



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 5, 2021

**Dallas County Reports Record High Hospitalizations,
2,794 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 20 Deaths,
Including 231 Probable Cases**

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm January 5, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 2,794 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 2,563 confirmed cases and 231 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 182,156 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 22,218 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 1,698 Dallas County residents have lost their lives due to COVID-19 illness.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A woman in her 40's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 40's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He was critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 50's who was a resident of a long term care facility in the City of Mesquite. He had expired in an area hospital ED and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 50's who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. He had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She was found deceased at home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. She had been critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Seagoville. He had been critically ill in an area hospital and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. She had been critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He had been critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He had been hospitalized and had high risk underlying health conditions.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He had been critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. He had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Garland. She was critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Mesquite. She had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of the City of Seagoville. He had been critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.

- A woman in her 80's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She expired in hospice care and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Dallas. He expired in an area hospital ED and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. He had been hospitalized and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He was critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He expired in hospice care and had underlying high risk health conditions.

The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 51 was to **1,787**, which is a rate of **67.8** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high, with **26.5%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 51 (week ending 12/19/20). Since the beginning of the pandemic, over 3,864 healthcare workers and first responders have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in Dallas County.

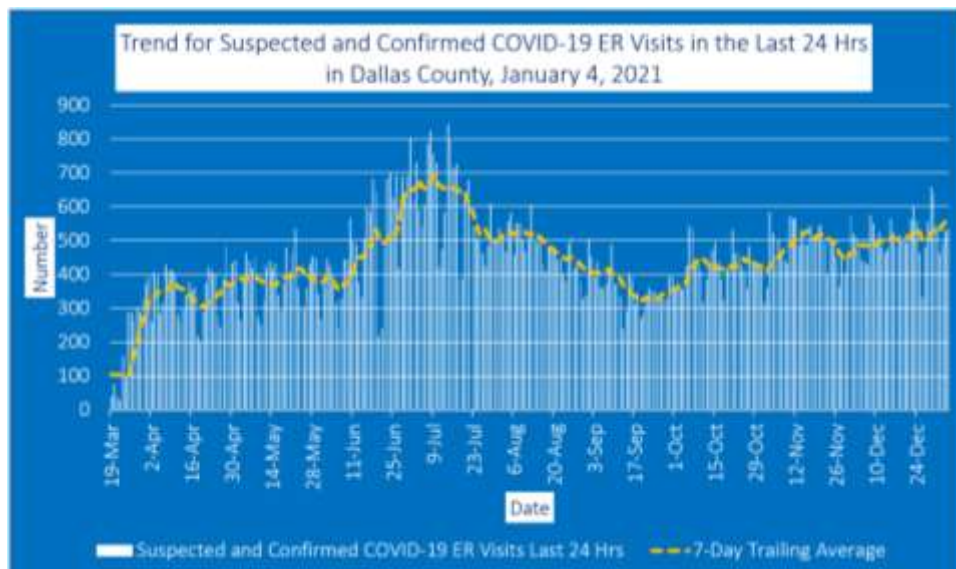
Over the past 30 days, there have been 5,971 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 756 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County, including 569 staff members. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 21 school nurses have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

