

LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY
01/14/2022

OMICRON VARIANT

In my last letter to the citizens on December 24th, the positivity rate for Covid was 2.2%; which my comment was “amazing”! One week later on December 31st the positivity rate jumped to 27.3%. On January 7th, the rate was 31%! Both of these later positivity rates far exceed the highest rate of 24% positivity rate registered last year. The risk level is now at **severe**. What is so different this year from last is people who were fully vaccinated are contracting the virus, although being vaccinated helps lessen the severity of the illness. Due to the significant rise in the number of COVID cases, the City of San Antonio has opened up three new no cost COVID-19 testing sites located at the Yates, Melendrez, and Copernicus Community Centers. Metro Health encourages individuals to get tested if they have symptoms of the coronavirus. If you were in close contact to someone with COVID, the best time to test is five days after the exposure. For a complete list of testing sites and vaccine pop-up clinics, visit covid19.sanantonio.gov or call 311, option 8.

Thanks to everyone for continuing to do your part in addressing the spread of the virus. Please get vaccinated and boosted and follow the

protocols, i.e., wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart from a non-family member, and stay home if you are sick.

PLEASE NOTE: The annual Town Hall Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, January 22nd at 9 am in the Conference Center, will probably be postponed due to the high COVID positivity rate. Notice will be given on social media and ENEWS.

MARCH 2022 JOINT DEMOCRATIC & REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES

The following are deadlines to meet in order to vote in the March 1, 2022 Primary elections:

- Last day to register to vote: January 31, 2022.
- Deadline to apply for a Mail-In Ballot – February 18, 2022. Each voter 65 years or older or disabled must reapply to vote by mail using the new application. Go to Bexar County Elections Department to download an application.
- Early Voting: February 14-25, 2022. The Leon Valley Conference Center is an early voting site.

PLEASE NOTE: Two Leon Valley precinct numbers have changed due to redistricting: 3003 is now 2101 and 3002 is now 2095.

JANUARY 11TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Brief highlights of the City Council action from this meeting:

- Approved a 4 year employment contract with Dr. Crystal Caldera, as City Manager replacing Gilbert Perales, effective January 16, 2022. Salary is \$160,000 per year, \$500 per month car allowance and an annual contribution for retirement of \$19,500. Leave is accrued at

8.30 hours bi monthly. Employer will pay medical and dental premiums of employee and employee's dependent.

- Presentation by Non-Profit Culturlingua to provide Micro Entrepreneurship Development programs, co-working space at 6401 El Verde, Leon Valley Market Days and Entrepreneurship Week for the City of Leon Valley. Culturlingua will present this proposal to the Economic & Community Development committee in February to receive feedback.
- Council approved the planned gated development at 7213 Huebner Road for 90 homes on 10 acres of land with one entrance and exit on Huebner. This is the first development of its kind in Leon Valley reducing R-6 garden homes lot size from 4500 square feet (sf) to 3,150 sf. Minor street right of way was reduced to 28 feet from 50 feet with parking on only one side of the street. Houses will be valued between \$290,000 and \$350,000. The developer did save 10 heritage trees, removing only one. This has set a new precedent for more dense housing developments in Leon Valley.
- The Leon Valley Historical Society presented a request for funds from the approximate \$700,000 balance in the American Rescue Plan funds to cover COVID losses over the last two years in the amount of \$39,000. The council requested a legal opinion and will reconsider the request at the January 18th council meeting.

For more information on this council meetings, go to leonvalleytexas.gov/ Mayor & Council meeting agendas and view the video.

The next City Council meeting is Tuesday, January 18th, 2022 at City Hall, 5:30 p.m. Please contact me or any of your council members if you have a question or concern.

Sincerely, Chris
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