

LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY ON COVID-19 CRISIS – 5/8/20

Dear Leon Valley Community:

COVID-19 Mobile Testing is scheduled **only** for this weekend at the following site: EDS 7 Fire Station 115, 11615 Galm Road, San Antonio, TX. from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. You may get this free test if you are exhibiting any one of the following symptoms: fever/chills, cough, fatigue, body aches, shortness of breath, sore throat, headaches, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, nasal congestion and loss of taste or smell.

Tests are conducted by appointment only. Call (512) 883-2400 or visit TXCOVIDTEST.ORG

At the May 5 City Council meeting the council took the following action in light of the COVID 19 virus:

- Cancelled all 4th of July activities, including fireworks. The council reserved using the fireworks for another time this year depending on the COVID-19 situation.
- The final determination if the Soap Box Derby will occur (usually scheduled in October), will be made at a later date.
- City Hall, City Administration, Planning and Zoning, City Cashiers, City Library, Municipal Court, Senior Center and park restrooms will

remained closed until May 19th . At the May 19th council meeting, the council will make a decision on re-opening these facilities.

- The openings of the city's two swimming pools were also delayed until May 19. Governor Abbott has allowed local public swimming pools to be operated only if permitted by the local government.
- The tennis courts at Rimkus Park will re-open, limited to 4 players only. Park playgrounds, basketball courts and park fitness equipment shall remain closed.

Citizens are encouraged to continue to use online services (www.leonvalleytexas.org) for processing fees, permits and payments, or place payment in the drop box outside city hall.

On May 5th Governor Abbott signed Executive Order GA-21 reopening additional businesses on May 8th: hair salons, barber shops, cosmetology salons, tanning salons and nail salons. These businesses must ensure at least six feet of social distancing between operating work stations. Gov. Abbott also addressed guidelines pertaining to wedding venues and receptions. On May 18th gyms and exercise facilities and classes can operate up to 25% capacity, but locker rooms and shower facilities must remain closed. Restrooms may open.

The weekly conference call between County Judge Nelson Wolff representative and the Suburban Mayors was held on May 7, 2020. The Bexar County Chief Appraiser, Michael Amezquita, gave an update on property appraisals. COVID 19 does not suspend tax appraisal notices. Thus, by law he is required to send out notices . Residential values county-wide have risen 8.7%. The Bexar County Appraisal District re-appraises values every year. 10% of properties will have no change in values. An estimated 600,000 property tax notices will be mailed out to property owners by the end of May. The greatest percentage of increase is on the southside. Any property owner can appeal the value assessed on your notice. The deadline to file an appeal is 30 days from the date you received your notice. It is important to have documentation which supports why a lower appraised value is sought. An informal appeal will be held on line or by phone. Formal appeals will be held by phone. For more information contact Bexar Appraisal District at (210) 224-8511 or bpp@bcad.org. There is a drop box outside of the appraisal district office located at 411. N. Frio, San Antonio, TX.

Recommended Standards for Reopening Businesses

On May 5th, the Economic Transition Team for City Council and Bexar County reported on its findings. The main message was healthy people and a healthy economy go hand in hand. We need to learn to live with this virus. It will not go away until we have a vaccine, which still is in initial stages of development. A primary objective is to collaborate with the Health Transition Team to protect employees, consumers and visitors, incorporating a social equity lens to all guidance and recommendations. No person should have to choose between physical safety and economic health. To enhance consumer confidence and safety, employees will use face coverings, practice social distancing, conduct temperature checks, provide hand sanitizer, follow CDC cleaning protocols, and implement contactless payment when possible, as well as conduct awareness training for employees. The Economic Transition team identified many small business resources such as Westside Development Corporation in the county to help small businesses.

As of May 7, 2020, the total number of cases reported in Bexar County is 1,805 (up from 1,374 as of May 1st) with 54 deaths (up from 48 deaths on May 1st). In total, 344 cases are associated with Bexar County Jail. A large number of inmates tested positive, but showed no signs of

illness. Mayor Dennis from Live Oak asked about increasing testing to include people who are not exhibiting any signs of the illness, but are infecting others around them. There is insufficient testing capacity at this time.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

For those who are able to offer financial or volunteer help, the San Antonio Food Bank (210) 431-8388) and Meals on Wheels (210) 599-7405, Ext. 309) need support. Also blood donations at the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center (210) 731-5555) are needed (all health and safety precautions are followed). San Antonio Pets Alive! is seeking people to foster and adopt dogs and cats. Also, call on your neighbors to see how they are doing. If you know of someone in our community who needs help please let me know (with their permission).

THANK YOU, THANK YOU , THANK YOU 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.

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