



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2020

Dallas County Reports 246 Additional Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases Including 41 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 2:00 pm October 6, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 246 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, including 1,038 confirmed deaths. There are 41 additional probable cases to report today. Of the 205 new confirmed cases we are reporting today, 132 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

Month	# of positive patients
September	33
October	99

The additional death being reported today is of 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 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 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.

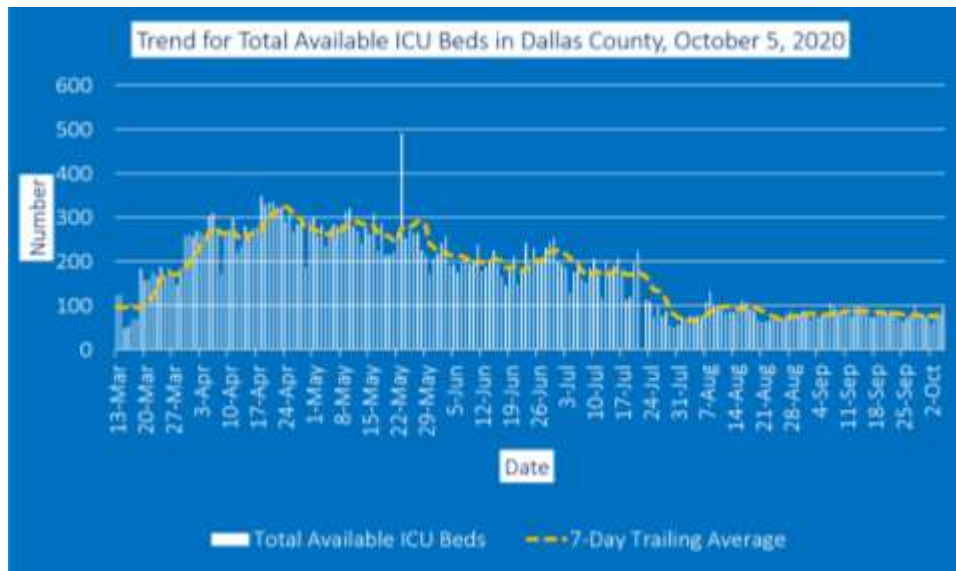
New cases are being reported as a daily aggregate, with a more detailed summary report updated Tuesdays and Fridays. Due to a new data system changeover, Tuesday's summary report will be released this evening. Please see a provisional table below:

