



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2021

Dallas County Reports 302 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 15 Deaths, Including 259 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 2:00 pm March 26, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 302 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 43 confirmed cases and 259 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 251,403 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 39,393 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 3,469 Dallas County residents have lost their lives due to COVID-19 illness.

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is providing initial vaccinations to those most at risk of exposure to COVID-19 and almost 229,000 total doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered at the Fair Park mega-vaccine clinic, which started operations on Monday, January 11. Vaccine operations for both first and second doses at Fair Park will continue through Friday. The Fair Park site will be closed on Saturday and will reopen on Sunday for first and second doses.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

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

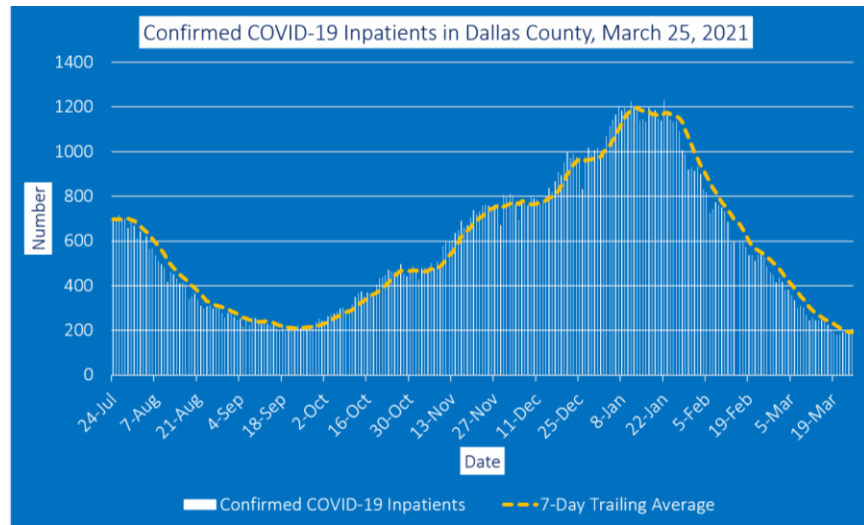
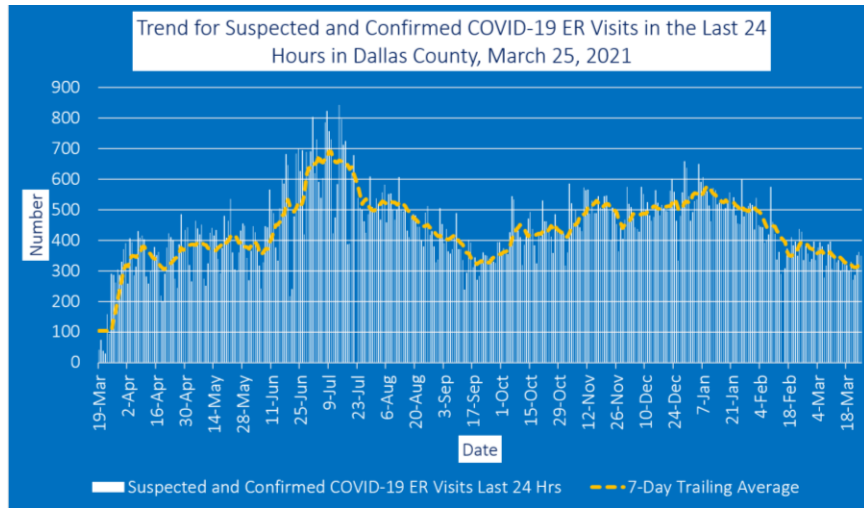
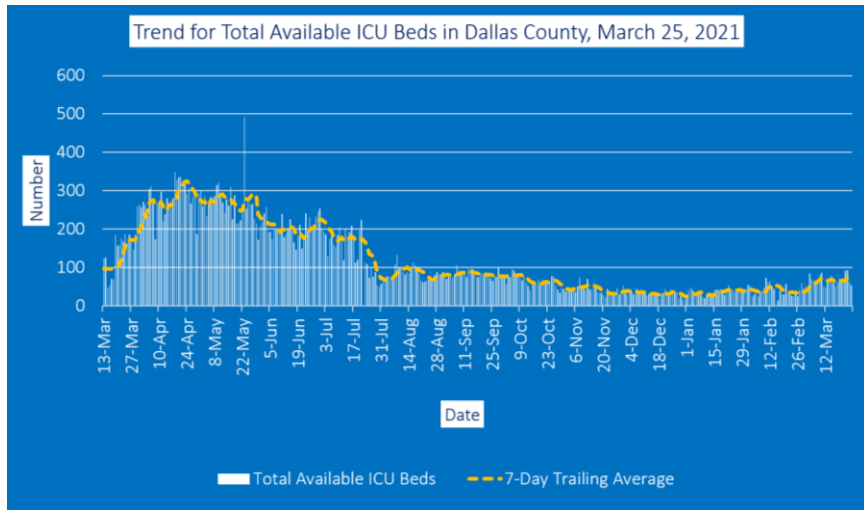
- A woman in her 80's who was a resident of the City of Richardson. She expired at home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 90's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Sunnyvale. He expired in the facility and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 90's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Dallas. He expired in hospice care and had underlying high risk health conditions.

