



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 24, 2020

**Dallas County Reports 141 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases
704 Total Cases Reported Today with 563 Confirmed Cases from Previous Months and 1 Probable Case**

DALLAS -- As of 2:00 pm September 24, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting a total of 704 additional cases (703 confirmed + 1 probable) of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Of the 704 newly reported confirmed cases, 160 were from the month of September. The cumulative confirmed case count in Dallas County is 79,426 including 1,005 confirmed deaths. The cumulative probable case count in Dallas County is 3,878, including 11 probable deaths from COVID-19. Of the 703 new reports of positive molecular COVID-19 tests, 692 came through the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) system and 563 were from previous months. Please see a provisional breakdown below of these newly reported cases by date of collection:

Month	# of positive patients
June	259
July	303
August	1
September	129

The additional 3 deaths being reported today include the following:

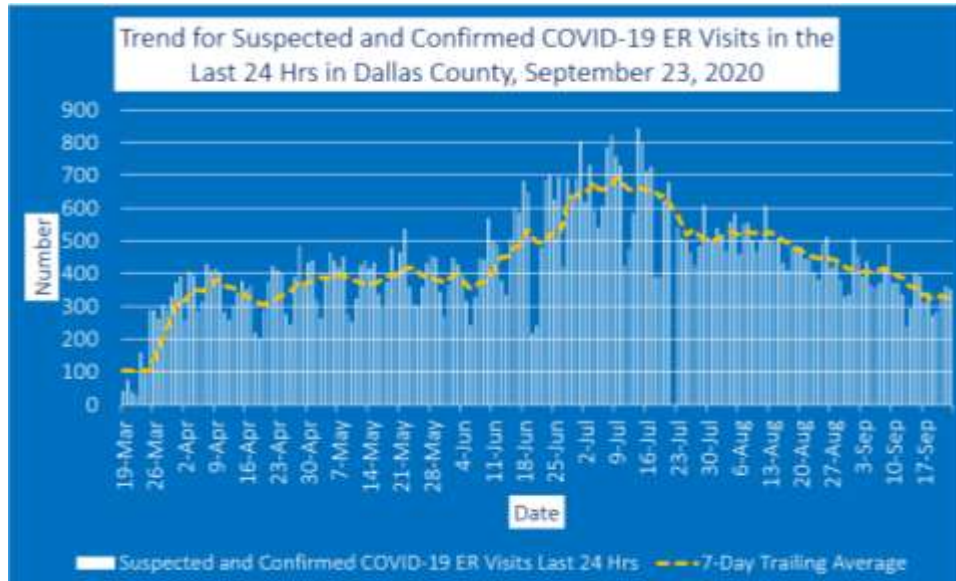
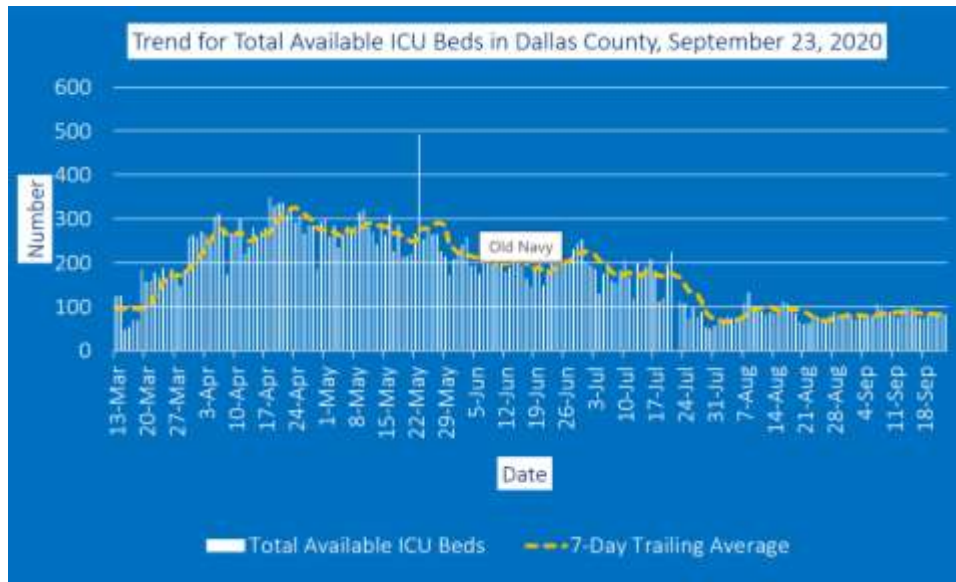
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Dallas. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 90's who was a resident of the City of Carrollton. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.

