



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 19, 2020

**Dallas County Reports 155 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases
156 Total Cases Reported Today with One Case from April**

DALLAS -- As of 3:00 pm September 19, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 156 additional confirmed cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), bringing the total confirmed case count in Dallas County to 77,118 including 994 confirmed deaths. An additional 25 new probable cases with positive antigen test results were reported in Dallas County since yesterday, bringing the total probable cases in Dallas County to 3,799, including 11 probable deaths from COVID-19. Of the 156 new cases we are reporting today, four came through the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) system and one was from a previous month. Please see a provisional breakdown below of these newly reported cases by date of collection:

Month	# of positive patients
April	1
September	3

The additional 4 deaths being reported today include the following:

- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. 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 Grand Prairie. 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 Grand Prairie. He had been critically ill in an area hospital, and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.

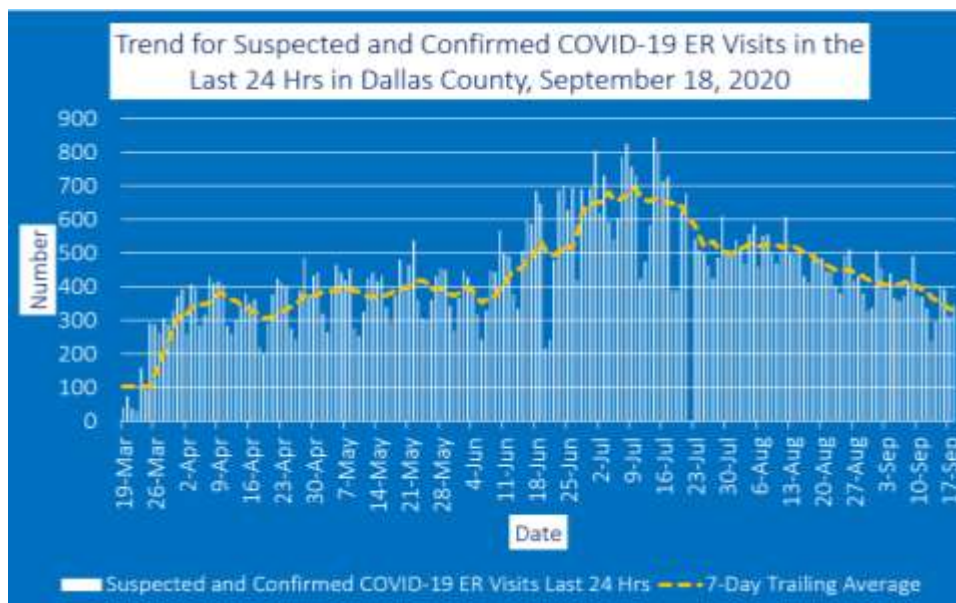
The provisional 7-day average daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 37 was 240, a decrease from the previous daily average of 279 for CDC week 36. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high with 10.0% of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 37.

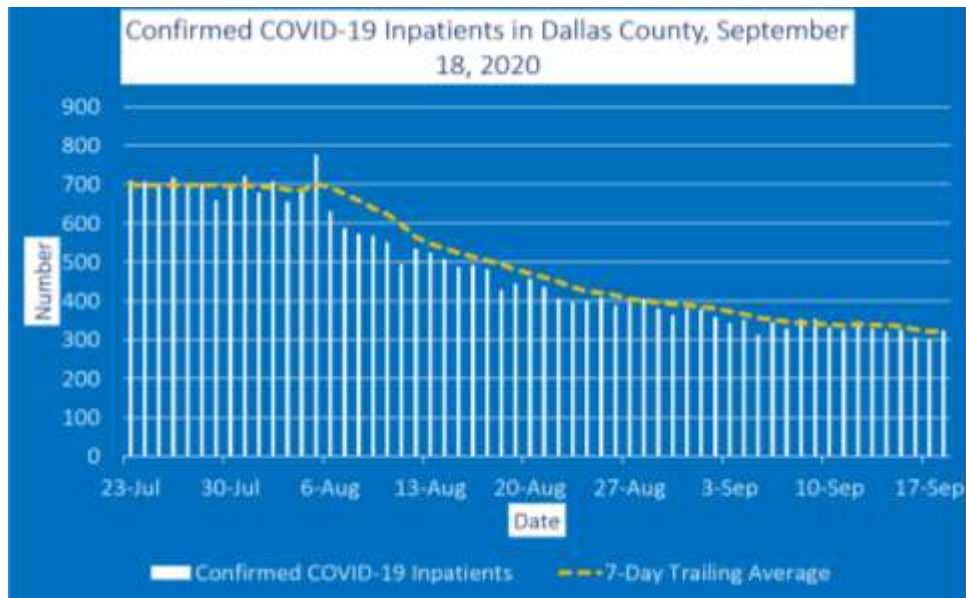
A provisional total of 156 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 37 (week ending 9/12/2020), an increase from the previous week for this age group. The percentage of cases occurring in young adults aged 18 to 22 years has increased to 14% over the past 2 weeks.

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 324 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Friday, September 18. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 344 for the 24 hour period ending on Friday, September 18, which represents around 15 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](#).





“Today we report 155 new COVID-19 positive cases and four additional deaths. We are now giving you two weekly totals for daily averages for tests and deaths. Because of continued problems with the state’s electronic laboratory reporting system, the lagging number that we gave you yesterday from CDC week 37 is the more accurate number that relies on checking each case’s date of test and stripping out any cases that may be considered old cases and adding in any cases that may be late arriving but considered appropriate cases for that time period.

We continue to provide a rough number of the total preliminary numbers of “new” positive COVID-19 cases for the week from Sunday through Saturday by dividing the total number of cases by seven and providing the total number of deaths reported. That number for this week is 256 average cases per day and 24 deaths. That compares to 202 average cases per day and 26 deaths under this metric from one week ago, and 287 cases and 45 deaths the week before that.

To see less COVID-19 cases, more businesses open and thrive, and more kids in school, it’s very important that you continue to wear your mask and keep six feet distance, wash your hands frequently, avoid unnecessary trips, and avoid any indoor activities where people are not wearing their mask one hundred percent of the time. If we all make smart decisions, together we can get to a better place,” 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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