

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –01/22/2021**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

STATEWIDE CONFERENCE CALL ON VACCINES

On Thursday, January 21st a conference call was held by the Texas Division of Emergency Management and Texas Department of State Health Services for County Judges and Mayors to discuss vaccine planning, allocation and distribution in Texas. Bottom line from the call: **more vaccines are on the way!**

The State agency receives the vaccines directly from the manufacturer and distributes to “hubs” in the counties. Statewide Emergency Manager Nim Kidd stated that the distribution is fair, efficient and equitable in distributing the vaccine across the state. The week of January 25th there will be 333,850 doses of Moderna and Pfizer vaccines distributed and the following week there will be 800,000 doses distributed (300,000 first doses and 500,000 second doses). There is a new single shot vaccine from Johnson & Johnson that should be available by mid February. The Biden administration has a goal of distributing 100 million doses in 100 days, so there should be an acceleration of the distribution

process. Kidd said the state is well positioned to scale up to receive more vaccines and get it into the arms of the citizens.

PATIENCE REQUIRED WHEN REGISTERING FOR VACCINE

Congratulations to those citizens who have already received a first and possibly a second dose of the vaccine. I am hearing from friends and neighbors that it has been frustrating not to be able to secure a registration since the demand has been so great.

Currently, health care professionals and nursing home and assisted living staff and patients, are being vaccinated since they are in the top priority group (Tier 1A). Tier 1B is anyone over 65 years of age, or over 16 with an underlying medical condition; they are now also eligible to be vaccinated. Metro Health is also urging pregnant women to be vaccinated. You must register (by phone or email) and will receive confirmation with a bar code which you must take to the vaccine site.

Here is some contact information to get in line for the vaccine:

1. **San Antonio Metro Health District (City of San Antonio)** has a vaccination hub at the Alamodome. (210) 207-6000. Email: covid19.sanantonio.gov/vaccine. The average wait at the Alamodome is reported to be 30-45 minutes.

2. **University Hospital** – (210) 644-1960. Email:

WECANDOITSA.com. You can sign up to receive an email notification as to when UHS will accept registration once more doses are available.

3. **Well-Med Clinics** had 9,000 doses of the vaccine available this week, but all appointments have been filled. Call: 1-888-781-9355 or Email: WebsiteContactUs@wellmed.net.

4. **HEB.Com/vaccine** – Their initial supply has been distributed or is scheduled to be administered. Once HEB gets more supply they will activate a scheduler tool on the website above.

All of these sites are open to the general public. There is no charge for the vaccine and no prescription necessary. A second dose is necessary for full protection.

There are more sites available and are listed daily on page 2A in the San Antonio Express News, including the VA Hospital for veterans.

MIDDLE OF DEADLY SURGE CONTINUES

As of January 21st , there were 155,588 total cases reported in Bexar County, a 10.6% increase in 7 days. There were 1,857 total deaths reported on January 21st, a 9% increase in 7 days. There were 426 ICU patients and 255 patients on ventilators, an increase from last week.

The local positivity rate, the percentage of tested COVID cases which are positive, dropped from 19.7% the week before to 17.5% on January

18th, 2021. According to health experts there will be at least 3-4 more weeks of high COVID cases.

Metropolitan Health District sent me the total number of COVID-19 cases in Leon Valley from March through December, 2020: **720**.

Total number of deaths were not given. Please keep our neighbors in your thoughts and prayers for a complete and full recovery.

NEED HELP DURING THIS PANDEMIC?

Bexar County will receive an additional \$12 million from the federal government for rental and utility assistance which will be earmarked for suburban cities and unincorporated areas. **Call (210) 335-1777 or visit Bexar County Strong for assistance.**

Can't say it enough: Mask up, socially distance, wash your hands, avoid large crowds, and stay home if you are sick. Good luck in registering and receiving the vaccine!

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