

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –01/08/2021**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

COVID SURGE TRENDING TOWARD SEVERE

Since the pandemic started in March of 2020, Metropolitan Health District has kept detailed records of the number of cases and deaths, the positivity rate (the percentage of tested COVID cases which are positive), age and ethnicity information, number of people in hospitals, in ICU, and on ventilators, and a list of nursing homes and the impact of COVID on these facilities, just to mention a few areas tracked.

One statistic, the total number of individuals who are hospitalized for COVID, is at a record high of 1,376, breaking the July high number of hospitalizations at 1,267. The impact of caring for these patients in hospitals and on health care workers is significant. Mayor Ron Nirenberg reports there are over 1,000 additional health care workers from outside our community who have come to assist with the need. Authorities are preparing Joe Freeman Coliseum as an overflow facility for COVID-19 patients (not yet activated).

This is a **plea** to everyone in our community to help stop the spread of the virus by very simple measures:

- Wearing masks and socially distancing yourself 6 feet from someone not in your household;
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wash your hands;
- Keep any gatherings to 10 or less people, preferably outside. If you are inside, open up windows for circulation and do not have lengthy gatherings.

VACCINE UPDATE

On December 31, 2020, University Hospital posted information for citizens who are over 65, or 16 years and older who had an underlying health condition, to sign up to receive a vaccination at Wonderland Mall. This is the Tier B group, which comprises 60% of the population. Within hours, the 12,000 slots for vaccinations were taken! Commissioner Justin Rodriguez reported that University Hospital will be receiving more doses next week and will again offer a sign up for area residents. **For more information on the vaccine, please call University Hospital at (210) 644-1960.**

Additionally, if you are a patient with the Gonzaba Medical Group, they will be reaching out to their patients via social media to schedule appointments to receive the vaccination. There is no charge for the vaccine

and no prescription necessary. A second dose is necessary for full protection.

COVID-19 UPDATE OF CASES-BEXAR COUNTY

As of January 7th, there were 128,067 total cases reported, a 10.7% increase in 7 days. There were 1,587 total deaths reported on January 7th, a 3% increase in 7 days. There were 394 ICU patients and 214 patients on ventilators.

The positivity rate, the percentage of tested COVID cases which are positive, rose from 19.2% on December 27, 2020 to 23.2% on January 3rd, 2021. We are getting closer to surpassing the highest positivity rate our community reached last summer at 24%. Let's do our best not to reach that percentage and keep the spread under control.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- The **South Texas Blood and Tissue Center** has a **critically low** supply of O negative blood on hand. Additionally, there is only a 3 day supply of other blood types on hand, but a 7 day supply is needed to meet the needs of our community. 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. Thank you.

- **Need Help?** Lost Your Job or trouble paying rent or utilities because

of COVID? **Call (210) 335-1777 or visit Bexar County Strong for assistance.**

- **Leon Valley City Hall continues to be closed to the public; appointments can be made for conducting city business at (210) 684-1391.** Rimkus Park basketball courts and fields for organized sports will continue to be closed. The Library will continue with curbside service and online adult and children activities only. There is a 10 person limit on family gatherings at Rimkus Park as per the state and county emergency declaration.

Thank you for following the health and safety protocols to keep yourself and our community safe, especially during this time of surging cases.

Sincerely, Chris
(210) 618-2092 (cell)