

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

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

CORONAVIRUS-19 – ONE YEAR LATER

On March 25, 2020, an Emergency Declaration ordinance was passed by the Leon Valley City Council to comply with Bexar County’s “Stay Home, Work Safe Order”. This ordinance ordered all individuals living within Leon Valley to stay home and only leave their home to engage in activities or perform essential tasks for health and safety. This included food, medical supplies or medications, visiting a health care professional or obtaining supplies needed to work from home. Students immediately switched to on-line teaching from face-to-face instruction. Outdoor activity was allowed if 6 feet distancing was maintained. Work at exempted businesses was allowed. Restaurants, bars, bowling alleys, gyms and skating centers, hair salons, dental offices were closed. In May, Governor Abbott began to reopen businesses with capacity limits. In June, County Judge Wolff required businesses to enforce wearing of masks (and other CDC guidelines) and on July 2nd a statewide mandate requiring face coverings was signed by the Governor, with a penalty assessed for not wearing one. On July 15th, Judge Wolff’s executive order included temperature checks and health screenings; all businesses were required to

display a list of COVID-19 symptoms. Outdoor gatherings in excess of 10 people were prohibited.

There have been at least two surges over the last year, with the positivity rate over 24% in July, 2020 and 23% in January, 2021. It has been a very challenging year with the virus affecting every aspect of our lives.

On March 10th, Governor Abbott eliminated the statewide mask mandate and allowed Texas businesses to open up 100%. Driving around San Antonio you can observe the many restaurants and entertainment centers filled to capacity as a result. Last week our local positivity rate was at 2.6% and it rose to 5.6% this week, which may also be related to reduced testing due to spring break school closings.

The message from Mayor Nirenberg and Judge Wolff is the same – *we are not out of the woods yet*. Stay vigilant and continue to wear masks, social distance and continue proper hygiene. There are variants of COVID-19 identified in our community and it is unknown how contagious these may be or how effective the current vaccines may be in keeping people safe.

VACCINATIONS ARE INCREASING!

Last week, any citizen over the age of 50 was added to the next Tier – C - as being eligible to be vaccinated. To date in Bexar County, 364,179

citizens have received their 1st dose of the vaccine (an increase of close to 100,000 from last week) and 206,000 of those citizens have been fully vaccinated, an increase of approximately 50,000 from last week. It was also reported that 350 million people have been vaccinated worldwide. 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 or call 311, Option 8.

CURRENT CASE NUMBERS

As of March 18th, there were 201,273 total cases reported in Bexar County, a 2 % increase from March 4th, with a note that there is missing data. There were 2,995 total deaths reported on March 18th, a 11.8 % increase in 7 days. The positivity rate increased after six weeks of decline.

As of March 18th, there were 202 patients in area hospitals, 79 patients in ICU and 41 patients on ventilators. We are slowly improving, but **PLEASE** continue mask wearing, social distancing and proper hygiene.

BLOOD IS CRITICALLY NEEDED

- The **South Texas Blood and Tissue Center** currently has a ½ day supply of type O blood on hand. There is a 45% increase in blood supply needs. A two-day supply for other blood types are on hand, which is extremely low. Please consider donating blood to help this dire situation by

calling (210) 731-5555 or visit www.southtexasblood.org, or call University Hospital at (210) 358-2812 to set up an appointment to give blood. Thank you for your consideration.

Please stay safe and well. Hope you are adjusting to the new time change!

Sincerely, Chris

(210) 618-2092 (cell)