



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 2020

**Dallas County Reports 328 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases
348 Total Cases Reported Today with 20 Confirmed Cases from Previous Months and 2 Probable Cases**

DALLAS -- As of 3:00 pm September 23, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting a total of 348 additional cases (346 confirmed + 2 probable) of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Of the 346 newly reported confirmed cases, almost all were from the month of September. The cumulative confirmed case count in Dallas County is 78,723 including 1,002 confirmed deaths. The cumulative probable case count in Dallas County is 3,877, including 11 probable deaths from COVID-19. Of the 346 new reports of positive molecular COVID-19 tests, 221 came through the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) system and 20 were from previous months. Please see a provisional breakdown below of these newly reported cases by date of collection:

Month	# of positive patients
July	9
August	11
September	201

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 man in his 70'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.

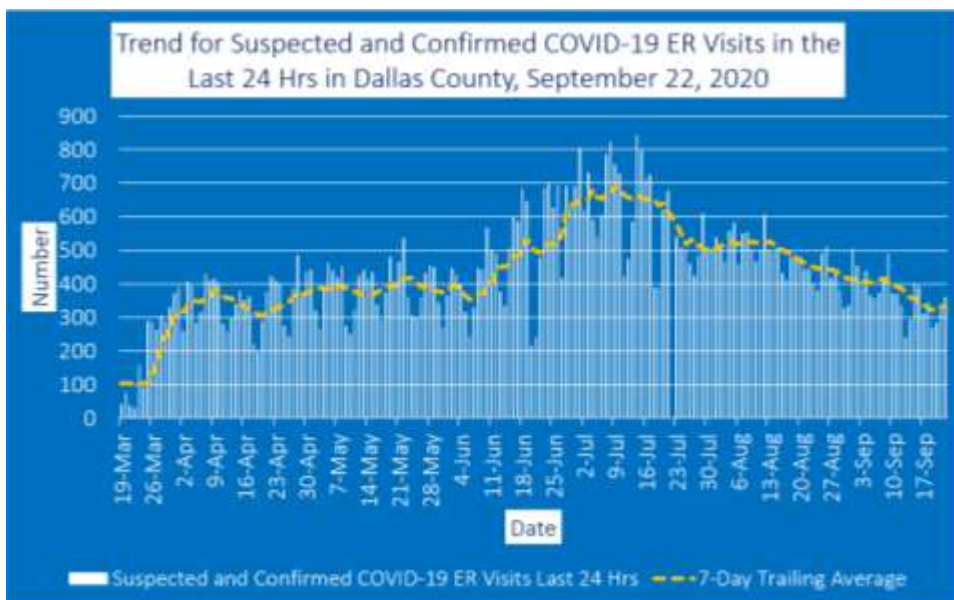
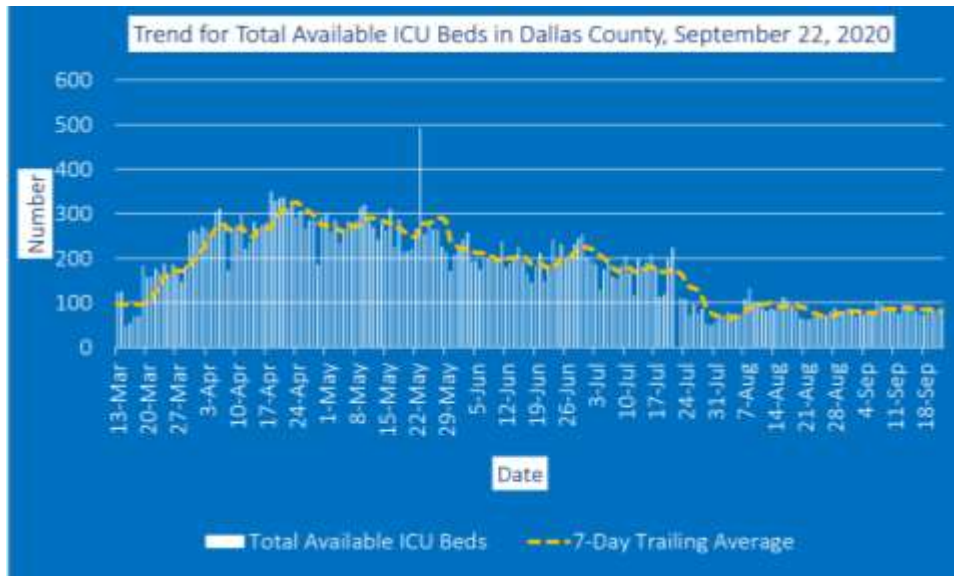
The provisional 7-day average daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 37 was 257, a decrease from the previous daily average of 294 for CDC week 36. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high with 10.0% of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 37.

