

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –9/18/2020**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

GOVERNOR ABBOTT’S LATEST EXECUTIVE ORDER

On September 17th, Governor Abbott updated his executive order. In regions in Texas where COVID patients make up less than 15% of the total people hospitalized, businesses can operate at 75% of their maximum occupancy. These businesses include restaurants, retail stores, gyms, offices, manufacturing facilities, libraries and museums. Customers must wear masks and social distance themselves from patrons who are not members of their immediate families. This change will take effect on September 21, 2020.

Additional changes address assisted living and nursing facilities. Essential visitors will now be allowed in assisted living and nursing facilities where infections remain low. Only one visitor is allowed in at a time, even though each resident can designate up to two visitors. Non-essential visits are allowed outside without close contact. Effective immediately, hospitals in regions where the virus is low can resume elective surgeries.

LV HOUSEHOLD STABILIZATION GRANT PROGRAM

Time is running out for our citizens (homeowners and renters) to apply for assistance through this grant program, funded through the federal CARES act. The City Council has set aside \$100,000 to help anyone who has been financially affected by COVID– 19. If you need help you are strongly encouraged to apply through the website as it will make the funding process move rapidly

(http://www.leonvalleytexas.gov/news_detail_T5_R975.php). If you have difficulty navigating through this link, you may call Ascension DePaul Services at (210) 334-2300.

To date, we have received 12 applications, 7 from homeowners. Financial assistance up to \$4999 may be provided for overdue rent, mortgages, utilities, unforeseen funeral costs, food, prescriptions, clothing fuel, counseling services, qualified childcare and internet services are available depending on the needs. Any amount over \$5,000 needs special approval. **These monies must be spent by September 30, 2020.**

UPDATE ON COVID-19

- As of September 17, 2020, the total number of cases reported

in Bexar County is 50,425, a 5.1% increase in 8 days. There was an increase of approximately 1,500 cases due to an adjustment in cases backlogged over a period of time by the State Health Department and just reported. There were 1,040 deaths reported on September 17th, a 5% increase in 8 days. There was a slight increase in the number of hospitalizations this week, which had been decreasing. The positivity rate (the percentage of people who test positive for COVID -19 over a 7-day average) between September 6 – September 12th was reported at 6.0%, down from 6.7% the week before. San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg reported Labor Day COVID testing numbers have not been received and encouraged all citizens to remain vigilant when dealing with this virus.

- Bexar County Commissioner's Court is partnering with HEB Pharmacy, University Health and Freeman Coliseum in setting up a drive-through clinic for citizens to receive a **flu shot** on Saturday, September 26, 2020 from 8 am to 4 pm. This is a free service, but insurance will be accepted. You must register for a time to receive this vaccine. There is room for 3500 residents to sign up; to date 1300 have done so. Please go to Bexar.org or call (210) 289-0963 to register. Metropolitan Health is recommending receiving the flu vaccine to help counter the COVID-19 virus this flu season. If you are unable to participate at the September 26th drive-

through flu clinic, google [vaccinefinder.org](https://www.vaccinefinder.org) to find other places that are giving flu vaccines in this area.

NEW COVID-19 TESTING SITE funded by the state has opened at Las Palmas Library, 515 Castroville Road. This testing site will be open seven days a week, from 9 am to 6 pm. No registration is required and there is no charge for the testing. Other testing locations can be found at www.covid19sanantonio or by calling the City of San Antonio COVID-19 hot line at (210) 207-5779.

COVID-19 ELECTION UPDATE

Commissioner Justin Rodriguez reported 48 early voting sites have been finalized through Commissioner's Court, up 7 from the 2016 election. There are two mega (very large) voting sites: AT&T Center and St. Paul's Community Center, 1201 Donaldson. Early voting (18 days) is from October 13-30, and some early voting locations will remain open until 10 pm to accommodate turnout and provide social distancing. You can vote at any site early or on election day. October 5th is the last day to register to vote and October 23rd is the last day to request a mail-in ballot for the November 3rd election. For more information contact Bexar County Elections Department at (210) 335-8683.

PLEASE NOTE

- **CITY FACILITIES REMAIN CLOSED-** City Hall, City Parks (athletic fields, picnic tables, tennis courts, playground areas). Rimkus Park walking trails, park restrooms and community garden remain open to the public. **BUT**... city council directed staff to open the tennis courts and athletic fields the week of September 28th, if the positivity number keeps dropping below 6%. A citizen requested City Council to open the playgrounds, which was not included in the motion, but may be discussed at the October 6th council meeting.
- **Appointments** can be made with any department at the city if you need to obtain a permit, pay a bill, etc. Staff is there to help and will work to accommodate any citizen who needs assistance.
- **Leon Valley Public Library** remains closed, with online adult and children's activities only and curbside pickup for books and DVD's.

COVID is entering its 7th month in our community. Continue to hang in there, do your part to curb the spread of the virus and stay positive!

Sincerely, Chris

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