

**LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
07/30/2021**

GOVERNOR ABBOTT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER

Yesterday, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order-38 related to the continued response to COVID-19. The highlights are as follows:

- No governmental entity can force any person to receive a COVID-19 vaccine;
- No governmental entity, including city, school district, county, public health official or governmental representative may require or mandate any person to wear a face covering. Exceptions include state supported living centers, government owned and operated hospitals and county and municipal jails acting under the guidance of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards;
- No limitations for operating businesses and other establishments may be imposed by governmental entities with respect to COVID-19;
- Where COVID-19 transmission rates are high (as they are here), individuals are *encouraged* to wear a face covering where it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in your same household.

In Bexar County the number of COVID cases has continued to rise significantly since June 12th when the positivity rate was at 1.3%. On July 26th the positivity rate was 17%, which increased from 13.5% last week. Hospitalizations and individuals in ICU and on ventilators have also sharply increased. This is due to the rapid spread of the Delta Variant to unvaccinated persons.

Getting fully vaccinated is still the best defense against COVID-19 and its variants. Currently, nearly all COVID-19 deaths are among people not fully vaccinated. There have been “breakthrough cases”, where fully vaccinated people get the Delta (COVID-19) since vaccines cannot stop 100% of the infections, but people who are fully vaccinated are very well protected from severe illness, hospitalizations and death. 95% of people who are hospitalized in Bexar County for COVID-19 have not been vaccinated.

The Center of Disease Control this week is recommending wearing masks in indoors, regardless of your vaccination status, to help protect you and anyone else close to you from spreading the virus, where virus numbers are high. I have started to wear a mask after months of going without it, even though I am fully vaccinated. Wearing a mask adds a layer

of protection. Let's continue to stay safe and healthy and do what is necessary to stop the spread.

Just a reminder, on **Tuesday, August 3rd at 6:00 pm** (after a 5:30 pm Executive Session), the regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held at city hall chambers. If you are unable to attend, you may view the meeting online and citizens may email public comments to s.pass@leonvalleytexas.gov. Thank you for participating in your city government!

Enjoy your weekend!

Sincerely, Chris

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