

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
COVID-19 CRISIS –03/06/2021**

Dear Leon Valley Citizens and Businesses:

GOVERNOR ABBOTT’S EXECUTIVE ORDER

On March 2, 2021 the Governor issued Executive Order 34, relating to the opening of Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster. Here is a summary of what is in the Order, which becomes effective on March 10, 2021:

- There is no longer a state-imposed mask mandate, although individuals are “*strongly encouraged to wear face coverings over the nose and mouth whenever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household, but no person may be required by any jurisdiction to wear or to mandate the wearing of a face covering*”; (Par. 1 (b) of the Order)
- Businesses can operate at 100% occupancy;
- There are no limitations on the number of persons allowed at gatherings;
- Counties where the hospitalization rate of COVID-19 patients exceeds 15% for 7 consecutive days, the County Judge may implement COVID-19 mitigation strategies;

- Cities cannot issue local orders, but still have authority with regard to rules within its own properties;
- This Order does not rescind the suspension of Texas Open Meetings Act related provisions;
- This Order does not reopen the courts to in-person proceedings.

The City Council will address the Governor's new Order on Tuesday March 9th regarding any changes resulting from this new Order.

HELP AVAILABLE FOR PLUMBING REPAIRS

The Bexar County Plumbing Assistance program was enacted by Commissioner's Court to help eligible homeowners in suburban cities repair damaged pipes or to reimburse for repairs from plumbing damage caused by the February freezing temperatures. This program does not cover damage to floor coverings, walls, hot water heaters, sheetrock, etc. It does not matter which water company you get your water from; residents on private wells are also eligible.

\$5 million dollars has been set aside to assist eligible homeowners by reimbursing costs up to \$1,500 for plumbing repairs, including pipes. No pool pumps, lawn sprinkler systems or water softeners are eligible for reimbursement. There are two ways to get help through this program: **I Need a Plumber Program** (call (210) 631-6000) and **Reimbursement**

Program (call (210) 631-5000). A household must meet HUD established income guidelines for families earning 80% or below the area median income. Renters are not eligible as well as homeowners who have not received insurance or other assistance for repairs. Visit www.bexar.org/pipes.

WHERE ARE WE ON THE VACCINATIONS?

This week, teachers across the state were moved into the Tier IB priority to become vaccinated, which is great news. To date in Bexar County, 265,927 citizens have received their 1st dose of the vaccine and an additional 155,385 citizens have been fully vaccinated. Unfortunately, we need at least 70-80 % of the community to be vaccinated to develop herd immunity (750,000 citizens). If you are interested in getting vaccinated, the city and county have partnered to provide COVID-19 vaccine text alerts. Text "VACCINE" to 55000 to subscribe and opt-in.

CURRENT CASE NUMBERS

As of March 4th there were 197,497 total cases reported in Bexar County, a 1.4 % increase from February 25th. There were 2,678 total deaths reported on March 4th, a 6.1 % increase in 7 days. The positivity rate (the percentage of tested COVID cases which are positive) reported on March 1st was 5.6%, down from 7.5% the week before. This was the sixth

straight drop in the rate. Our positivity rate continues to be the lowest of all the major metropolitan areas in the state.

As of March 4th, there were 368 patients in area hospitals, 136 patients in ICU and 72 patients on ventilators. We are slowly improving, but **PLEASE** continue mask wearing, social distancing and proper hygiene.

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District sent me the latest COVID-19 deaths in Leon Valley since the beginning of the pandemic, which is 8 citizens. Our public works department lost an employee to COVID-19 last week, as well as a 25-year-old son of one of our long-time public works employees who passed from COVID. Please keep our fellow neighbors and employees' families who have lost someone to COVID in your thoughts and prayers. The virus is still around – please be proactive in protecting yourself and others.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Spring break!

Sincerely, Chris

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