

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –03/12/2021**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

OPENING UP CITY HALL FACILITIES

At the March 9th city council meeting, council adopted Governor Abbott's Executive Order 34. The city council enacted the following changes related to municipal buildings:

1. **City Hall** will open on Monday, March 15th for in-person business, after many months of appointments only and online transactions.

Residents are highly encouraged to continue to use online services at www.leonvalleytexas.gov for processing of payments, fees and permits. Persons entering any city building are still required to wear a face mask and maintain social distancing. At city hall, you will be required to take your own temperature (on the city's machine) and verbally answer the COVID-19 questions prior to receiving service. Anyone not following these guidelines will be asked to leave the premises. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

2. **Municipal Court**, which has been operating 100% online during the pandemic, will begin to move to in-person hearings and jury trials (limited numbers), according to Senior Judge Lawrence Morales. The same COVID-19 protocols will be followed above.

3. **Library** will open for limited essential services. Four computer appointments will be allowed per hour for 45 minutes, closed for 15 minutes to sanitize. Call (210) 684-0720 to secure an appointment. Patrons are required to meet all COVID-19 safety protocols. Curbside and appointments allowed during the following hours:
Tuesdays: 12-7 pm & Wednesdays- Saturdays: 10 am – 5 pm.
Closed on Sunday and Monday for cleaning. Hot spots available via curbside services; WIFI available outside library. Programming will continue virtually and all in-person events and meetings in the library remain cancelled.
4. It is planned that both **swimming pools** will open in Leon Valley beginning Memorial Day weekend; an effort to organize a swim team is also being pursued. More details will be forthcoming.
5. The **city park pavilions, basketball courts, baseball and soccer fields, fitness equipment, playground equipment, park restrooms, running and walking trails, and community garden are open.**
6. The **Conference Center** is open for rentals. The **Community Center** is currently being renovated but will allow reservations for events as

soon as these improvements are completed. Prior restrictions to numbers of attendees have been lifted by the Governor's Order.

7. The Northwest Seniors are able to resume their meetings at the Conference Center following all COVID-19 protocols.
8. The waiver of City Ordinances concerning temporary business signs is removed.

These changes will remain in effect until further notice.

CASE NUMBERS IMPROVING

As of March 11th there were 199,431 total cases reported in Bexar County, only a .1% increase since March 4th. There were 2,861 total deaths reported on March 11th, a 6.8 % increase in 14 days. The positivity rate (the percentage of tested COVID cases which are positive) reported on March 8th was 2.6%, down from 5.6% the week before, a 3% drop! In the near future, the weekly positivity rate will tell us whether the re-opening of businesses and any variant of COVID-19 has affected our case numbers.

As of March 11th, there were 240 patients in area hospitals, 104 patients in ICU and 63 patients on ventilators. We are continuing to improve, but **PLEASE** continue mask wearing, social distancing and proper hygiene.

MORE VACCINES ON THE WAY

Last week it was reported that 10,000 vaccines would be received over the next four weeks from the state. Judge Wolff reported this week Bexar County has ordered 5,000 Johnson & Johnson vaccines, which require only one shot. Additionally, the age limit of people who are eligible to receive the vaccine (without an underlying medical condition) was lowered to age 50. Last night President Biden said by May 1st, all citizens will have the opportunity to sign up and receive a vaccine, and committed to delivering more vaccines to meet the need. President Biden's hope was to have a "normal" 4th of July celebration this year with the majority of citizens becoming vaccinated and continuing to follow COVID-19 guidelines. Let's HOPE! To date, in Bexar County, 319,011 citizens have received their 1st dose of the vaccine and additionally 184,348 citizens have been fully vaccinated (received 2 doses). If you are interested in getting vaccinated, the city and county have partnered to provide COVID-19 vaccine text alerts. Text "VACCINE" to 55000 to subscribe and opt-in. If you need help in registering for a vaccine appointment, a local citizen has volunteered to help you. Please let me know. Take care and stay safe!

Sincerely, Chris

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