

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –8/14/20**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

BEXAR COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDER – NW14 (updated)

Judge Nelson Wolff issued an updated Executive Order on August 13, 2020 with two major changes from the previous Order: Bexar County Parks are to be closed to the public for Labor Day weekend and the foreclosure sales scheduled for September 1, 2020 will be postponed. All prior directives are still in effect – masking, social distancing, and washing hands. Large gatherings in excess of 10 people (indoor or outdoor) are prohibited, including family gatherings, with exceptions noted. Bars (except for drive-through, pickup or delivery of food and drinks) as well as Rafting and Tubing services are still closed.

HOUSEHOLD STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Household Stabilization means emergency financial assistance to families and individuals in the City of Leon Valley who have been directly impacted by a loss of income due to the COVID-19 health emergency. A Resolution to approve this program and entering into an agreement with Ascension De Paul Services, a non-profit organization in San Antonio to administer the program, was approved at the August 10th Leon Valley

council meeting, but has not been finalized. The recommended amount of \$100,000 to fund this program will come from the \$631,000 CARES federal money received from Bexar County. Qualified expenditures discussed by council included mortgage and temporary rental assistance, internet services (up to two months), fuel, food assistance program, clothing closets and counseling services. Most services will be provided at Ascension DePaul Services at their location on 7607 Somerset Road (food pantry, clothing, counseling). Persons applying for this grant will need to show connection with the impact of COVID-19 as it relates to their request (e.g., unemployed, recovery from the virus). Even though the program is administered by a non-profit organization which is faith based, there is no requirement that persons applying belong to a church.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE: The County has given a deadline of October 30, 2020 for this money to be spent by all suburban cities, or be returned to the County. The goal is to expend all money allocated to help our citizens who need assistance during this pandemic. As soon as more specific information is available it will be communicated to our residents in Leon Valley.

UPDATED NUMBERS

As of August 13, 2020, the total number of cases reported in Bexar County is 46,673, an 11% increase in 8 days. There were 560 deaths reported on August 13th, a 38% increase in 8 days. (The number of deaths include deaths not counted between June 19- August 10th, which reflects this increase). The positivity rate (the number of people who test positive for the virus in our community) stands at 18%. Dr. Junda Woo, Metropolitan Health Director, continues to emphasize the positivity number needs to be at 5% or less in our community in order to flatten the spread of the virus. There continues to be a reduction in the number of people in the hospital, in ICU and on ventilators. This is a positive trend!

Dr. Anita Kurian of the Metropolitan Health District has not updated COVID cases to the suburban cities since August 3rd . Leon Valley had an aggregate number of 205 COVID cases reported as of August 3rd .

Metropolitan Health District is also encouraging anyone who has had COVID 19 to consider donating plasma to help others who need it to recover. Contact the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center, (210) 731-5555 to make an appointment.

COVID-19 TESTING SITES - Testing locations can be found at www.covid19sanantonio or by calling the City of San Antonio COVID-19 hot line at (210) 207-5779.

CITY FACILITIES REMAIN CLOSED

At the August 18, 2020 City Council meeting, the council will discuss whether to re-open City Hall, City Parks and to open the Forest Oaks swimming pool. All fields, playground areas and tennis courts remain closed to the public. The exceptions to these closings are the Rimkus Park walking and hiking trails, park restrooms and community garden, which remain open to the public.

The City Library remains closed, with online adult and children activities only and curbside pick up for books and DVD's.

Please continue to follow the guidelines to help contain the spread of the virus. Take care and call/email if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Chris

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