



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 10, 2020**

**Dallas County Reports 487 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases  
492 Total Cases Reported Today Including 5 Older Cases and 32 Probable Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 3:00 pm October 10, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 492 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, including 1,048 confirmed deaths. There are 32 additional probable cases to report today. Of the 460 new confirmed cases we are reporting today, 167 came through the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) system, and 5 are considered older cases. Please see a provisional breakdown below of these newly reported cases by date of collection:

<b>Month</b>	<b># of positive patients</b>
March	1
September	4
October	162

The additional death being reported today includes the following:

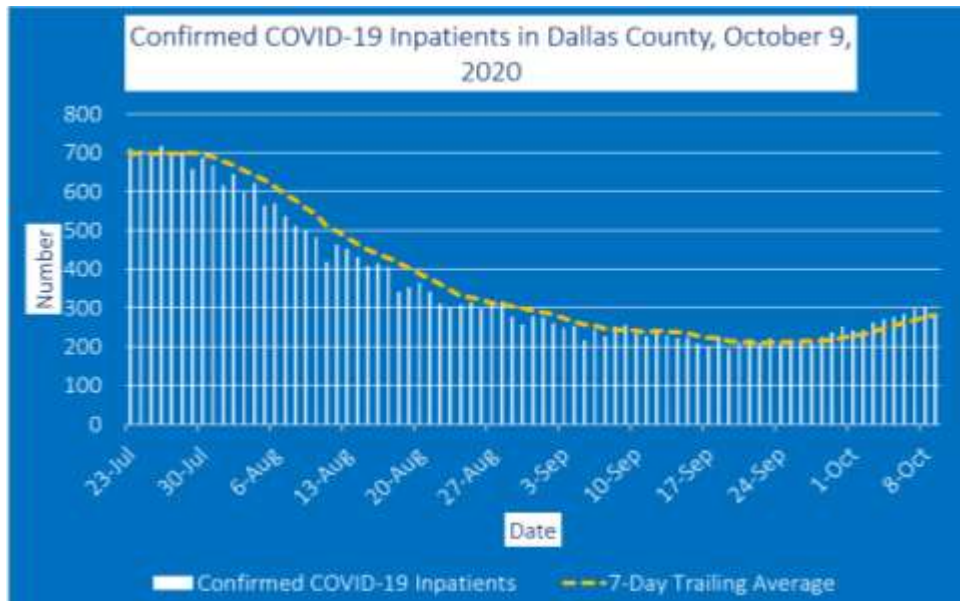
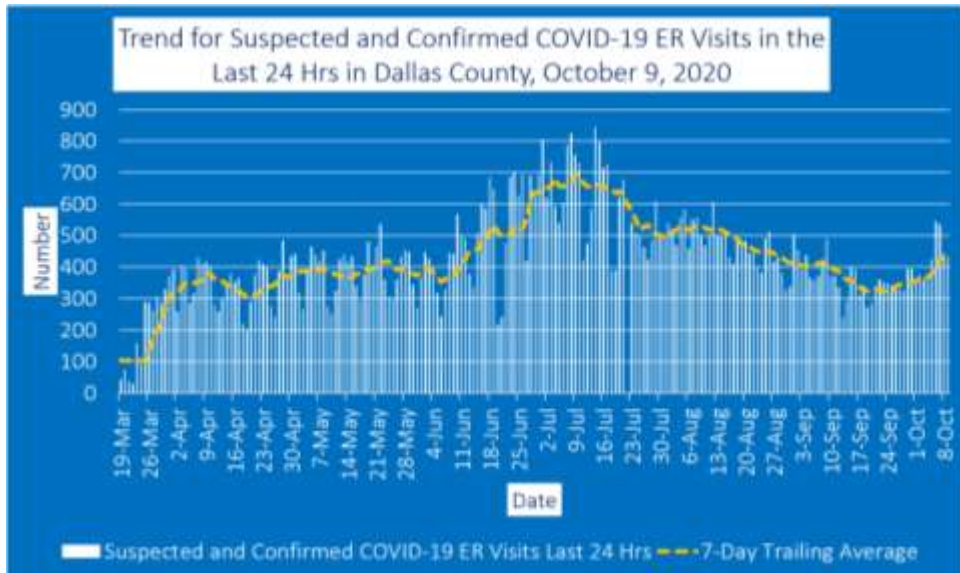
- A woman in her 80's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Richardson. She expired in the facility, and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.

The provisional 7-day average daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 40 was 346. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high with 9.8% of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 40.

A provisional total of 265 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 40 (week ending 10/3/20), an increase from the previous week in this age group.

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 24% 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 381 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Friday, October 9. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 432 for the 24 hour period ending on Friday, October 9, which represents around 17 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. 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](#).





“The raw numbers for the week saw an increase from 350 daily average cases last week to 383 this week, including a total of 15 deaths. The raw numbers are arrived by taking the total number of new cases reported and dividing by seven for the week ending on Saturday; however, the epidemiologists’ DCHHS summary report by CDC week is more accurate because they go back in and strip out test dates and add all tests to their appropriate week. For the last CDC week that was reported late last night, the numbers of new COVID-19 cases are roughly flat. If this is correct, that is very good news as we have seen an increase in COVID-19 cases for the last few weeks and continue to see an increase in hospitalizations.

Our hospitalizations since September 27 have increased more than forty percent. The decisions that you make today and tomorrow and every day that follows will determine what happens a week or two after. For less people to get sick, more businesses to thrive, and children to have their best chance at an in-school experience that’s not interrupted by outbreaks, we all need to do our part: wear our masks, maintain six-foot distance, wash our hands, avoid frequenting any indoor events outside your home where the mask cannot be worn one hundred percent of the time, and when people come into your home, wear your mask and maintain six-foot distance. The more distance the better, and it’s best to take events outside rather than to organize or attend indoor events. We can do this North Texas if we all focus on making good decisions for ourselves and our community and put that over our selfish desires to do the things the doctors tell us will hurt public health,” 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>

***CONTACT:***

Clay Lewis Jenkins, Dallas County Judge

[Clay.Jenkins@dallascounty.org](mailto:Clay.Jenkins@dallascounty.org)

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

###