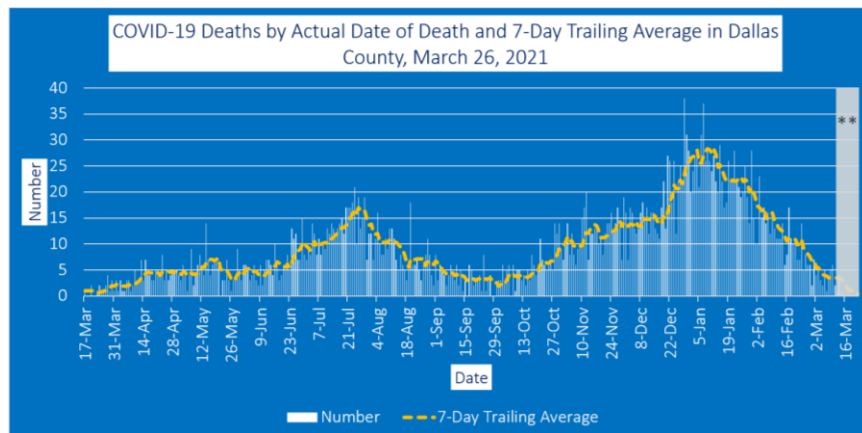
Five additional cases of SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 have been identified in residents of Dallas County. To date, a total of 19 cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7; two cases of B.1.429 variants; and one case of a B.1.526 variant have been identified in residents of Dallas County. Two have been hospitalized and five had history of recent domestic travel outside of Texas. The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 10 was **266**, which is a rate of **10.1** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high, with **6.9%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 10 (week ending 3/13/21).

An outbreak of over 50 cases of COVID-19 has been reported this past week among high school students who attended a dance and dinner on March 13th. During the past 30 days, there were 1,351 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 415 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County. There are currently 25 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,270 residents and 2,371 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 1,010 have been hospitalized and 671 have died. About 22% of all deaths reported to date have been associated with long-term care facilities. Twelve 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. A cumulative total of 430 residents and 207 staff members in congregate-living facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

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 207 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on March 25. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 349 for the same time-period, which represents around 13 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. Please be mindful of following CDC travel guidance (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>) if you've recently returned from a trip. We remain concerned for additional waves due to a potential rise in variants and because community spread remains high creating an environment for cases to reignite, especially if compliance with personal actions such as masking and distancing decline. We encourage everyone to follow public health guidance, continue masking and avoid crowded and non-essential indoor settings. Updated UTSW forecasting reflects a leveling within their model with hospitalizations between 140-270 and daily case counts of 480 by April 8th. Modeling indicates if there are major changes to personal behaviors, such as not masking or social distancing, that we could reach or surpass previous surges in the next few months. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).





“Today we report an additional 302 cases of COVID 19, five of which are the B.1.1.7 variant that originated in the United Kingdom. We also report 15 additional deaths. The Fair Park site will be closed tomorrow but will open Sunday for first and second doses by invite and appointment only. Starting Monday, all persons throughout the State above the age of 16 will be eligible to get a vaccine. When you are able to receive the vaccine will depend on the list or lists you’ve signed up on, and where you are on that list. Some lists are ‘first to sign up, first to get a shot,’ while other lists, such as Dallas County’s, offer appointments first to those deemed most vulnerable. In Dallas County, vulnerability is determined by the Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation.

Register in as many places as you’re willing to drive and get vaccinated as soon as you are able to. Currently, in Dallas County, 26 % of residents have had at least one dose. Coupled with the number of people who still have antibodies from having COVID-19, we have a significant amount of people with some resistance to the virus but we still need to make good decisions. Wear a mask in public and in indoor settings, wash hands frequently and avoid large crowds, while getting vaccinated and encouraging others to do so. This is the strategy that will work to defeat COVID-19,” 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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