

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –9/25/2020**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

HELP FOR LEON VALLEY CITIZENS AFFECTED BY COVID

September 30, 2020 is the **LAST** day for our citizens ((homeowners and renters) to apply for assistance through the grant program, Leon Valley Stabilization program, funded through the federal CARES act. \$100,000 has been set aside by Council to help anyone who has been financially harmed 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 14 applications who have qualified, 8 homeowners and 6 renters. 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.

UPDATE ON COVID-19 IN AREA SCHOOLS

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District reported the first COVID cases from schools in the area: 20 students have tested positive and 32 staff tested positive. All area schools are offering some type of classroom learning, although not at full occupancy. These numbers show there is some risk to opening up schools, but not as high as expected, according to Dr. Junda Woo. She urged caution since flu season will begin shortly, possibly affecting the number of cases. Additionally, personal protective equipment and masks are needed for area schools. Dr. Woo recommended masks not be re-used after wearing them all day.

Speaking of flu season, the Metropolitan Health District is urging everyone to get a flu shot. Bexar County's free flu shot drive-through for 3500 citizens scheduled on Saturday, September 26 at Joe Freeman Coliseum is *full*. A second drive-through flu shot clinic sponsored by the County, HEB Pharmacy and University Health is scheduled for October 10th on the westside. More information is forthcoming. To find other places that offer flu vaccines in the area, google [vaccinefinder.org](https://www.vaccinefinder.org).

Dr. Colleen Bridger, interim director for Metropolitan Health District announced they are developing guidelines for Halloween, Thanksgiving

and Christmas holidays, but it is still early since the virus numbers are unknown as to the direction they may be headed.

SLIGHT UPTICK IN COVID -19 CASES

As of September 24, 2020, the total number of cases reported in Bexar County is 53, 971, a 7.0% increase in 8 days. There were 1,073 total deaths reported on September 24th, a 3% increase in 8 days. There continues to be a slight increase in the number of current daily hospitalizations (230 vs. 210), but is down from 1200 hospitalizations in July. The positivity rate (the percentage of people who test positive for COVID -19 over a 7 day average) between September 13 – September 19th was reported at 6.4%, an increase from 6.0% the week before. San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg said we may be seeing Labor Day COVID test numbers causing this rise in the positivity rate, but again urged all citizens to remain vigilant when dealing with this virus.

NEW COVID-19 TESTING SITE funded by the state has opened at Las Palmas Library, 515 Castroville Road, (210) 207-9200. 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.

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 drops 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.
- **The County and City park facilities** have re-opened, including basketball courts and playgrounds. A reminder to keep family gatherings to 10 or less people in accordance with Judge Wolff's executive order while socializing at the parks.
- **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. (210) 684-1391.
- **Leon Valley Public Library** remains closed, with online adult and children's activities only and curbside pickup for books and DVD's.

Please continue to wear masks, social distance, limit your family gatherings to no more than 10 people, and stay home if you are sick. We will get through this. The 1918 Spanish flu, which killed 675,000 people in the United States, took about one year to run its course. Looking forward to when we can hug people again!

Sincerely, Chris

(210) 618-2092
mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov