



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2021

Dallas County Reports 227 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 12 Deaths, Including 49 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 2:00 pm March 20, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 227 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 178 confirmed cases and 49 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 250,531 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 37,685 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 3,384 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 over 195,000 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 of Moderna at Fair Park will resume on Monday, March 22.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A woman in her 50's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She expired in an area hospital ED.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Cedar Hill. He had been critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Garland. She had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Balch Springs. He had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Dallas. He had been critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Desoto. She 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 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 had been 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 Grand Prairie. He expired in hospice care 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 Irving. She expired in the facility.
- A woman in her 80'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.
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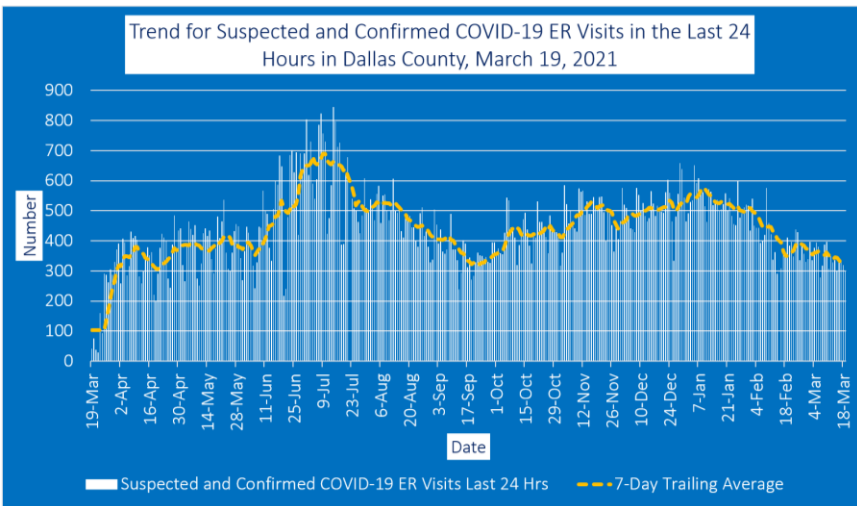
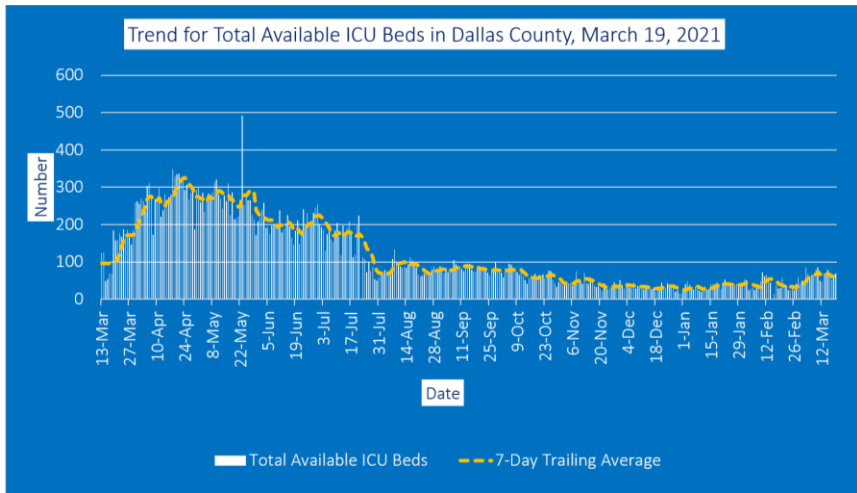
To date, a total of 14 cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 and one case of a B.1.526 variant have been identified in residents of Dallas County. One was hospitalized and five had history of recent domestic travel outside of Texas. The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 10 was **257**, which is a rate of **9.7** 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).

