

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 REPORT –04/30/2021**

CORONAVIRUS CONTINUES TO SPREAD

Since the Easter holiday the number of patients in the hospital has risen by 34%. Metro Health reported the two-week case trend indicator is considered to be at a “critical” risk level. With the COVID-19 virus still circulating in our community, individuals are urged to get vaccinated to help end this pandemic. The states of Oregon and Washington returned to lockdown restrictions this week due to alarming hospitalization rates, which we hope will not happen in Texas. We need to continue to be vigilant by getting the vaccine, wearing a mask, following proper hygiene and social distancing to keep the virus from spreading.

The great news is it is easier than ever to get vaccinated. No more need for an appointment to get a vaccine, although that is still an option. There is plenty of supply available. Beginning today, anyone 16 years or older can receive the vaccine at the Alamodome drive-through clinic from 9 am – 6:30 pm, Tuesdays through Saturday at no charge, and no appointment is necessary. On Sunday, May 2nd, an additional 10,000 vaccines will be available at the Alamodome beginning at 2 pm. You can register at www.COVID19.sanantonio.gov for an appointment. University Health System (UHS) has a limited number of walk-in vaccines available at

Crossroads Mall. On Wednesday, May 5th , at the UHS Clinic at 4503 S. Zarzamora from 11am to 2 pm, the Johnson & Johnson one shot vaccine will be given. There will be free tamales and mariachis. Call (210) 335-2611 for an appointment. Check out the San Antonio Express News page 2A daily for a complete listing of all sites in the community that offer vaccinations.

BEXAR COUNTY LEADING STATE IN NUMBERS OF VACCINATIONS

To date in Bexar County, 55.5% or 839,813 of the eligible population has received one dose of the vaccine and 37.9% or 571,530 are fully vaccinated with two doses. Bexar County is leading the state in the highest percentage of fully vaccinated individuals.

Judge Wolff reports the number of 1st dose vaccine appointments has dropped from 35,000 to 14,000 per week at UHS. There is a 10% no-show rate of individuals who signed up and did not receive their second dose and a 40% no-show rate for 1st dose appointments. It will be a challenge to continue vaccinating our population to around 75% to achieve herd immunity, but we can do it!

CURRENT CASE NUMBERS

As of April 29th there were 217,219 total cases reported in Bexar County, a 1.2% increase from April 22nd . There were 3,354 total deaths

reported on April 22nd , a .7% increase in 7 days. The positivity rate dropped again to **1.9%** from **2.2%** the week before, based on testing 57,000 individuals. Our positivity rate continues to be the *lowest* among the major metropolitan cities in the state.

As of April 29th, there were 240 patients in area hospitals, 67 patients in ICU and 44 patients on ventilators.

In Leon Valley through March 31st, we have had 1,134 COVID cases and 13 deaths. Please keep everyone in your prayers for a complete recovery.

BLOOD SHORTAGES CONTINUES

The **South Texas Blood and Tissue Center** has a 1 day supply of O negative blood on hand and only a 1 ½ day supply of all other blood types. 200 blood donors per day are needed to meet the demand. Please consider donating blood to help this dire situation by calling (210) 731-5555, or call University Hospital at (210) 358-2812 to set up an appointment to give blood.

The rain we received this week was welcome and badly needed!

Sincerely, Chris
(210) 618-2092