

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –7/17/20**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

This is the 18th weekly letter written by me since declaring a state of emergency on March 18, 2020. We are experiencing a new normal with the COVID-19 virus. Our entire way of life has changed due to the pandemic, from wearing masks, to not being able to give someone a hug, to endless Zoom meetings, to staying at home. We will work through this challenge together and it will make us a stronger community. Months ago, I knew no one with the virus; today, I learn of one or two a week, a reflection of how this virus has spread. Please continue to follow all the protocols - you know them- and stay healthy and safe.

LEON VALLEY CLOSURES

At the July 21, 2020 City Council meeting, the council will discuss the reopening of City Hall, City Parks and the decision to open the Forest Oaks swimming pool. The City Library has remained closed, with online adult and children activities only and curbside pick up for books and DVD's. An update will be reported in next week's weekly letter.

EXECUTIVE ORDER OF COUNTY JUDGE NELSON WOLFF

On July 15th, Judge Wolff extended the County's Emergency Declaration to August 12, 2020. There were no major changes to report from last week, except that temperature screening at commercial entities is "highly encouraged" for employees, customers and visitors. It was mandatory in the prior order.

UPDATED NUMBERS

As of July 16, 2020, the total number of cases reported in Bexar County is 27,047 , a 53% increase in 8 days. There were 229 deaths reported on July 16th , a 39 increase in 8 days. 57% of these cases are from close contact and 37% from community transmission. There are currently only 12% of hospital beds and 46% of ventilators available for those who become sick with COVID.

In the Leon Valley zip codes, 78240 and 78238, there are now 311+ COVID cases.

COVID-19 TESTING SITES - Testing locations can be found at www.covid19sanantonio . There are no testing sites in Leon Valley. Joe Freeman Coliseum is an option for free testing. Call 833-213-0643 for more information. Call the City of San Antonio COVID-19 hot line at (210) 207-5779 for other popup locations for testing and for any other questions.

BEXAR COUNTY ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR HOUSEHOLDS DURING COVID

David Marquez, Bexar County's Economic and Community Development director, has forwarded me phone numbers of programs the County has to help our citizens in need. TRAM (rent assistance) – (210) 231-2043; Utility Assistance: (210) 335-3666; and an employment training program. Register through Workforce Solutions – Alamo at (210) 928-3985. There is no County program for mortgage assistance.

Wanted to give a note of thanks (again) to all our health care workers, first responders and essential workers who are on the front line keeping us safe and healthy. Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone in our community who either has contracted the virus or knows of a loved one or friend who has passed. The impacts of this disease seem to be different on each individual who contracts it.

Take care and call/email if you have any further questions. Thank you!

Sincerely, Chris

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