



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 5, 2020

**Dallas County Reports 203 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases
398 Total Cases Reported Today with 203 from Older Months**

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm September 5, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 398 additional confirmed cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), bringing the total confirmed case count in Dallas County to 73,453 including 944 confirmed deaths. The total number of probable cases in Dallas County is 3,046, including 10 probable deaths from COVID-19.

Of the 398 new cases we are reporting today, 203 came through the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) system with 195 from older months. Please see a provisional breakdown below of these newly reported cases by date of collection:

Month	# of positive patients
August	151
September	44

- The additional death being reported today is of a man in his 80's who was a resident of the City of Lancaster. He had been hospitalized, and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- The provisional 7-day average daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 35 has increased slightly to 244. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 has also increased, with 10.8% of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 35.
- From August 15th through 28th, 317 school-aged children between 5 to 17 years of age were diagnosed with COVID-19 in Dallas County. About 43% of these cases were high school age (14 to 17 years). By zip code of residence, 167 (53%) of these children were projected to have been enrolled in Dallas ISD schools.
- 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.
- Of the total confirmed deaths reported to date, about 25% have been associated with long-term care facilities.
- New cases are being reported as a daily aggregate, with a more detailed summary report updated Tuesdays and Fridays.

Local health experts use hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and ER visits as three of the key indicators in determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. There were 352 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Friday, September 4. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 438 for the 24 hour period ending on Friday, September 4, which represents around 20 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional

Advisory Council. While these numbers represent a significant decline from record highs in July, the disruptive impact of COVID-19 on our populations and health care systems remains. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).

Additionally, Figure 1 and Table 11 below are from the September 4, 2020 Dallas County Health and Human Services 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Summary. Figure 1 shows the confirmed COVID-19 positive cases by date of test collection. This chart includes all delayed results that were received by DCHHS as of 8:00pm Thursday. Table 11 is a summary of confirmed and probable cases and deaths over the past five weeks in Dallas County.

