

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –7/24/20**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

LEON VALLEY CITY COUNCIL CONTINUES CLOSURES

At the July 21, 2020 City Council meeting, the council voted to continue to keep City Hall, City Parks and the Forest Oaks swimming pool **CLOSED** through August 4, 2020. The City Library has remained closed, with online adult and children activities only and curbside pick up for books and DVD's. The only exceptions to these closings are the Rimkus Park walking and hiking trails, park restrooms and community garden, which remain open to the public.

Also at the July 21st meeting, the City Council formally adopted Judge Wolff 's **County's Emergency Declaration** to August 12, 2020. There were no major changes to report from last week, except that it prohibits outdoor gatherings in excess of 10 people (with exceptions) and levies a \$1,000 fine on businesses not requiring masks for everyone in the business.

The \$631,000 **CARES** money received by Leon Valley from Bexar County was also addressed by council. \$122,000 was approved by the

county auditor for reimbursable expenditures of the City on COVID related issues since March 1st . \$509,000 proposed expenditures were developed by the city department Directors to address needs in public health, economic support, PPE, Teleworking, and Payroll. The largest expenditures approved were for a \$90,000 Mobile Integrated Health Resource vehicle and \$36,000 for an Atomized COVID 19 Surface Disinfectant (cleaning all city buildings and vehicles twice). There is \$25,000 for face masks for citizens (cloth masks @\$2.00 each) and \$25,000 for community programs to prevent spread, which purchases hand sanitizers, etc. for citizens/businesses.

Note: *Are there any other needs of our citizens which council should be aware of?* As a reminder, Bexar County provides rent and utility assistance, as well as employment retraining, but no mortgage assistance. **Call** (210) 231-2043 (rent); (210) 335-3666 (utility) and (210) 928-3985 for employment retraining. Council has some flexibility in re-allocating money from these funds, but must act soon. Please contact me or one of your council members, if you have specific needs so they can be addressed at the August 4th council meeting. Thanks!

SAN ANTONIO METRO HEALTH DIRECTIVE

On July 17, 2020, Medical Director Dr. Woo, in conjunction with recommendations from a task force selected with the support of the COVID-19 Community Response Coalition, *required* that schools **not** re-open for on-campus, face-to-face instruction until after September 7, 2020. The directive applies to all public and private schools . The start of on-campus learning may be further delayed while continuing to monitor and assess current public health mitigation conditions . This directive also prohibits in person school sponsored events and activities until schools resume on-campus instruction. Each school district will develop written safety and health protocol plans for resuming on-campus instruction and extracurricular activities, and make them available to parents and the public. Dr. Brian Woods, superintendent of Northside I.S.D, was on the task force which supported this directive.

UPDATED NUMBERS

As of July 23, 2020, the total number of cases reported in Bexar County is 34,633, a 28% increase in 8 days. There were 298 deaths reported on July 23rd , a 30% increase in 8 days. At the 7/23 briefing, it was noted COVID patients in ICU have a 25% chance of dying and a 40% chance if on a ventilator.

Dr. Anita Kurian, Metropolitan Health District, reported that Leon Valley has had a combined total of 136 COVID cases reported as of July 17th.

COVID-19 TESTING SITES - Testing locations can be found at www.covid19sanantonio . There are no testing sites in Leon Valley. Joe Freeman Coliseum is still an option for free testing for individuals showing symptoms. 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.

Mayor Nirenberg and Judge Wolff are again requesting the help and support of *all* residents of Bexar County to wear masks, social distance, wash hands and stay home if possible to try and get these numbers down. Thank you to Leon Valley citizens and businesses who are doing their part to get control of the virus spread.

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

Sincerely, Chris

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