

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –7/31/20**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

AUGUST IS A CRITICAL MONTH FOR COVID

This was the message from Judge Wolff yesterday at our Suburban City Mayors meeting. July was the worst month for cases/deaths in Bexar County since the beginning of the pandemic. It is *imperative* that we get the number of COVID cases to decline in August, primarily to be able to open area schools after Labor Day. Metro Health Director Dr. Junda Woo has issued a health directive that area schools will begin classes in August on-line through September 4. Depending on the COVID numbers, a determination will be made whether schools can resume face-to face learning after Labor Day.

Judge Wolff also mentioned the importance of getting the numbers of COVID down now since flu season will begin in October/November, which may exacerbate the situation. Health officials have also noted that after holiday weekends like Memorial Day, 4th of July (and Labor Day, Sept. 7th), COVID numbers have spiked significantly. Judge Wolff stated that if a person is in a group of 100 or more, there is a 100% chance that someone in that group has COVID, and if they are in a group of 10 or less, there is a

30% chance that someone in that group has COVID. Close contact with others is the source of the infection in 59.5% of all cases, community transmission causes 34%, travel and unknown causes make up the rest.

The message continues to be the same – wear a mask, social distance, wash your hands and stay home as much as possible. If we all remain vigilant and follow these protocols, the number of cases will drop and our children can return to school in person.

UPDATED NUMBERS

As of July 30, 2020, the total number of cases reported in Bexar County is 40,253, a 16% increase in 8 days. There were 347 deaths reported on July 30th, a 16% increase in 8 days. (These rates of increase have declined significantly since last week). There was also a reduction in the number of people in the hospital, in ICU and on ventilators. This is a very positive trend!

Dr. Anita Kurian of the Metropolitan Health District reported that beginning on Monday, August 3rd and every Monday thereafter, she will send all suburban cities their total aggregate number of COVID cases to date. Leon Valley had a combined total of 136 COVID cases reported as of July 17th. There are still 311+ cases of COVID reported in Leon Valley's zip codes 78238 and 78240.

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.

CITY FACILITIES REMAIN CLOSED

At the August 4, 2020 City Council meeting, the council will again discuss whether to re-opening City Hall, City Parks and 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 has remained closed, with online adult and children activities only and curbside pick up for books and DVD's.

On the August 4th council meeting agenda, the \$631,000 federal **CARES** money received by Leon Valley from Bexar County will be discussed and updated. I reported last week the proposed and adopted expenditures for this money. At council suggestion, a tri-fold information

sheet has been developed and will be mailed to all citizens of the economic support available through Bexar County (rent assistance, utility, employment retraining). **Note:** *Are there any other needs of our citizens which council should be aware of?* Council has some flexibility in reallocating money from these funds, but must act soon. There is a deadline of September 30th to spend these funds and October 30th to submit receipts /invoices for reimbursement. 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. Thank you!

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

Sincerely, Chris

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