



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 29, 2020

**Dallas County Reports 772 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases
803 Total Cases Reported Today with 31 Confirmed Cases from Previous Months and 14 Probable Cases**

DALLAS -- As of 7:00 pm September 29, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting a total of 803 additional cases (789 confirmed + 14 probable) of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Of the 789 newly reported confirmed cases, 758 confirmed cases were from the month of September. The cumulative confirmed case count in Dallas County is 82,161 including 1,022 confirmed deaths. The cumulative probable case count in Dallas County is 4,052 including 13 probable deaths from COVID-19. Of the 789 new reports of positive molecular COVID-19 tests, 517 came through the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) system and only 31 were from previous months. Please see a provisional breakdown below of these newly reported cases by date of collection:

Month	# of positive patients
May	5
July	2
August	24
September	486

The additional death being reported today is of man in his 80'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 38 was 307, an *increase* from the previous daily average of 261 for CDC week 37. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 has *increased* and remains high with 11.9% of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 38.

A provisional total of 237 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 38 (week ending 9/19/2020), 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 13% 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 317 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Monday, September 28. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County

was 326 for the 24 hour period ending on Monday, September 28, which represents around 16 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, they remain plateaued or slightly up and regionally, the numbers have begun to increase. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).

Additionally, Figure 1 and Table 11 below are from the September 29, 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 four weeks in Dallas County.

