



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 22, 2020

**Dallas County Reports 171 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases
173 Total Cases Reported Today with 2 Confirmed Cases from Previous Months and 1 Probable Case**

DALLAS -- As of 5:00 pm September 22, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting a total of 173 additional cases (172 confirmed + 1 probable) of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Of the 172 newly reported confirmed cases, almost all were from the month of September. The cumulative confirmed case count in Dallas County is 78,377 including 1,000 confirmed deaths. The cumulative probable case count in Dallas County is 3,875, including 11 probable deaths from COVID-19. Of the 172 new reports of positive molecular COVID-19 tests, 73 came through the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) system and 2 were from previous months. Please see a provisional breakdown below of these newly reported cases by date of collection:

Month	# of positive patients
June	1
July	1
September	71

The additional 3 deaths being reported today include the following:

- 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.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Garland. 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 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 257, a decrease from the previous daily average of 294 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 179 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% for the month of September.

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. Tuesday's report is attached.

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 318 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Monday, September 21. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 329 for the 24 hour period ending on Monday, September 21, 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](#).

Additionally, Figure 1 and Table 11 below are from the September 22, 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 Monday. Table 11 is a summary of confirmed and probable cases and deaths over the past five weeks in Dallas County.

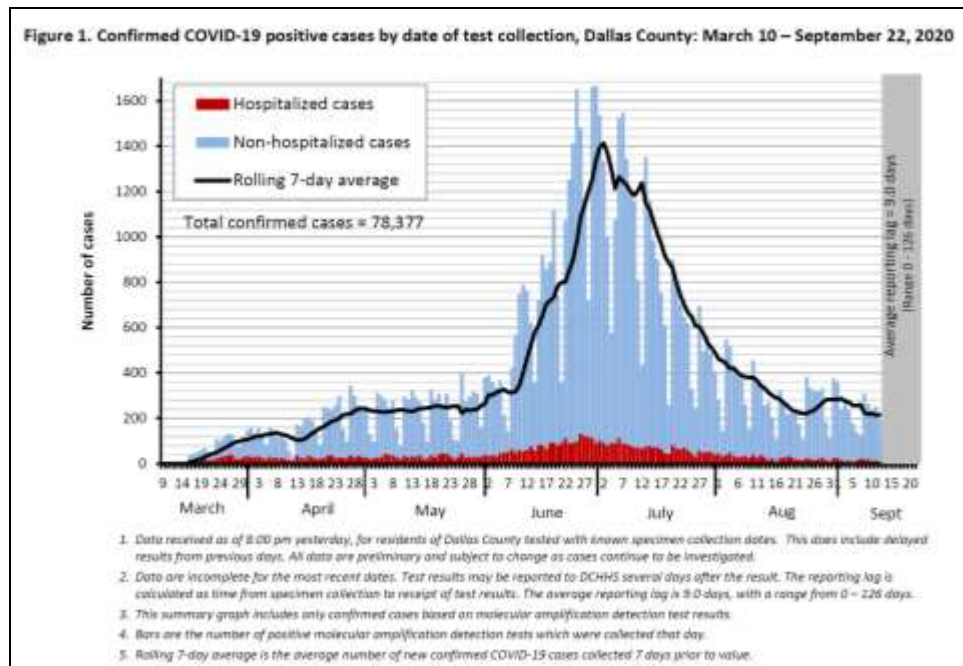


Table 11. Summary of weekly COVID-19 confirmed and probable cases and deaths, Dallas County (CDC Weeks 33 - 37)

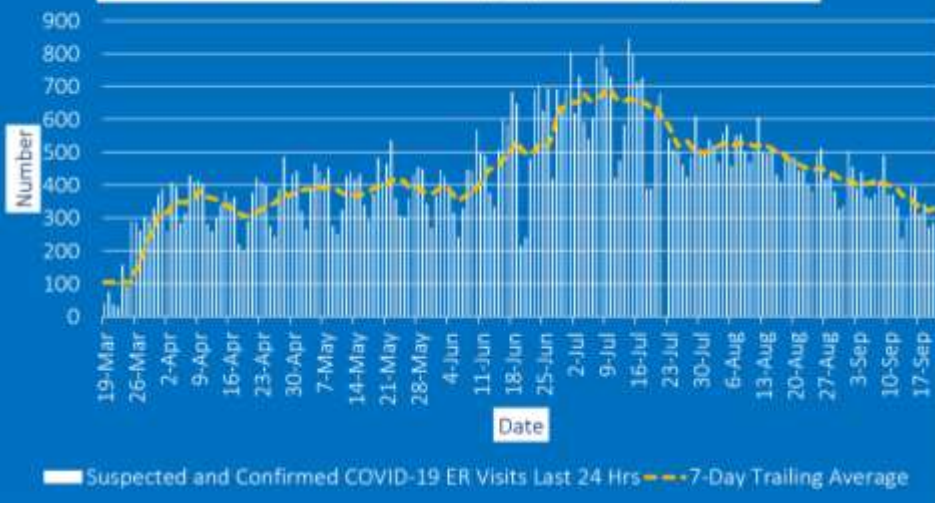
CDC Week	Week Ending	Total Confirmed and Probable Cases	Total School-Aged Cases (5 to 17 years)	Daily Average New Confirmed and Probable Cases*	Daily Average New Confirmed and Probable Deaths**	Percentage of Tests Positive for SARS-CoV-2***
33	8/15/2020	2,206	179	315	8	12.8%
34	8/22/2020	1,722	182	246	6	11.3%
35	8/29/2020	2,214	189	316	5	10.8%
36	9/5/2020	2,055	149	294	2	10.8%
37	9/12/2020	1,796	179	257	<1	10.0%

