

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY  
COVID-19 REPORT –05/14/2021**

**CHANGING GUIDELINES – CHANGING NORMS**

Yesterday, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) declared that fully vaccinated individuals (individuals who have received 2 doses of Pfizer/Moderna or 1 dose Johnson & Johnson and waited two weeks following the last dose), can now go without masks or physical distancing both in and out of doors.

It will feel weird not to wear a mask. This change was based on scientific evidence which demonstrated the efficacy of the coronavirus vaccines in protecting from the contagious variants. The issue of individuals who have had COVID -19 but have not been vaccinated was not addressed. This is a major change in our way of living for the past 15 months, and is perhaps the beginning of a return to normalcy. Although only 35% of the national population and 47.8% of Bexar County is fully vaccinated, all other eligible individuals are encouraged to get vaccinated to continue to help contain the virus.

Bexar County and the City of San Antonio are meeting to implement this CDC directive. Once the City of Leon Valley receives the County

directive, Leon Valley will change its policies regarding face masks and social distancing. This will probably be at the June 1<sup>st</sup> city council meeting.

This week, the Pfizer vaccine was approved to be administered to 12-15 years old, with parental or guardian consent. There were 500 children in this age group who were vaccinated this week at Wonderland Mall, in a county wide population of 12,000 children. At most vaccination sites, it is not necessary to have an appointment and there is about a 15-minute wait if you go to Wonderland Mall. There are plenty of free vaccinations available.

### **BEXAR COUNTY NUMBERS OF VACCINATIONS**

To date in Bexar County, 63.5% or 955,976 of the eligible population has received one dose of the vaccine and 47.8% or 719,767 are fully vaccinated with two doses. Bexar County is still exceeding the state and national percentages of fully vaccinated individuals.

As soon as Well-Med finalizes their plans for sponsoring a vaccination site at the Leon Valley Community Center, we will inform you.

### **CURRENT CASE NUMBERS**

As of May 13<sup>th</sup>, there were 220,517 total cases reported in Bexar County, a .6% increase from May 6<sup>th</sup>. There were 3,404 total deaths reported on May 13<sup>th</sup>, a .7% increase in 7 days.

As of May 13<sup>th</sup>, there were 200 patients in area hospitals, 55 patients in ICU and 26 patients on ventilators.

The positivity rate (the percentage of tested COVID cases which are positive) **fell** from 2.6% on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 1.7% on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **BLOOD SHORTAGES AT CRITICAL LEVEL**

The **South Texas Blood and Tissue Center** has a ½ day's supply of O negative blood on hand and only a 1-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.

Beginning the week of May 21<sup>st</sup>, I will start every other week, rather than a weekly, expanding to other issues affecting our city, as well as keeping tabs on our COVID numbers. I have really enjoyed using this tool of communication as a way of keeping citizens and businesses informed during the pandemic. I have learned a lot and hope you have too!

Sincerely, Chris  
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