



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 9, 2020

**Dallas County Reports 444 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases
448 Total Cases Reported Today Including 4 Older Cases and 29 Probable Cases**

DALLAS -- As of 3:00 pm October 9, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 448 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, including 1,047 confirmed deaths. There are 29 additional probable cases to report today. Of the 419 new confirmed cases we are reporting today, 127 came through the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) system, and 4 are considered older cases. Please see a provisional breakdown below of these newly reported cases by date of collection:

Month	# of positive patients
April	1
September	3
October	123

The additional 3 deaths being reported today include the following:

- A woman in her 40'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 Mesquite. 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 hospitalized, and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.

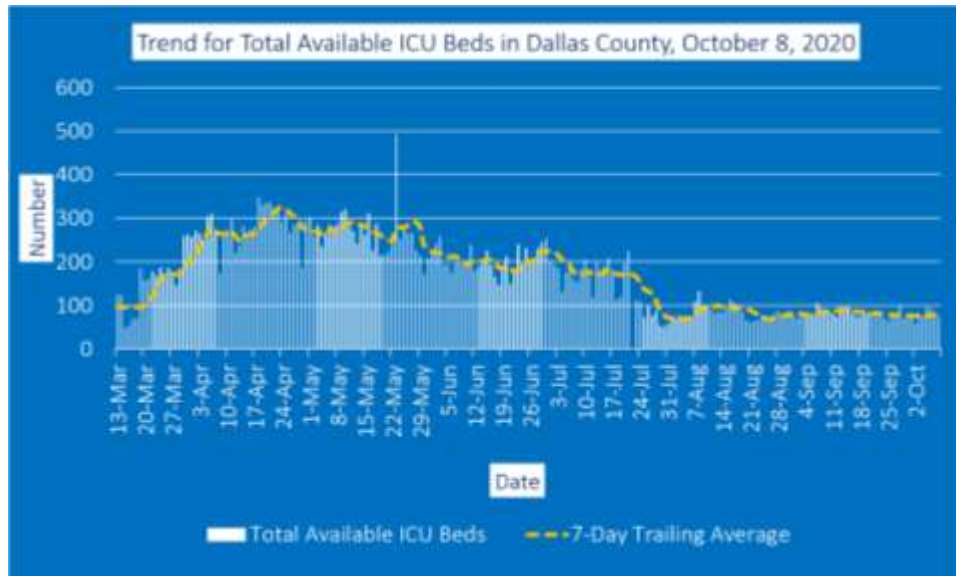
The provisional 7-day average daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 39 was 348, an *increase* from the previous daily average of 316 for CDC week 38. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high with 10.7% of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 39.

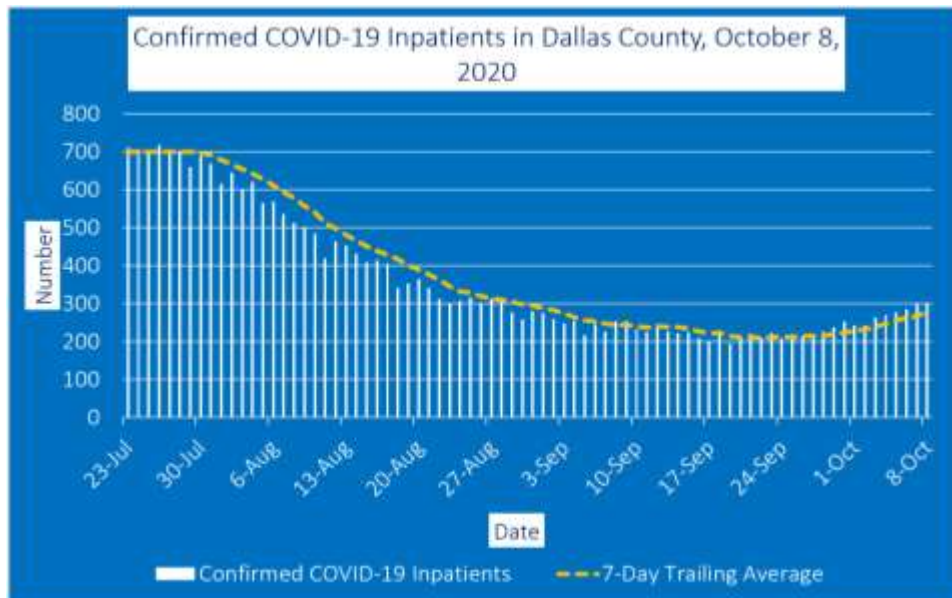
A provisional total of 252 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 39 (week ending 9/26/2020). The percentage of cases occurring in young adults aged 18 to 22 years was 12% for the month of September.

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. Friday's report is forthcoming.

Local health experts use hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and ER visits as three of the key indicators as part of determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. There were 302 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on

Thursday, October 8. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County remained elevated at 445 for the 24 hour period ending on Thursday, October 8, 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. These numbers reflect a steady increase over the last two weeks. The ability for hospitalizations to increase rapidly and remain elevated remains a concern, especially as we head into flu season. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).





“Today we have 444 new COVID-19 positive cases from the month of October, three from the month of September, one from April, and 29 probable cases for a total of 448 new cases. Additionally, we have three deaths, including a person in their 40’s, and two people in their 70’s. With Texas/OU weekend starting today, it’s very important that we resist the urge celebrate in ways the doctors recommend against. Please do not go to large gatherings or any gathering where people are not wearing their mask one hundred percent of the time indoors. We want to reverse the trend that we’re now seeing in our numbers going up and get to a place where less people get sick, more businesses can thrive and our children are having safe in-person experiences at school,” 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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