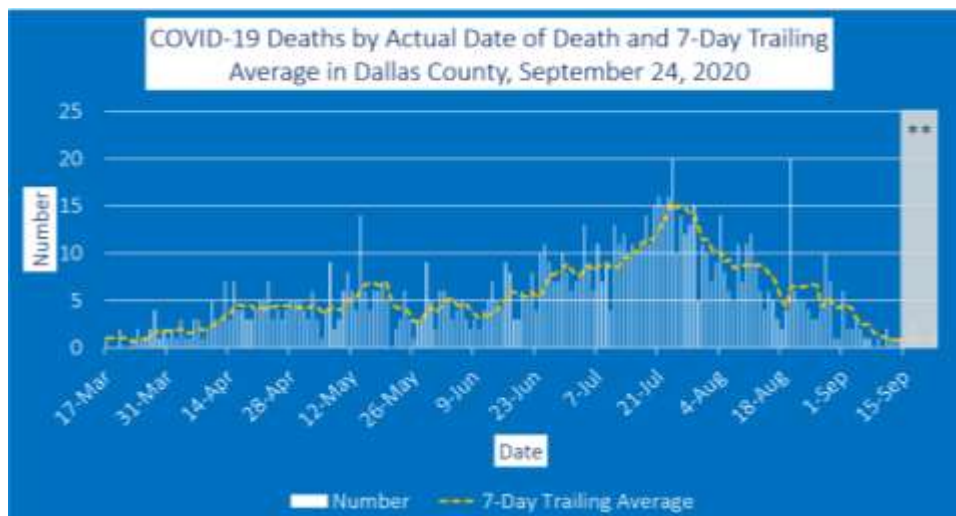
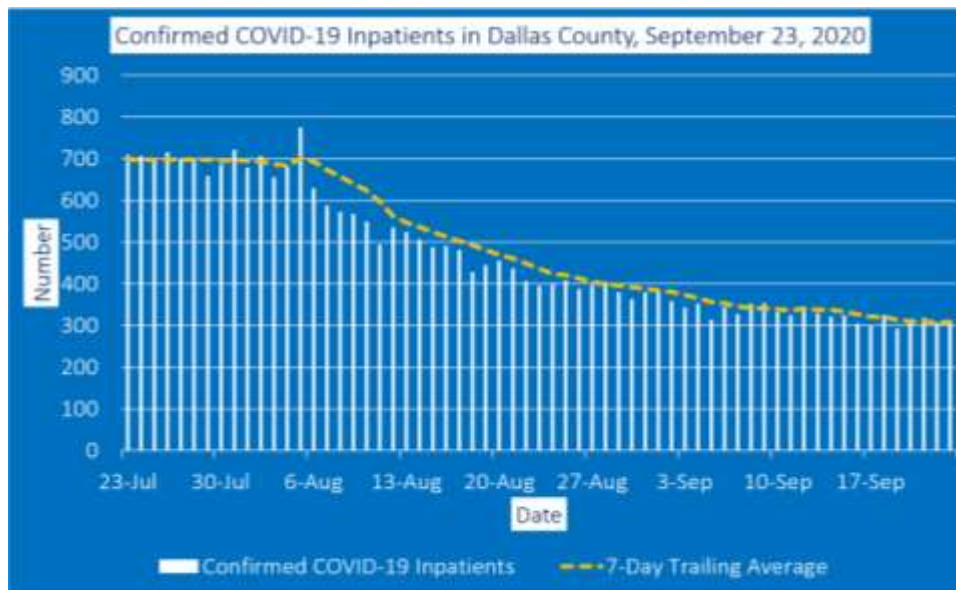
The provisional 7-day average daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 37 was 257, a decrease from the previous daily average of 294 for CDC week 36. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high with 10.0% of symptomatic 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 314 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Wednesday, September 23. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 351 for the 24 hour period ending on Wednesday, September 23, 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 have a lot of older cases being reported which inflates our total number but the new cases reported today are 141. Sadly, we report three more deaths. Texas surpassed California to have the second most COVID-19 cases behind only New York last week, and is on pace to surpass New Jersey soon for the second most number of deaths, again only behind New York.

Although we are concerned about the numbers in surrounding counties and how that will affect us, and although there are other parts of the state that are seeing upticks, Dallas County is still considered flat by the medical modelers and doctors who are looking at it. Our improvement has stopped but we have not seen an increase over a 7 or 14 day period in the metrics that the doctors look at. It’s particularly important during this time where we are seeing the reemergence and increase of COVID-19 in other counties and regions of Texas, and considering the interconnectedness of all of us, that you continue to make the smart decisions that have led to good trends over the last two months here in Dallas County. Namely, wearing your mask and six-foot distancing and hand washing. That is a one-two-three punch. To be most effective, you must do all three. Also, avoiding unnecessary trips, and if you must make a trip to an indoor business, looking for times when a business won’t be crowded and looking for businesses that are in strict compliance with CDC and local health guidelines.

Doctors strongly discourage going to bars or working out in gyms and remind us that it is wise to avoid any indoor event where masks cannot be worn one hundred percent of the time. For those who want to engage in events like dining out where masks cannot be worn one hundred percent of the time, doctors are strongly advocating for takeout, curbside, or patio dining in lieu of an indoor dining experience. Whether the curve stays flat, goes up, or goes down is largely up to all of us and the decisions that we make. Let’s put the community good over our selfish desires to do the few things that doctors are saying are not safe at this time and by doing that we can see less

sickness, more businesses thrive and keep our residents employed, and get more of our kids 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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