* 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

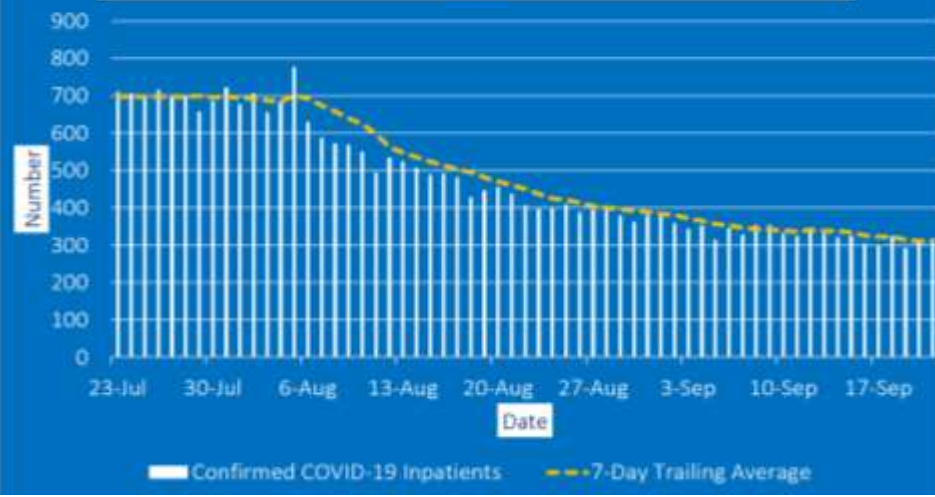
Trend for Total Available ICU Beds in Dallas County, September 21, 2020



Trend for Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 ER Visits in the Last 24 Hrs in Dallas County, September 21, 2020



Confirmed COVID-19 Inpatients in Dallas County, September 21, 2020





“Today we reached the grim milestone of 1,000 recorded deaths from COVID-19. Our most recent reported death died on September 18. Our first reported death was March 19. Please pause today with me for a moment of reflection and prayer for the 1,000 families who lost a loved one over that six month period and the thousands more who suffer with symptoms and recovery from COVID-19 as well as the emotional and financial turmoil that it has brought to our community.

Looking at the most recent data from the Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation, over the 179 day period from March 19 to September 13, more people died of COVID-19 than stroke or any other cause other than all forms of heart disease and all forms of cancer. If we were to extrapolate that death rate across a 365 day period, we would have over 2,000 deaths. Whether or not that occurs is largely up to you. I’m hopeful that with the decreases in hospitalizations, positivity rates, and new COVID-19 cases that we have seen since I put universal masking into effect in Dallas County in June and the Governor made that statewide in July, we will not see that happen. But, it’s up to all of us to wear our mask when outside our home, maintain six-foot distance, wash our hands frequently, avoid unnecessary trips and it’s best to avoid any indoor activity where masks cannot be worn one hundred percent of the time.

If we continue to make good choices as a community, things will get better and the next 179 days will be better for public health, for business, and for our children than the first 179 days. But our success is up to each and every one of you putting the public good over selfish desires to take part in the few activities that doctors tell us are not yet safe to participate in.

We received the provisional totals for CDC week 37 and again we saw a decrease (257) from the previous daily average (294) for CDC week 36. Remember that these daily averages change regularly as new cases that come in from the reporting system are assigned to their CDC week. So if you look at previous press releases, you’ll see different numbers from a few days ago regarding CDC week 36, which is why these numbers are provisional.

The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for COVID-19 remains at 10.0% which is high but is the same as it was last week. The provisional total of 179 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases for school-aged children during week 37 is another weekly increase from the previous week for this age group. Week 36 was 149 cases and week 35 was 189 cases,” 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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