

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –12/18/2020**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

DON'T GO HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

When asked this week if people should travel outside the city for the holidays, Assistant City Manager and Metropolitan Health Director (Interim), Dr. Coleen Bridger, said NO! She said it was not safe to travel outside the city because *many communities across the nation are at record high numbers for COVID infections*. The Health Department is now experiencing a record number of new cases (1606 cases on 12/17/2020) which has been related to the travel done at Thanksgiving.

The message to the community from our elected leaders, Mayor Nirenberg and Judge Wolff, is to be patient, stay home with your immediate family and if you are to gather, keep to 10 and under and meet outdoors. This is a critical time to do our best to keep this virus from spreading: avoid large gatherings (especially indoors), stay home if you do not feel well, wear your mask, wash hands, and stay 6 feet from the next person. *Do this for yourself, your family, and our community*. We turned the dramatic increase in the virus around last summer when it spiked, and we can do it again by following the protocols!

Remember, sometime in 2021, a vaccine will be available to the broader public, after essential personnel are vaccinated.

The positivity rate, the percentage of tested COVID cases which are positive, actually dropped from 15.7% to 12.5% for the week ending December 13th.

COVID-19 UPDATE OF CASES-BEXAR COUNTY

As of December 17, there were 99142 total cases reported, an 8.4 % increase in 7 days. There were 1,440 total deaths reported on December 17th, a 2% increase in 7 days. There were 837 hospitalizations reported yesterday (up from 658 last week).

VACCINE INFORMATION

George Hernandez, president of University Hospital, reported to the Suburban Mayors, that University Hospital will receive its initial Pfizer vaccine on December 17 or 18th. There are 87 other hospitals on this list that will receive a total of 224,250 doses of the vaccine. The Texas Department of State Health Services has identified critical populations who should receive the vaccine first in Tier One. These are summarized as follows:

Hospital employees who come in direct contact with patients who are positive for COVID; **Long term care staff** working with vulnerable

residents; **EMS providers who engage in 9-1-1 emergency services** (Pre-hospital care and transport); **Home health care workers**; and last on this tier are **residents of long-term care facilities**.

Tier Two critical population will be discussed later, but does not include teachers or students (does include school nurses) or police and fire personnel, except EMS related. Mr. Hernandez did say we needed at least 70% of the population to be vaccinated in order to develop herd immunity. More information will be forthcoming.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- **Need Help?** Lost Your Job or trouble paying rent or utilities because of COVID? **Call (210) 335-1777 or visit Bexar County Strong for assistance.**
- **The South Texas Blood and Tissue Center** has only a one day supply of O negative blood on hand, which is **critically low**. Additionally, there is only a 3 day supply of other blood types on hand, but a 7 day supply is needed to meet the needs of our community. Please consider donating blood to help this dire situation by calling (210) 731-5555, or calling University Hospital at (210) 358-2812 to set up an appointment to give blood. Thank you.

- **The City of Leon Valley offices, with the exception of police and fire, will be closed for the Christmas and New Year holiday from December 24- January 1, 2021.** Please call (210) 684-8897 to report a non-emergency issue or go online to the city's website (www.leonvalleytexas.gov) and Report to ON-IT or call (210) 684-6648 (onit).

Wishing everyone a very happy, peaceful Christmas holiday. My next article will be on January 1, 2021. Continue to stay safe & healthy!

Sincerely, Chris
(210) 618-2092 (cell)