an hour by moving our clocks back an hour. Enjoy that extra time and continue to stay healthy and be safe.

Sincerely, Chris
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