

LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
09/24/2021

COVID 19 DELTA VARIANT UPDATE

There were 52,585 new COVID cases in August, three times the number from July. 12.5% of these cases were from children age 9 and below. However, the good news is the number of people who have tested positive for COVID each week has been on a 100% downward trajectory. The positivity rate on August 10th was 21.4% and has gone down every week, with this week's positivity rate of 4.9%.

Metro Health has kicked off a Vaccine Incentive Program for people to receive a \$100 gift card from HEB when they become fully vaccinated. People who are eligible are those who have received one dose of Johnson & Johnson or the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna. This incentive program does not apply to people receiving the booster (3rd shot). This incentive program is only available at Metro Health Clinics. Call 311 for locations. 1.2 million people in Bexar County have only received the first dose of the vaccine and would be eligible for this incentive.

Beginning today, September 23rd, at *Wonderland Mall* from 10 am – 6 pm, University Hospital will reopen their vaccination clinic, located on the second floor, for people to receive their Pfizer booster shot. No

appointments are necessary. People who are eligible to receive the Pfizer booster is anyone over 65 and/or anyone 18 years and older who has an underlying medical condition. You must have waited 6 months from your second dose of Pfizer to receive the booster. If you received the Moderna vaccine, you are not eligible to take the Pfizer vaccine, but must wait for Moderna's booster. University Hospital will continue to keep this vaccination clinic open as determined by the need. The *Alamodome* will also offer the Pfizer booster shot to the same eligible population from Noon – 6 pm Wednesdays through Fridays. No appointments are necessary. By the way, our local Walgreens has the booster shot available.

Thanks to everyone for doing your part to bring the COVID numbers down. CDC and Metro Health both report a 4th wave will be coming this winter, so let's continue to be vigilant.

SEPTEMBER 21ST CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Brief highlights of the City Council action from this meeting are:

- City Manager Perales summarized the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds received from the federal government. The City received approximately \$1.5 million in August. In 12 months, the city will receive a second payment of \$1.5 million. Of the \$3 million, \$1.7 million could be considered under the category of lost revenue. The council adopted the FY 22 budget by allocating approximately \$426,000 in eligible ARP funds for lost revenues to meet the needs of the city. Discussion was held as to how the remaining balance of \$1.1 million would be allocated. A possible ARP budget was presented reflecting needs in the community. No decisions

were made since the city has until 2024 to spend the money. Bexar County also received ARP funding. Follow up will be made to see how Commissioner's Court will allocate these dollars;

- Granted approval of a Specific Use Permit for Outside Storage on 5 acres located at Timber Hill Drive and Grissom (Five SAC Self-Storage); Amended Chapter 3 Building Code to add a section addressing Certificate of Occupancy, Compliance and Completion; and approved a budget adjustment of \$26,443 for Raymond Rimkus Park flood remediation from the July 6th flood;

- Councilman Rey Orozco led a discussion on the Citizen's Police Advisory Committee. Council had a general consensus to continue this committee but to review the mission and committee's charge, as well as representation makeup of the committee. After receiving council and citizen input with suggested changes, this item will be brought back to review those changes and approve in a future meeting;

- Regarding appointing members to the Pool Committee, this item was tabled for a future agenda and to consider combining this committee with the Park Commission;

- Discussed the Park Commission recommendation to allow four food truck vendors in Raymond Rimkus Park. Numerous changes by council will be incorporated into the park commission recommendation and brought back to council for final review and approval.

- Discussed the Park Commission recommendation for three possible sites in and around Raymond Rimkus Park to build a dog park. The commission's recommendation was for the dog park to be built on property along Salazar Road (off of Poss road) which the city owns. Council expressed concerned that this property was too far from Rimkus Park. The council decided to physically look at each of the three recommend spots for the dog park and then discuss at a future meeting.

The City Council meeting of October 5th has been cancelled due to a Texas Municipal League Conference in Houston in which the majority of council and city manager will be attending. The next scheduled council meeting will be Tuesday, October 19th at 6:00 pm unless there is an

executive session, which is at 5:30 pm. The City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a joint meeting on Tuesday, October 12th at 5:30 p.m. at city hall.

If you have a 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 strongly encourage mask wearing and social distancing in seating. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Enjoy this perfect weather. If you have any issue that needs addressing, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of your council members. Thank you and stay safe.

Sincerely, Chris
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