



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 8, 2020**

**Dallas County Reports 238 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases  
Including 40 Probable Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 1:00 pm October 8, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 238 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, including 1,044 confirmed deaths. There are 40 additional probable cases to report today. Of the 198 new confirmed cases we are reporting today, 19 came through the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) system, and all are 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    | 1                             |
| October      | 18                            |

The additional 4 deaths being reported today include the following:

- A woman in her 30'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 50'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.
- 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 had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70'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.

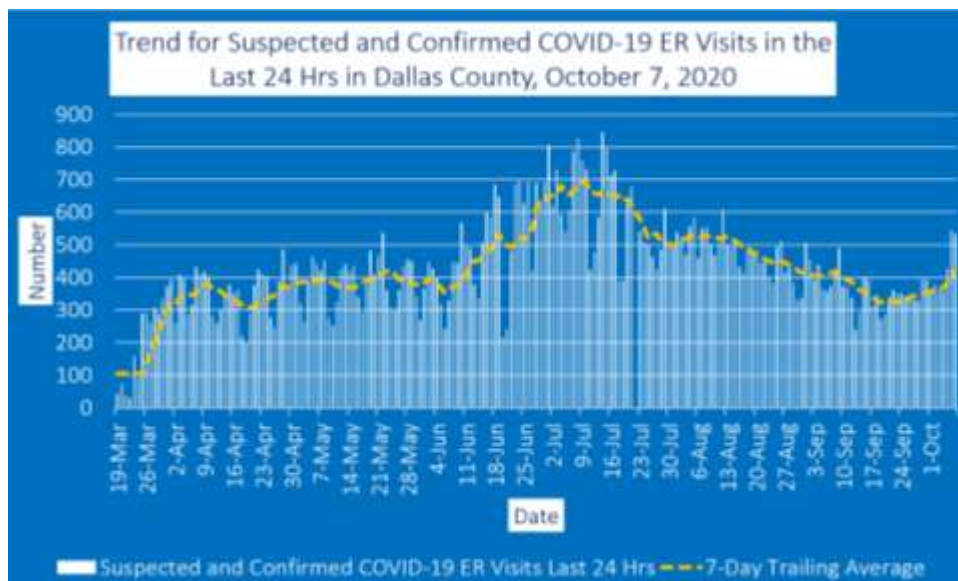
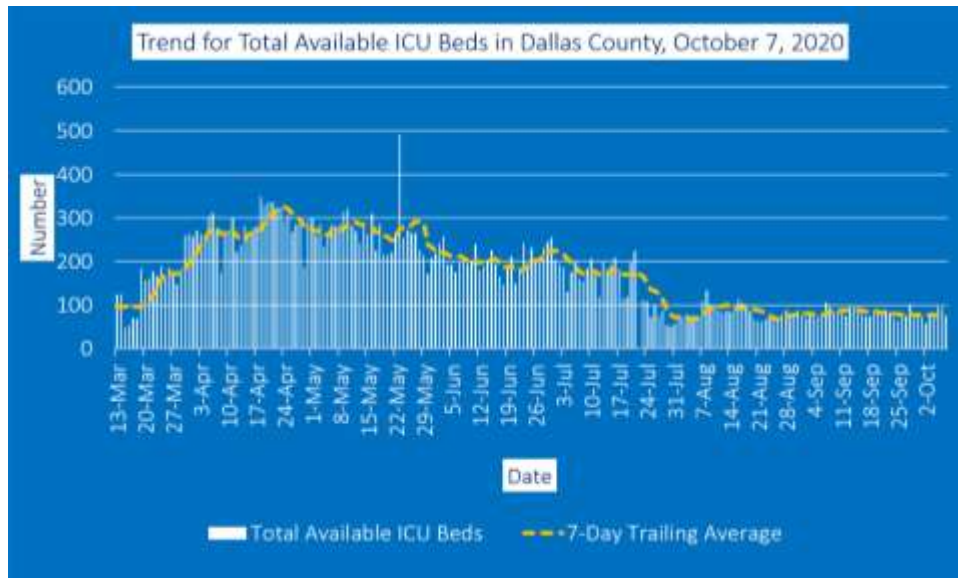
The provisional 7-day average daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 39 was 348, an *increase* from the previous daily average of 316 for CDC week 38. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high with 10.7% of symptomatic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

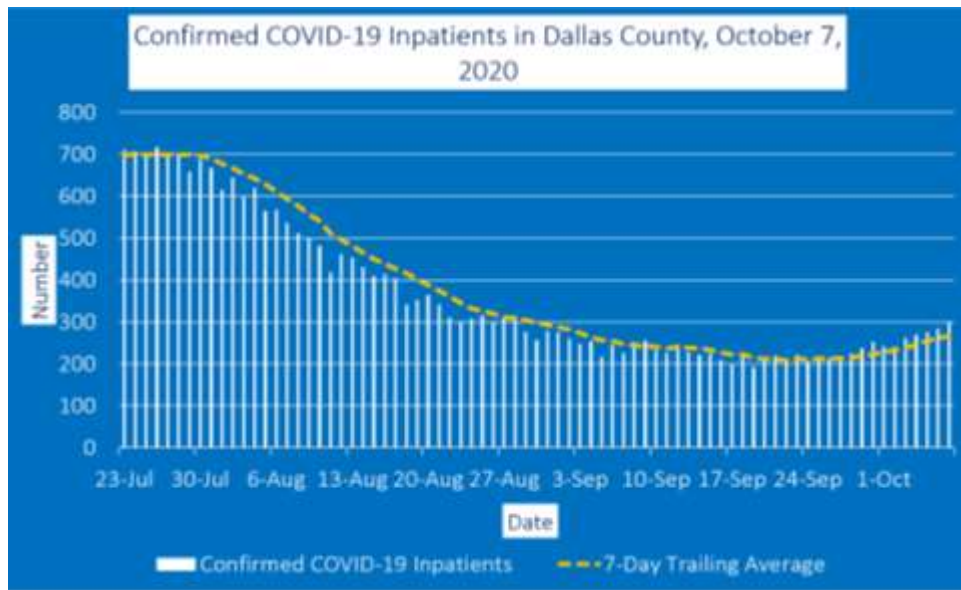
A provisional total of 252 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 39 (week ending 9/26/2020). The percentage of cases occurring in young adults aged 18 to 22 years was 12% for the month of September.

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.

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 298 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Wednesday, October 7. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County remained elevated at 534 for the 24 hour period ending on Wednesday, October 7, which represents around 20 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 announce 238 new COVID-19 positive cases and 4 deaths, including a person in their 30’s and two people in their 50’s. Our numbers in recent weeks have gone in the wrong direction, and it’s up to all of us to reverse that trend so that more people will stay safe, more businesses will thrive, and more children will be able to experience in-person classes. The decisions you make today will impact the numbers next week and the week after, so please resist the urge to go to large group settings and wear your mask, maintain six-foot distance and wash your hands regularly to help control the increasing spread of COVID-19.

There is increasing evidence that masking protects not only others but the wearer, and with the weather improving and it being pleasant outside, it is less of an inconvenience to take your gatherings outside (remember bug spray) and to wear the mask due to it not being as hot. We must not let our own convenience or our selfish desires to participate in the few activities that doctors say are not safe trump our shared human commitment to protect each other, public health, and our economy,” 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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