

LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
09/03/2021

LABOR DAY AND THE DELTA VARIANT

As we begin celebrating this holiday, we are still dealing with COVID-19 Delta variant virus. The message from city and county leaders is to be cautious and follow the protocols we learned last year while fighting this virus: get vaccinated, mask up, social distance and wash hands frequently. It is also recommended that you keep your parties small, preferably outdoors and serve pre-packaged foods or snacks. There is usually a surge in COVID-19 cases after a major holiday, so please do your part to stop the spread.

The current surge in the virus now has resulted from unvaccinated people and from laxness in wearing masks to slow the spread. Currently 85% or 1,268 people sick with COVID in area hospitals are unvaccinated; 31 are children. On September 2nd, there were 1,681 new cases, for a total of 287,411 total local cases and 23 new deaths (the highest one day number this year) for a total of 3,936 deaths.

People who have COVID-19 symptoms can be referred by their primary care doctor to the Joe Freeman Coliseum for an antibody treatment of *Regeneron*, which helps to prevent a person from becoming

hospitalized. An average of 120 people per day are receiving this treatment, which helps ease the stress on hospitals. By the way, Metro Health reports the FDA approved home COVID tests are effective and accurate. If you get a positive test result, consult with a physician.

Additionally, University Hospital is adapting to the overcrowding of hospitals by shifting patients to rehab facilities or to their homes. A new program, called *Hospital at Home*, moves COVID 19 patients back to their home, if it is close to a hospital, and provides a nurse to check in on a daily basis. This program alone has opened up 45 hospital beds.

Last, but not least, the flu season is right around the corner. Metro Health is recommending getting the flu vaccine, especially children. Our children can be exposed to the flu, COVID-19 and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus), so there is a triple threat.

WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW

- Stage 1 water restrictions, which limits lawn-watering days and times , went back into effect on September 1st after the aquifer's level dropped below 660 for 10 days or more, despite a wet summer.
- Cha Cha's Next Gen Café, scheduled to open on August 16, then August 23rd is still not open. More information will be forthcoming once it is available.
- The next scheduled City Council meeting is Tuesday, September 7th at 5:30 pm beginning with two executive sessions and a full agenda. Visit www.leonvalleytexas.gov, Mayor & City Council, Council Agendas &

Minutes to check the agenda and packet for September 7th. If you have a citizens comment you would like to share with the council, please email your public comments to citizenstobeheard@leonvalleytexas.gov. If you want to attend a council meeting, we are strongly encouraging mask wearing and social distancing in seating. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

- Grandparent's Day Concert, scheduled for September 12th , as well as our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in late September were cancelled due to COVID-19 rising cases. We did not want a spreading event to occur.

Happy Labor Day! Enjoy your weekend and do not hesitate to call or email with questions or concerns.

Sincerely, Chris
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