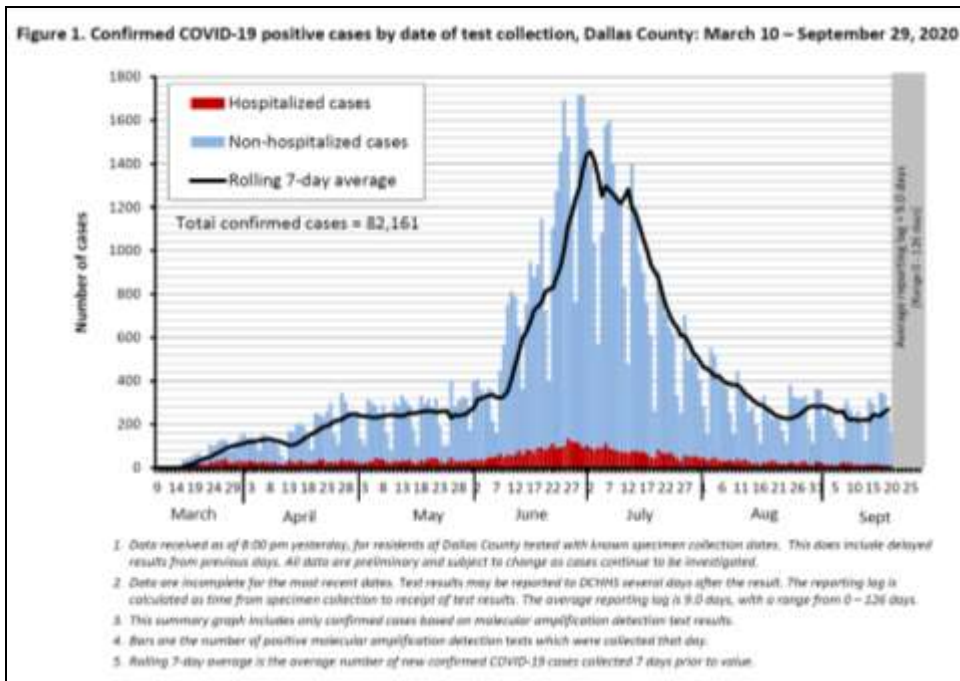
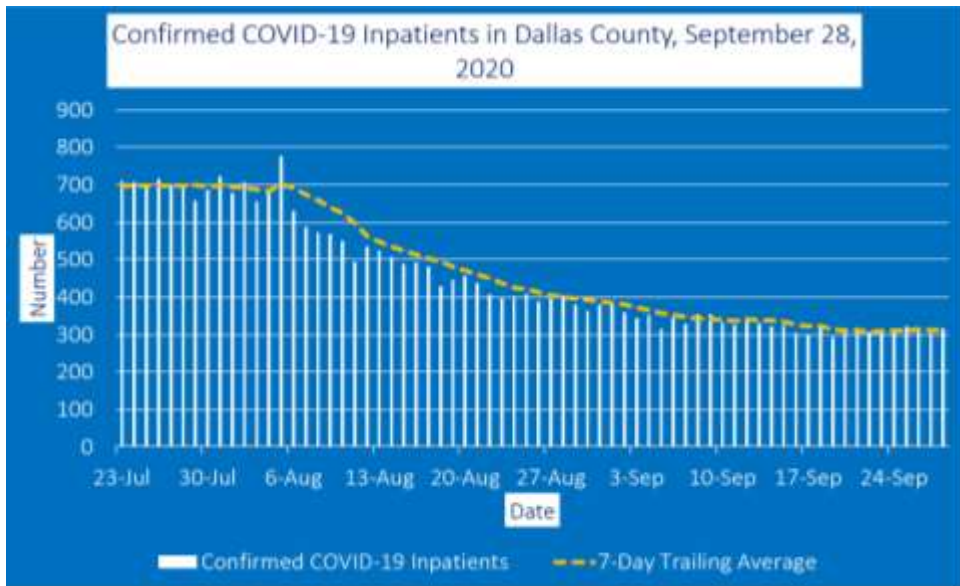
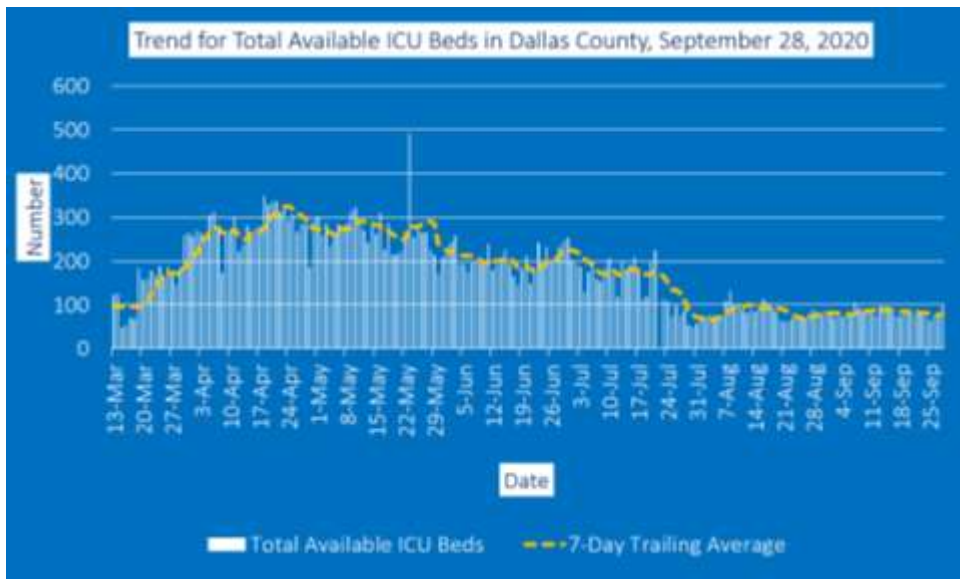
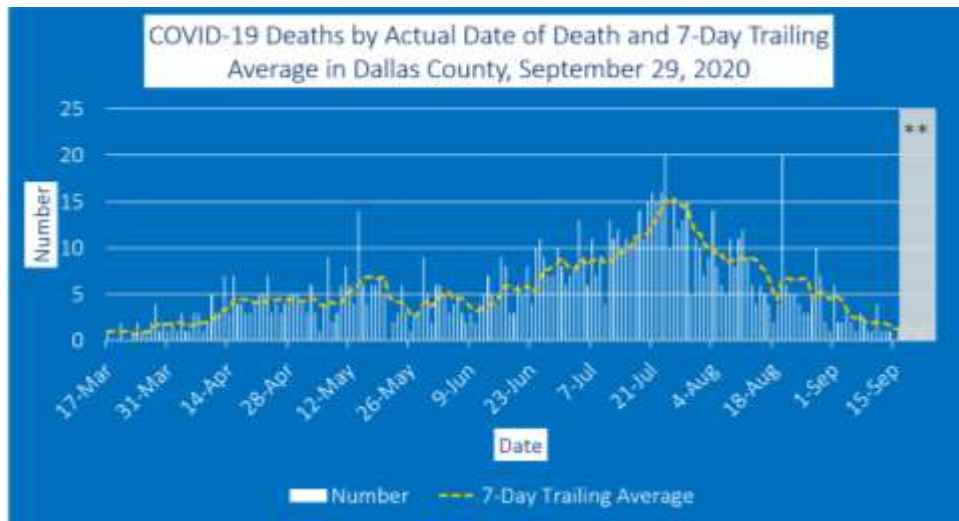


Table 13. Summary of weekly COVID-19 confirmed and probable cases and deaths, Dallas County (CDC Weeks 35 - 38)

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***
35	8/29/2020	2,205	188	315	5	10.8%
36	9/5/2020	2,060	153	294	3	10.8%
37	9/12/2020	1,829	184	263	2	10.0%
38	9/19/2020	2,149	237	307	1	11.9%

* 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 4 for historical data





“Today we have a high number of new positive COVID-19 cases from the month of September, and while this number is much higher than we’ve seen in the recent weeks of reporting, 486 of these September cases come from the state’s electronic laboratory reporting system which has had significant lags in reporting. Keep in mind that this is the next to the last day of the month of September and we have no way of knowing whether these cases were from the last two weeks or from early September.

The numbers are concerning along with arising cases in other areas and a flattening and beginning to move higher here in Dallas County. Additionally, our hospitalization numbers have increased for the county and for the region. It’s imperative that everyone wear their mask, maintain six-foot distance and wash their hands. Our doctors advise to avoid unnecessary trips and strongly encourage persons not to partake in indoor activities where the mask cannot be worn one hundred percent of the time. If you go for an organized workout, try to do it outside, and if you go for a meal experience, consider takeout or patio dining. And above all, make good decisions to keep your family and your community safe,” 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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