



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 21, 2020**

**Dallas County Reports 325 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases  
327 Total Cases Reported Today with 2 Confirmed Cases from August and 11 Probable Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 2:00 pm September 21, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting a total of 327 additional cases (316 confirmed + 11 probable) of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Of the 316 newly reported confirmed cases, all but two were from the month of September. The cumulative confirmed case count in Dallas County is 78,205 including 997 confirmed deaths. The cumulative probable case count in Dallas County is 3,874, including 11 probable deaths from COVID-19.

Of the 316 new reports of positive molecular COVID-19 tests we are reporting today, 177 came through the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) system, and two were from August. Please see a provisional breakdown below of these newly reported cases by date of collection:

| Month     | # of positive patients |
|-----------|------------------------|
| August    | 2                      |
| September | 175                    |

The additional 2 deaths being reported today include the following:

- 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 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.

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. Due to weekend reporting, new data will be available on Tuesday, September 22, 2020.

“Today we’ve seen 325 new cases including 11 probable cases. Additionally, we have two older cases from a previous month and two deaths. The deaths today are of two people in their 50’s which is an important reminder that COVID-19 can be deadly in middle-aged populations. We’ve seen deadly cases in teenagers up through people in their 90’s and this does not account for people on ventilators or with very serious illnesses. This is a critical reason why it’s important that we all practice one hundred percent masking and at least six-foot social distancing as well as washing hands, avoiding unnecessary trips, and avoiding indoor activities where people are not masked one hundred percent of the time.

With the weather getting cooler, those interested in a restaurant dining experience, should consider patio dining as preferable to indoor dining. Indoor spacing may become more difficult now that the percentage of occupancy in a restaurant has increased to seventy-five percent. It’s important that you check the spacing and protocols for businesses that you frequent to make sure that you can follow the guidelines at [www.DallasCountyCOVID.org](http://www.DallasCountyCOVID.org). Those guidelines require all persons not eating or drinking to be masked and for the tables to have six-foot separation.

Similarly, shopping may become more challenging as more people may return to retail establishments and so choosing the right time and businesses who achieve compliance with one hundred percent masking from patrons will be very important. As more kids go back to school, and occupancies increase, your vigilance in making good decisions to protect you, your family and public health is absolutely essential to keeping less people from getting sick, helping more businesses and jobs to thrive and more kids to get back to school sooner rather than later,” 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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