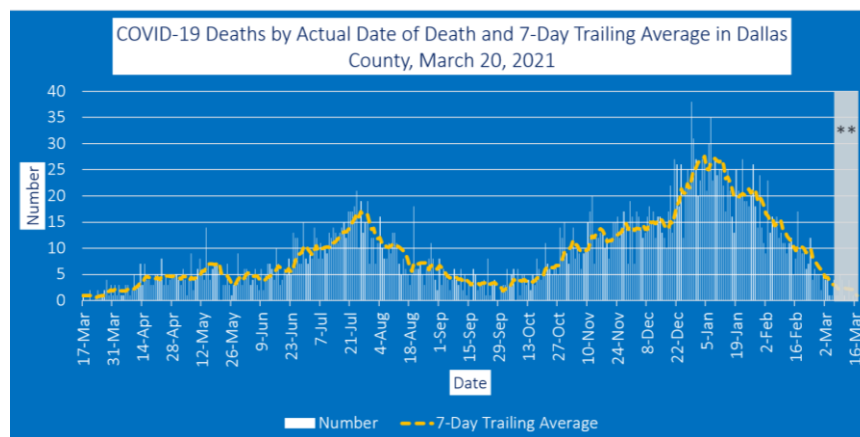
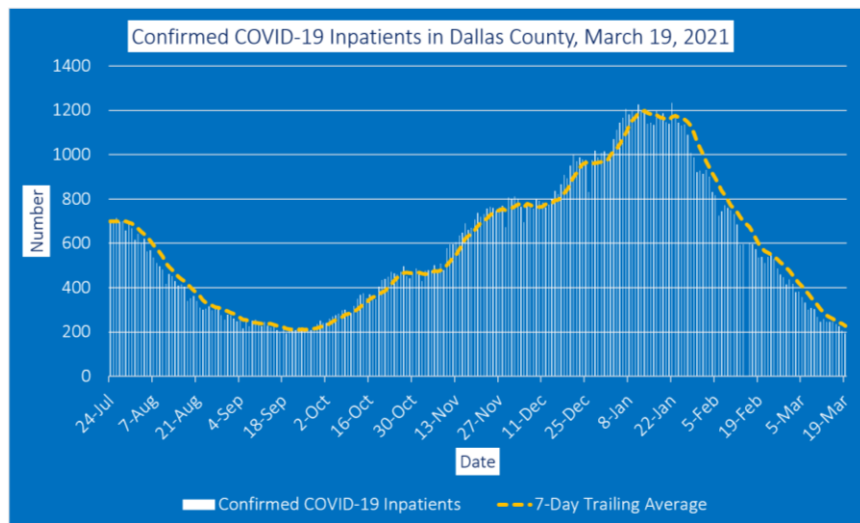
During the past 30 days, there were 1,297 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 425 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County. There are currently 25 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,255 residents and 2,359 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 1,002 have been hospitalized and 656 have died. About 22% of all deaths reported to date have been associated with long-term care facilities. Thirteen 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 429 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 194 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Friday, March 19. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 300 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>) over spring break and spring holidays. 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 increases within their model with hospitalizations to between 180-290 and daily case counts of 560 by April 5. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).

CDC Week	Week Ending	Total Confirmed and Probable Cases	Total School-Aged Cases (5 to 17 years)	Daily Average New Cases*	Daily Average New Confirmed and Probable Deaths**	Percentage of Tests Positive for SARS-CoV-2***
25	6/20/2020	5,817	471	831	6	26.90%
26	6/27/2020	8,551	642	1,222	9	30.50%
27	7/4/2020	8,893	695	1,270	10	30.00%
28	7/11/2020	9,145	861	1,306	10	26.60%
29	7/18/2020	6,557	687	937	13	21.70%
30	7/25/2020	4,538	495	648	16	19.30%
31	8/1/2020	3,359	422	480	14	15.90%
32	8/8/2020	2,844	323	406	10	14.00%
33	8/15/2020	2,165	183	309	9	13.20%
34	8/22/2020	1,767	188	252	7	11.20%
35	8/29/2020	2,207	186	315	7	10.80%
36	9/5/2020	2,087	162	298	5	10.50%
37	9/12/2020	1,886	201	269	4	9.70%
38	9/19/2020	2,247	238	321	4	11.40%
39	9/26/2020	2,495	262	356	3	10.70%
40	10/3/2020	2,701	304	386	3	10.00%
41	10/10/2020	3,657	458	522	4	11.50%
42	10/17/2020	4,501	555	643	4	14.30%
43	10/24/2020	5,357	695	765	6	15.10%
44	10/31/2020	5,433	613	776	10	15.00%
45	11/7/2020	7,757	942	1,108	9	15.30%
46	11/14/2020	10,124	1,304	1,446	13	20.30%
47	11/21/2020	10,162	1,231	1,452	12	21.20%
48	11/28/2020	8,684	913	1,241	15	21.40%
49	12/5/2020	12,278	1,707	1,754	14	25.00%
50	12/12/2020	12,498	1,684	1,785	15	23.40%
51	12/19/2020	13,351	1,668	1,907	16	26.60%
52	12/26/2020	12,418	1,352	1,774	21	27.70%
53	1/2/2021	16,381	1,901	2,340	28	31.30%
1	1/9/2021	19,119	2,524	2,731	27	31.50%
2	1/16/2021	13,823	1,921	1,975	23	27.50%
3	1/23/2021	11,778	1,665	1,683	20	25.70%
4	1/30/2021	10,174	1,486	1,453	20	24.70%
5	2/6/2021	7,619	1,146	1,088	14	21.10%
6	2/13/2021	4,797	594	685	12	19.70%
7	2/20/2021	1,697	121	242	10	16.00%
8	2/27/2021	3,254	451	465	6	12.10%
9	3/6/2021	2,079	271	297	3	9.90%
10	3/13/2021	1,801	242	257	2	6.90%





“Today we report 227 new COVID positive cases and 12 additional deaths. Our weekly average of COVID positive cases is 257, 40 cases lower than last week’s average. We reported the loss of 85 people this week to COVID, bringing our total number of deaths from COVID to 3,384 on this the one-year anniversary of the first COVID death in Dallas County. The positivity rate of COVID remains high, with 6.9% of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in CDC week 10 (week ending 3/13/21).

We’re hopeful that vaccinations will accelerate even more in the month of April and this will help with infections, hospitalizations, and deaths. Is it critical that we continue to do the things that science has shown will help protect us from COVID: wear your mask, wash your hands, avoid unnecessary crowds, and register in as many places as you’re willing to drive to get vaccinated. Once registered, get vaccinated as soon as you are eligible. If we work together ‘one team one fight’ making the small sacrifices that patriotism and public health requires in the coming weeks, we will reach herd immunity and get to a new normal in our battle against COVID, which together, will win,” 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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