



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 5, 2020**

**Dallas County Reports 450 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases  
Including 50 Probable Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 4:00 pm October 5, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 450 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, including 1,037 confirmed deaths. There are 50 additional probable cases to report today. Of the 400 new confirmed cases we are reporting today, 204 came through the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) system, and are all considered new cases. Please see a provisional breakdown below of these newly reported cases by date of collection:

<b>Month</b>	<b># of positive patients</b>
September	126
October	78

The additional death being reported today is of a woman in her 80's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie, and expired in a healthcare facility.

The provisional 7-day average daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 39 was 320, an *increase* from the previous daily average of 296 for CDC week 37. 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 226 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 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. Due to a new data system changeover, the next summary report will be released on Tuesday. Please see a provisional table below:

**Table 13. Summary of weekly COVID-19 confirmed and probable cases and deaths, Dallas County (CDC Weeks 35 - 39)**

CDC Week	Week Ending	Total Confirmed and Probable Cases	Total School-Aged Cases (5 to 17 years)	Daily Average New Confirmed and Probable Cases <sup>*</sup>	Daily Average New Confirmed and Probable Deaths <sup>**</sup>	Percentage of Tests Positive for SARS-CoV-2 <sup>***</sup>
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	261	2	10.0%
38	9/19/2020	2,149	237	307	1	11.9%
39	9/26/2020	2,239	226	320	1	10.7%

<sup>\*</sup> For 7-day time period for respective CDC week by date of test collection;  
<sup>\*\*</sup> For 7-day time period for respective CDC week by date of death  
<sup>\*\*\*</sup> See Table 6 for historical data

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. Due to weekend reporting, new data will be available on Tuesday, October 6, 2020.

“Today we have 400 new confirmed cases and 50 new probable cases for a total of 450 new COVID-19 cases. Additionally, we have one death. Doctors are now seeing an uptick in Dallas County following the uptick they saw in surrounding counties over the last several weeks. With case numbers increasing, it’s more important than ever that you wear a mask and maintain six-foot distance, wash your hands, and avoid unnecessary crowds. COVID-19 does not discriminate between gatherings at your home or gatherings of a similar size at business establishments, so if you are around people in any indoor setting, please wear your mask and ask others to wear their mask one hundred percent of the time.

We are learning that the mask provides more protection than originally thought for the wearer. Early on, when the CDC recommended universal mask wearing, the slogan was ‘my mask protects you and your mask protects me,’ however, we now know with more research coming in, that the mask protects the wearer as well from higher doses of virus, that masking may result in a person who has been exposed not getting the virus, and in cases where they get the virus, their virus may be less severe because they breathe in less disease particles. So everyone please avoid those crowds and wear that mask. And together, we will get through this and come out stronger on the other side,” 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-based 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](mailto:Clay.Jenkins@dallascounty.org)

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

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