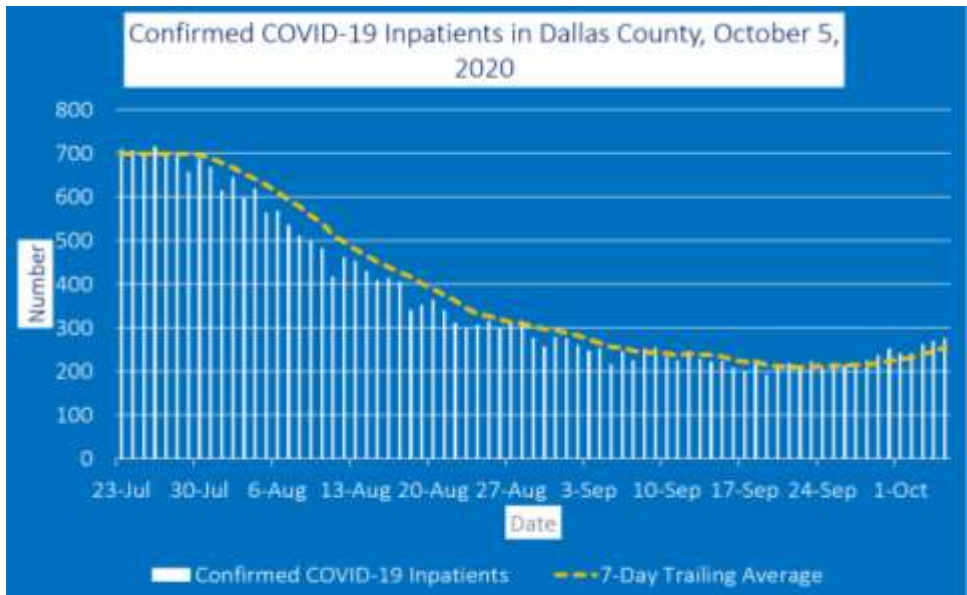
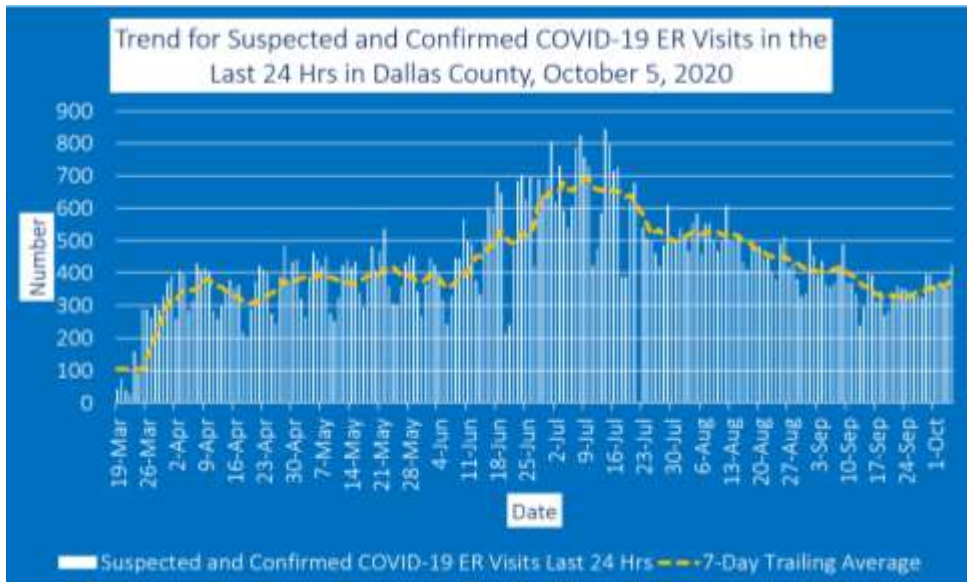
Table 13. Summary of weekly COVID-19 confirmed and probable cases and deaths, Dallas County (CDC Weeks 35 - 39)

CDC Week	Week Ending	Total Confirmed and Probable Cases	Total School-Aged Cases (5 to 17 years)	Daily Average New Confirmed and Probable Cases*	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	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%

* 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 6 for historical data

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 276 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Monday, October 5. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 427 for the 24 hour period ending on Monday, October 5, which represents around 19 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 an increase of over 30 patients over the weekend, as well as an increase in emergency room visits. 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 an additional 205 confirmed cases and 41 probable cases for a total of 246 cases. Additionally, we have one reportable death of a man in his 50’s who did not have underlying high risk health conditions.

We are learning more every day about COVID-19. The CDC changed their website yesterday to reflect that COVID-19 particles can linger in the air in indoor settings with poor ventilation. Think of poor ventilation as any house that has been built onto or is an older home that had air conditioning added to it, as well as any older building and some newer buildings. That’s why it is best when possible to take your socializing outside. This includes at restaurants where patio dining is preferable to in-person dining and it includes get-togethers at your home. Consider taking the television outside to watch the game if you have friends over and eating outside and consider masking one hundred percent of the time when you are inside with people outside of your home.

COVID-19 is not a respecter of whether you are in a paid establishment or in your home. It is a virus in relentless pursuit of a host so it is up to all of us to make our best decisions, wear our mask, maintain six-foot distancing, wash our hands, and avoid crowds. This is the best way for us to protect our community from COVID-19. We are finding out that masks not only protect others from our breath, but also protect us more than originally thought, so as we find out more and more about the power of masking, make sure to wear yours,” 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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