

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY  
COVID-19 CRISIS –11/13/2020**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

**CONTAINING THE CORONAVIRUS**

Mayor Ron Nirenberg has come into close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19. He has been quarantined in his home for 14 days, even though he has tested negative for COVID-19. Dr. Coleen Bridger, Interim Metro Health Director, explained why quarantining oneself is the best tool to use to control the spread of the virus. Basically, you limit the spread of COVID because you are not around people. Dr. Bridger said you cannot test yourself out of quarantine. Why? Because if you don't quarantine for the full 14 days, you increase the risk of infecting yourself and others. You may test negative on day three, but you could test positive on day 13! So, it is best to stay away from everyone to contain the spread. Last week, Judge Wolff who also came into contact with a person who tested positive for COVID and quarantined for 14 days.

This virus is becoming more virulent now. Two reasons were given by Dr. Bridger: In cooler weather the humidity is lower and the virus is much stronger, as well as the fact that when it is colder outside, more people stay inside where the ventilation isn't as good as being outside.

## **COVID-19 UPDATE OF CASES**

As of November 12, 2020, the total number of cases reported in Bexar County is 69,014, a 3.1% increase in 8 days. There were 1,287 total deaths reported on November 12<sup>th</sup>, a 1.4% increase in 8 days. There were 353 hospitalizations reported yesterday, with 129 patients in ICU and 62 patients on ventilators. Included in the 353 hospitalizations are 61 patients who were transported from El Paso, Texas and are being cared for in area hospitals.

The positivity rate, the percentage of tested cases which are positive, has been slowly going up since the area reached the lowest positivity rate of 4.9% rate in the week of September 27, 2020. Since then the weekly percentages have been 10/4 – 5.8%, 10/11 – 5.8%; 10/18 – 6.9%, 10/25 – 7.7% and 11/1 – 8.4%. The state-wide positivity rate is at 11%.

Metropolitan Health Department sent the suburban cities their cumulative COVID -19 numbers of infections. As of November 1, 2020, in Leon Valley we have 330 citizens in our community who have tested positive for COVID-19 and five who have died. Our thoughts and prayers are with these families during their time of grief and loss.

## **SCHOOLS – WILL THEY CLOSE DUE TO INCREASE IN COVID-19?**

The decision to close schools and only learn remotely is completely up to the local school boards in communication with Texas Educational Agency (TEA) and in consultation with Metropolitan Health District. Metropolitan Health District has recommended that schools maintain the number of students attending in person until further notice. Overall Metropolitan Health District has been very impressed with how safe area schools have been since there has been only a very low outbreak of cases in the area schools to date.

## **FALL AND WINTER HOLIDAYS**

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and we all want to celebrate like we have always done. But this is the new normal – staying home and not gathering outside your immediate household is the best lowest risk to yourself and others. Our family has been used to hosting 18-20 people for Thanksgiving dinner. The emergency declarations for the state and county prohibits gatherings in groups of more than 10 and requires social distancing from those not in your group. Outdoor gatherings over 10 people (except for 13 exceptions listed in the declaration) may request approval from the mayor to proceed with the event. With the surge in cases and hospitalizations, wavering on the 10 person limit will not happen. We

are planning on hosting 10 of our family outside in the backyard (praying for good weather) and serving plates instead of buffet style. This is a moderate risk activity. Of course, mask up when not eating or drinking and spread out 6 feet from one another. We will also wash hands and sanitize surfaces. Remember no hugs or kisses – only elbows, please!

Please take 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. Thank you for doing your part in keeping you, your family and our community safe!

Sincerely, Chris  
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