



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2021

Dallas County Reports 270 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 21 Deaths, Including 95 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm March 24, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 270 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 175 confirmed cases and 95 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 251,214 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 37,984 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 3,434 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 214,000 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 additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A man in his 30'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 40's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. She expired in hospice care and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 40's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He expired at 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 Dallas. He 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 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 60's who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. He 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 Sunnyvale. He had been hospitalized 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 hospice care 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 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 Lancaster. He had been hospitalized 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 underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Cedar Hill. 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 Irving. He expired in hospice care and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80’s who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She expired at home 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 Dallas. She expired in hospice 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 Carrollton. She 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 Mesquite. He expired in hospice care and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 90’s who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Dallas. She expired in hospice care and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 90’s who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 90’s who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.

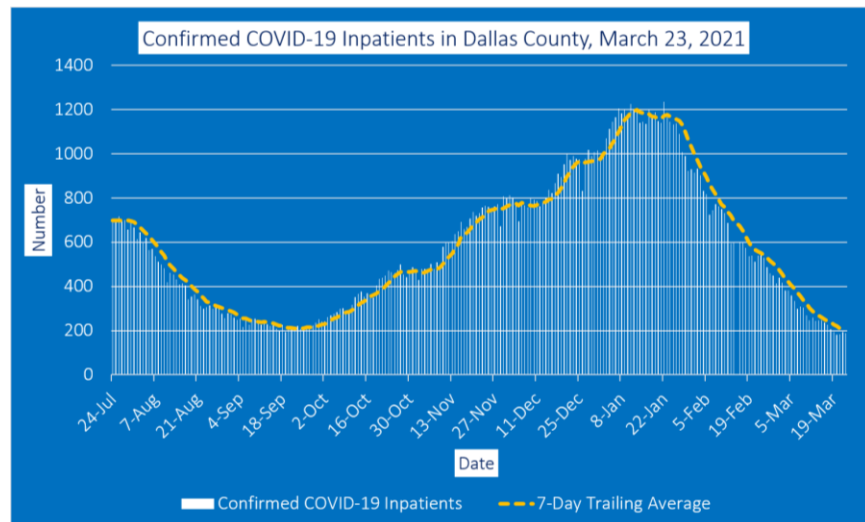
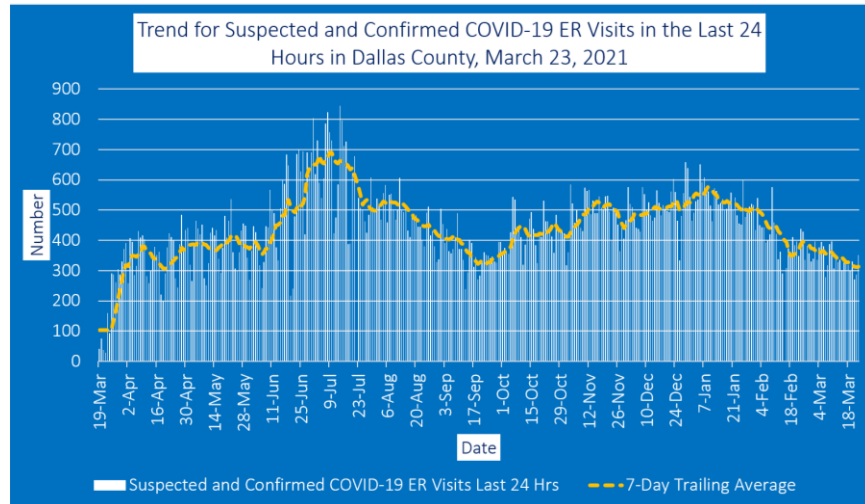
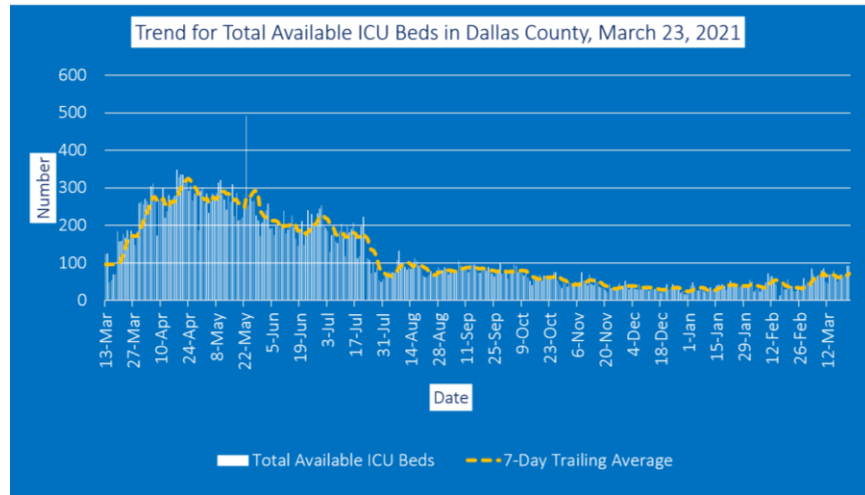
To date, a total of 14 cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7; two cases of B.1.429 variants; and one case of a B.1.526 variant have been identified in residents of Dallas County. Two have been hospitalized and five had history of recent domestic travel outside of Texas. The provisional seven-day average 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).

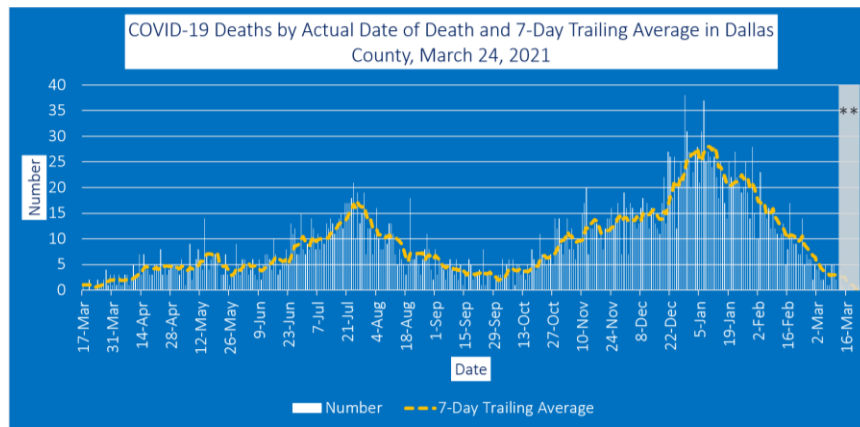
An outbreak of over 50 cases of COVID-19 has been reported this past week among high school students who attended a dance and dinner on March 13th. During the past 30 days, there were 1,351 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 415 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County. There 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 190 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on March 23. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 352 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 8. 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 270 new COVID cases and 21 additional deaths. The numbers have been trending in the right direction, and last night, the Public Health Committee moved the COVID-19 risk level in Dallas County from red to orange. This move signals that more activities can be considered safe by doctors if appropriate precautions are taken. For instance, trips for haircuts and other personal grooming outside the home are now considered safe if masks are worn and eating on a patio at an appropriate distance is also considered a safe option. For a full list of the differences between the red threat level we’ve been in for the last several months and the orange level, go to <https://www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/>. To keep the metrics trending in the right direction, we must continue to do the things that have proven to keep us safe: wear your mask when around people outside your home, wash your hands, maintain six-foot distance, and avoid unnecessary crowds. By doing these things and with increasing vaccinations, together, we will defeat COVID,” 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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