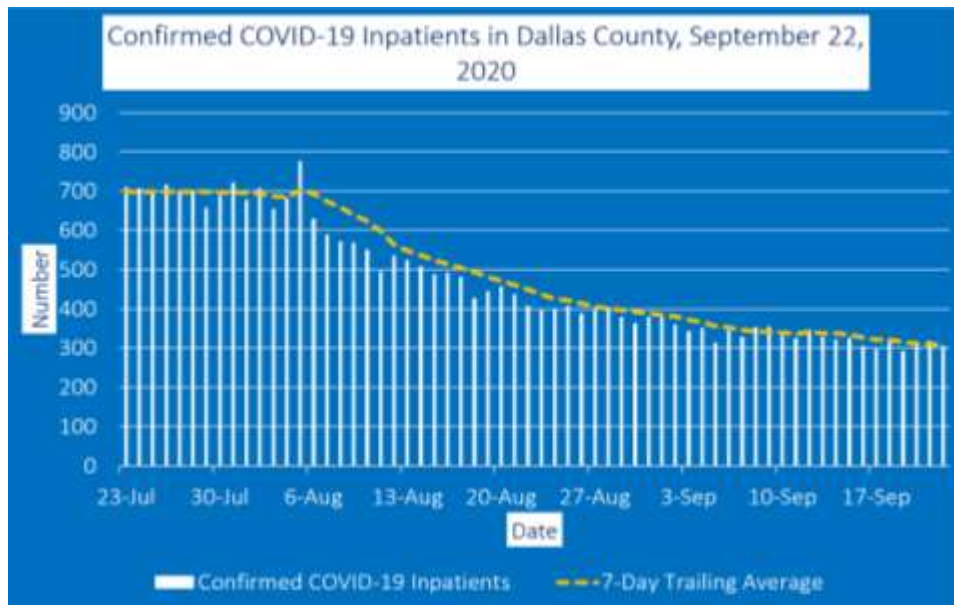
A provisional total of 179 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 37 (week ending 9/12/2020), an increase from the previous week for this age group. The percentage of cases occurring in young adults aged 18 to 22 years has increased 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.

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 306 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Tuesday, September 22. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 361 for the 24 hour period ending on Tuesday, September 22, which represents around 14 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 had 328 new cases of COVID-19 and 20 old cases, as well as two more deaths. Our hospitalization numbers have stopped their decrease and have been largely flat over the last few days. The increases in infection in Tarrant County and the increasing openings of bars under loopholes made possible by Governor Abbott, along with more schools opening, means that we all need to be on our toes in making smart decisions. Unfortunately, bars have been linked to spread in most states, including Texas, and the local Public Health Committee is strongly discouraging frequenting bars at this time.

Similarly, the Public Health Committee is strongly encouraging people to take advantage of the cooler weather and do more workouts and other activities outside rather than in indoor locations. Whether we stay flat, begin to erode our gains and go back up, or work our way into trending down again is largely up to the decisions of the community. If we continue to wear a mask one hundred percent of the time when outside the home and maintain six-foot distancing while avoiding unnecessary trips and any indoor activity where a mask cannot be worn one hundred percent of the time, then I believe we can get back to seeing improvement.

With the increasing capacities at certain businesses and more activities opening up, it will more important than ever that we make these good decisions. We must put the community good over our selfish desire to do those few things that the Public Health Committee continues to recommend against so that we can protect public health, jobs, and get our children back to school safely,” 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>

CONTACT:

Clay Lewis Jenkins, Dallas County Judge

Clay.Jenkins@dallascounty.org

[214-653-7949](tel:214-653-7949)

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