

LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY ON COVID-19 CRISIS –9/04/2020

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

SLOWLY, BUT SURELY - MAKING PROGRESS!

Congratulations to the citizens of Bexar County for working hard to contain the COVID-19 virus spread. After Memorial Day and 4th of July holidays, the positivity rate (the percentage of people who test positive for COVID -19 over a 7-day average) was over 25%. As of August 29th, Bexar County's positivity rate stands at 7.8% and the statewide 7-day average is at 9.64%. The COVID -19 numbers are going down because of the behaviors practiced by our citizens! *We must remain vigilant and not let our guard down.*

This weekend is Labor Day and is a time for celebration with family and friends. To help keep the spread of the virus contained, all Bexar County, City of San Antonio and Leon Valley parks are closed for any gatherings. The following are recommendations from Mayor Ron Nirenberg and Commissioner Kevin Wolff for how to gather safely this weekend:

- Choose an outdoor location for your family gathering (safer than indoor) and avoid locations with poor ventilation;
- Skip the family style spread (food). Individually prepared meals and utensils are safer;

- Wear a mask especially around those individuals who are more susceptible to the virus;
- Wash your hands often and use hand sanitizer.

Commissioner Wolff compared wearing a mask to wearing a seat belt: Mask up and Buckle up! Let's follow the recommendations and not have a spike in the spread of the virus after this weekend. One more recommendation from the city and county leaders – please get your flu vaccine now to help protect you this fall.

UPDATED NUMBERS

As of September 3, 2020, the total number of cases reported in Bexar County is 47,070, a 2.7% increase in 8 days. There were 851 deaths reported on September 3rd, an 11% increase in 8 days. (The number of deaths include 11 deaths that were not counted between July 14 and September 2nd, which reflects this increase). There continues to be a reduction in the number of people in the hospital, in ICU and on ventilators. This has enabled other elective surgeries to be conducted due to the freeing up of hospital beds.

The Metropolitan Health District will report the numbers of COVID-19 cases in suburban cities on a monthly basis, beginning in September.

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.

A FEW REMINDERS

- **LV HOUSEHOLD STABILIZATION GRANT PROGRAM** – Need financial help due to COVID-19? Applying through the website is strongly encouraged 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.
- **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. A citizen has requested City Council to open the tennis courts, which will be discussed at the September 15th council meeting.
- **Leon Valley Public Library** remains closed, with online adult and children’s activities only and curbside pickup for books and DVD’s.
- **Last Day to Register to Vote** in the November 3rd election is October 5th. Registration must be postmarked on or before October 5, 2020.
- **Governor Abbott** has scheduled a news conference for next week to make an announcement related to COVID-19.

Please have a safe and happy Labor Day weekend. Take care and call/email if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Chris

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