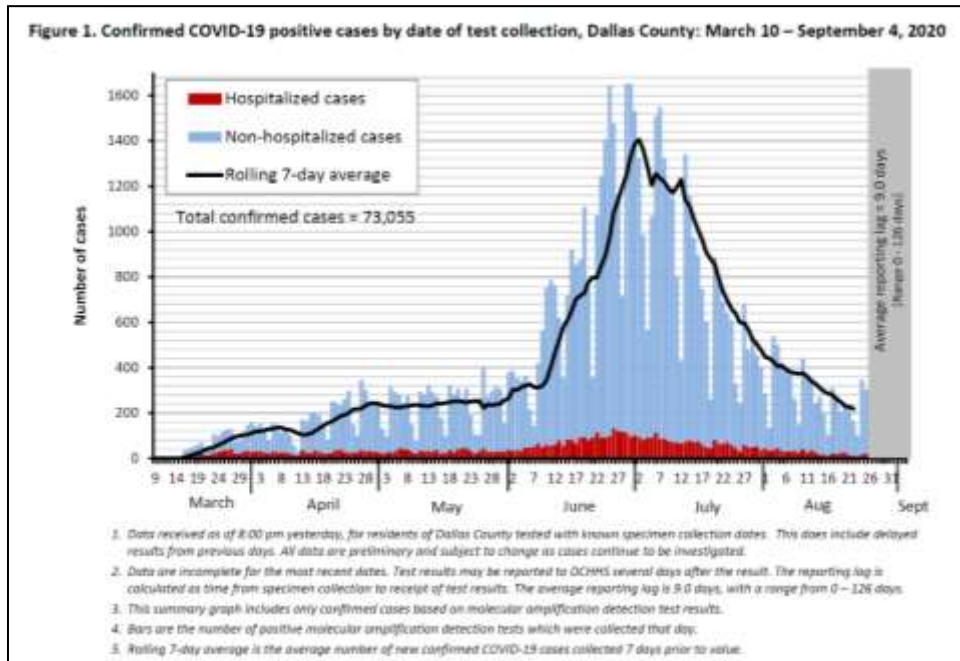
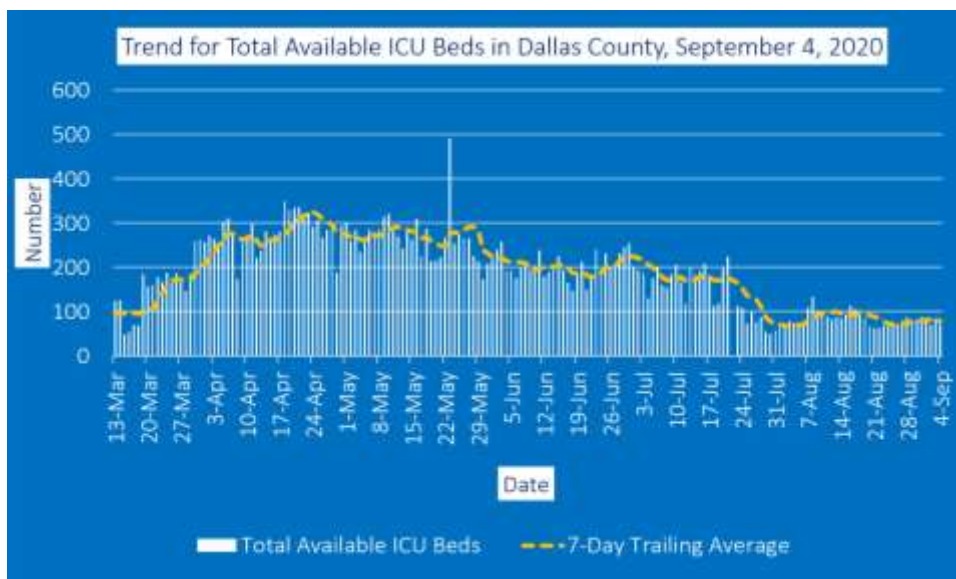
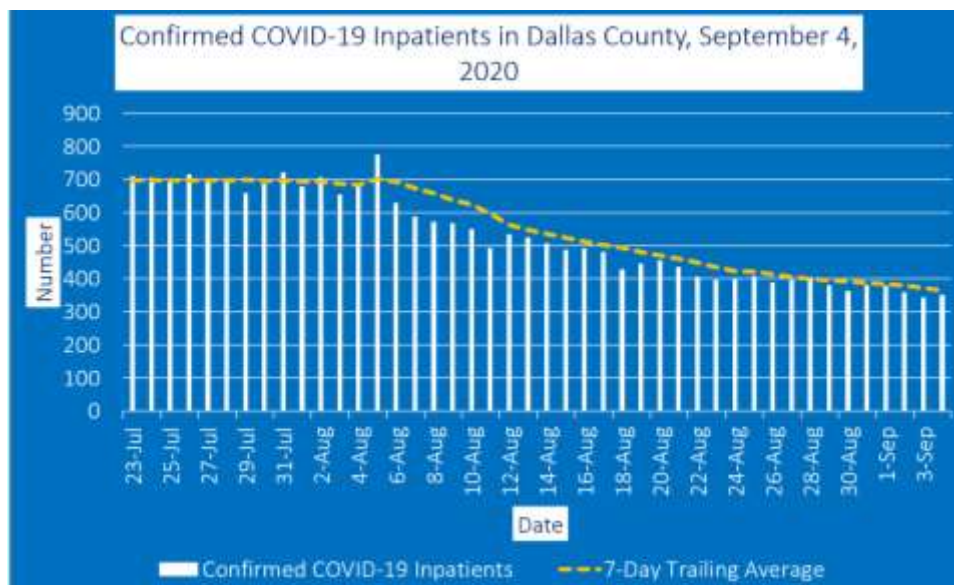
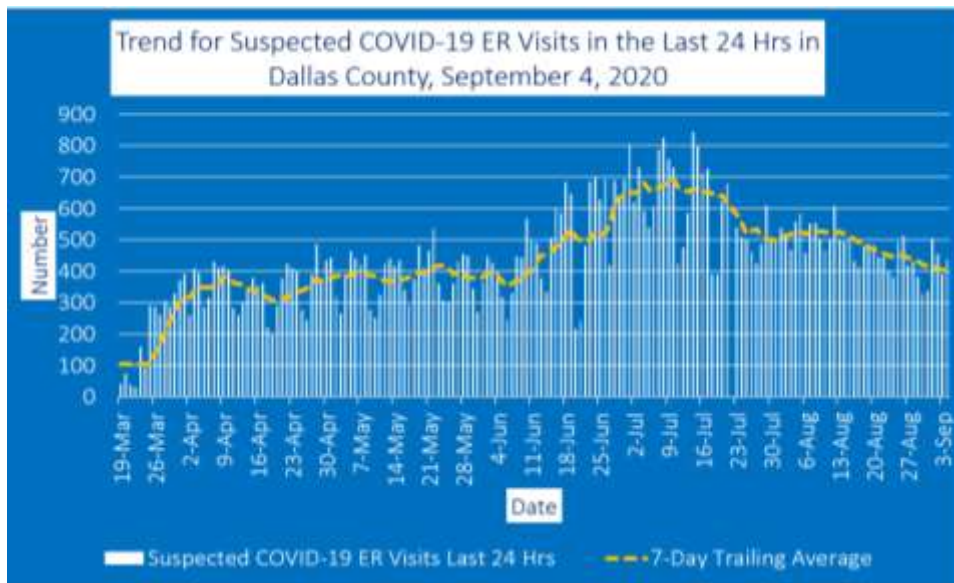


Table 11. Summary of weekly COVID-19 confirmed and probable cases and deaths, Dallas County (CDC Weeks 31 - 35)

CDC Week	Week Ending	Total Confirmed and Probable Cases	Daily Average New Confirmed and Probable Cases*	Daily Average New Confirmed and Probable Deaths**	Percentage of Respiratory Specimens Testing Positive for SARS-CoV-2***
31	8/1/2020	3,306	472	11	15.9%
32	8/8/2020	2,858	408	8	14.0%
33	8/15/2020	2,150	307	8	12.8%
34	8/22/2020	1,659	237	5	11.3%
35	8/29/2020	1,707	244	4	10.8%

* For 7-day time period for respective CDC week by date of test collection
 ** For 7-day time period for respective CDC week by date of death
 *** See Table 6 for historical data





“This week ends with a preliminary daily average of 259 new cases, which is up from last week. When you include this week’s old cases from the state’s flawed ELR system, the daily average this week is 350. We also lost 45 people this week, which ties for the seventh deadliest week thus far for COVID-19. These numbers point out the importance of continuing to mask whenever around people outside your home and maintain six-foot distance from them. Frequently wash your hands. Please avoid unnecessary trips and exposure.

If we all make smart decisions to limit our risk; less people will get sick, more businesses will thrive, and our children can get back to school sooner rather than later. This weekend is a critical time for us. The numbers have been lowering, but three-day weekends have historically led to more infections as people get around family and friends attending functions where there is more exposure than in a normal weekend. We cannot let that happen this weekend.

We cannot not see a big bump in cases like we saw ten days after Easter/Passover and ten days after Memorial Day. Should we see an increase in cases from this weekend, it could be the spring before we can get those numbers back down. It is very important everyone make the best decisions to keep themselves and their families safe this holiday. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable rest of the Labor Day weekend,” 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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