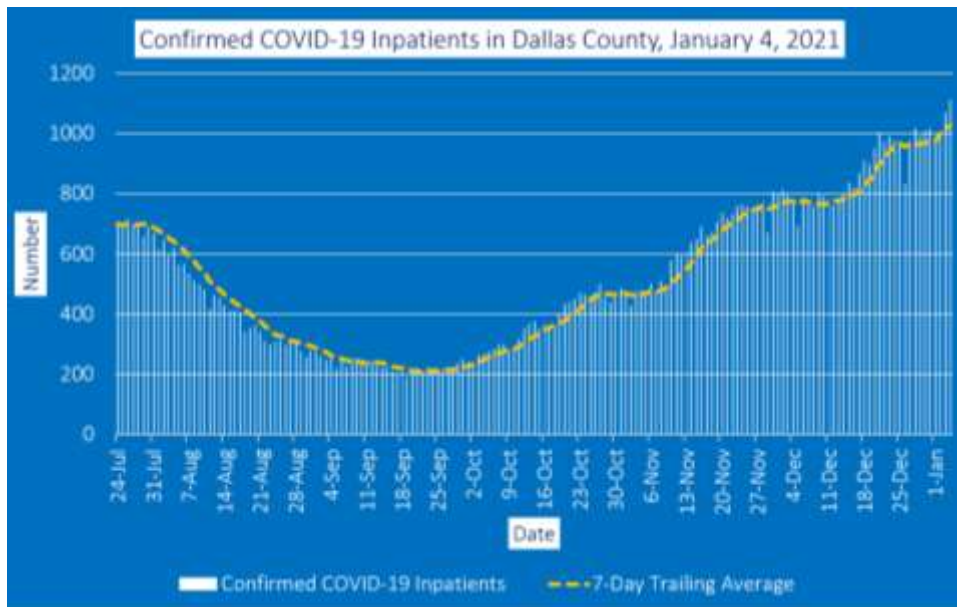
There are currently 102 active long-term care facility outbreaks. This is the highest number of long-term care facilities with active outbreaks reported in Dallas County since the beginning of the pandemic. A total of 2,954 residents and 1,687 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 665 have been hospitalized and 352 have died. About 22% of all deaths reported to date have been associated with long-term care facilities. Forty-two outbreaks of COVID-19 in congregate-living facilities (e.g. homeless shelters, group homes, and halfway homes) have been reported in the past 30 days associated with 115 cases. One facility has reported 93 COVID-19 outbreak cases since October.

Of all confirmed cases requiring hospitalization to date, more than two-thirds have been under 65 years of age. Diabetes has been an underlying high-risk health condition reported in about a third of all hospitalized patients with COVID-19. New cases are being reported as a daily aggregate, with more detailed summary reports updated Tuesday and Friday evenings are available at: <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/2019-novel-coronavirus/daily-updates.php>.

Local health experts use hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and ER visits as three of the key indicators as part of determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. There were 1,113 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Monday, January 4. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 534 for the same time-period, which represents around 24 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. We once again see record highs locally and at a regional level. While it is not unusual to see delays in accessing care over holiday weekends and then increasing demand the following week, we remain concerned about further increases in the following weeks due to multiple weeks of holiday gatherings. If you gathered over the holiday, especially in crowded indoor settings, even with no confirmed COVID exposure, please take all precautions to reduce spread by staying home, masking if you must leave for essential activities, monitoring for symptoms, getting tested, and especially staying away from vulnerable or elderly family members and friends until you are certain you do not have COVID. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).

On December 3, Trauma Service Area E (TSA E), which includes Dallas County and the greater Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, reached seven consecutive days where the percentage of COVID-19 confirmed patients in regional hospitals, as a percentage of available hospital beds, exceeded 15 percent. According to Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-32 (GA-32), this makes TSA E an area with high hospitalizations and certain occupancy reductions are automatically triggered by reaching this threshold.





“Today we report record high hospitalizations, near record high case numbers and 20 additional deaths. By January 11, UT Southwestern modelers had predicted we would reach 2,300 new cases a day and have between 860-1350 COVID hospitalizations. Today we have 1,113 COVID hospitalizations and almost 2,800 cases. Sadly, we have met or surpassed those predictions. We as individuals control these numbers and our actions drive them up or down. Please follow the recommendations to limit all non-essential activity.

As vaccine production and distribution ramps up, we anticipate more supply arriving into Texas and locally, but caution that as of right now, supply is limited and we continue to work through the priority phases as set by DSHS. Vaccination is a critical tool in our tool kit, but we must continue to use all tools including masking, physical distancing, hand hygiene, and avoiding contact outside your immediate household when possible,” said Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins.

All Dallas County COVID-19 Updates and Information can be found here:

<https://www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/> and all guidance documents can be found here:
<https://www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/guidance-health.php>

Specific Guidance for the Public:

- [Dallas County COVID-19 Related Health Guidance for the Public](#)
- [Dallas County Measures for Protecting An Institution’s Workforce from COVID-19 Infection: Employer/Employee Guidance](#)
- [Dallas County Guidance for Individuals at High-Risk for Severe COVID-19](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends taking everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact outside your home: Put 6 feet of distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others and continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to seek medical care
- Wash your hands often and with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and help young children to do the same. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-base hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces daily using a regular household cleaning spray or wipes.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve, not your hands. Immediately wash your hands.
- Monitor your health daily. Be alert for symptoms. Take your temperature and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.

Additional information is available at the following websites:

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC Travel Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>
- DSHS: <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>
- DCHHS: <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/2019-novel-coronavirus.php>

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