

LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY ON COVID-19 CRISIS – 4/24/20

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

We are ending week five since declaring an emergency pandemic on March 18, 2020 and week four of the shelter in place order signed on March 25, 2020. Thank you to everyone for doing your part to curb the spread of COVID-19 by social distancing, washing your hands, wearing a mask and staying home, only going out for essential items. It has been very tough on many citizens and businesses in our city and metroplex.

Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-16, issued on April 17, permits **non-essential retail** businesses to reopen, effective on Friday, April 27, 2020. These businesses may now provide pickup, delivery by mail, or delivery to the customer's doorstep in strict compliance with the terms required by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Customers may not enter the premises of the non-essential retail store.

In Governor Abbott's conference call to the Mayors and Judges on April 23rd, he reported he will issue an Executive Order on April 27th for guidelines to reopen other businesses deemed "non-essential" (restaurants, movie theatres, hair salons, etc.). The goal is to be smart

about re-opening the economy, with specific measures in place, to keep the number of COVID cases from increasing.

The weekly conference call between County Judge Nelson Wolff and the Suburban Mayors was held on April 23, 2020.

- Judge Wolff emphasized that in reopening businesses we **must** continue to wear face masks, social distance, wash hands, and work from home as much as possible through this transition period.
- Judge Wolff invited the Suburban Mayors to a joint Commissioners Court and San Antonio City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 28 to review the report from the medical team of experts tasked with determining, based on medical evidence, the circumstances necessary to ease these restrictions, as well as a step- by- step plan for re-opening our metroplex.
- Judge Wolff mentioned the Economic Transition Team will report out in early May on how businesses will re-open based on their specific circumstances.
- Drs. Dawn Emrick, Juanita Woo and Anita Kurian from the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District shared specific data related to the virus in our region. The most common symptoms noted were fever and cough, with hypertension and diabetes as common

underlying conditions. Identifying if someone has COVID-19 is key so that person can be isolated for 14 days and recover (the second week of symptoms is usually more difficult). The doctors reported the modeling shows that the local virus numbers will peak in the last week in April –first week in May and then will start declining, if we continue safe practices.

- **Testing sites expanded** – Two additional drive-thru sites have been added: 1) **Texas MedClinic , 2530 SW Military Drive**, is open 7 days a week (9am – 5 pm). Call (210) 233-5970 between 8 am and 5 pm to schedule a free test. 2) **Walmart drive through testing location at 8923 W. Military Drive, beginning April 25 from 9 am to 4 pm, seven days per week.** Testing at this site is reserved for those who are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 and all health care providers and first responders, whether or not they are exhibiting symptoms. There is no out of pocket cost to the individual. Sign up for an appointment to be tested at www.DoINeedaCOVID19test.com. 3) One of the first testing sites, **Joe Freeman Coliseum** drive through is open for testing (appointment required, call (210) 233-5970)).

- As of April 23, 2020, the total number of cases reported in Bexar County is 1,167 (up from 29 as of March 20th) with 43 deaths (the first 9 deaths were confirmed April 2nd).
- Regarding where COVID-19 cases are occurring: the highest number of cases (81+) cases are in 78222 zip code; 41-80 cases are in the 78207, 78228 and 78245 zip codes; 21- 40 cases are in the 78201, 78209, 78212, 78221, 78223, 78227, 78229, **78240**, 78249, 78250, 78251, 78253, 78254 and 78260 zip codes; 11-20 cases are reported in 27 zip codes, including **78238**. 11 zip codes have 6-10 cases. 14 zip codes in Bexar County have reported 1-5 cases. (Leon Valley is in 78238 and 78240).
- **VIA Buses** are running on a Sunday schedule, including the #88 which services Leon Valley. Busier routes are following a Saturday schedule, with some bus service suspended until further notice. You can determine when a bus is coming by calling VIA at (210) 362-2020.

Thanks again to everyone for staying vigilant and taking the necessary precautions to keep this virus from spreading: wearing face masks, staying 6 ft away from the next person, washing hands, getting tested if you are having symptoms, and staying home as

much as possible. Together we will get through this. If you or someone you know is in need of food, please contact the San Antonio Food Bank, open Monday – Friday from 8 am – 5 pm for food distribution. Their number is (210) 337-3663.

Words cannot express our sincere **THANKS AND APPRECIATION** to all the health care workers and first Responders, who continue to put their lives on the line to treat and save other lives during this emergency. Thanks also to all essential personnel who work at grocery stores, gas stations, exempted retail establishments and postal and transportation workers who are at risk to allow us to obtain essentials.

Take care. Stay healthy, safe and remain positive!

Sincerely, Chris

(210) 618-2092 – Please call with any questions or concerns.