



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 13, 2020**

**Dallas County Reports 629 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases  
638 Total Cases Reported Today Including 9 Older Cases and 32 Probable Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 3:00 pm October 13, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 638 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County for a cumulative total of 87,381 confirmed cases, including 1,057 confirmed deaths. There are 32 additional probable case to report today for a total of 4,374 probable cases including 13 probable deaths. Of the 606 new confirmed cases we are reporting today, 328 came through the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) system, and 9 are from older months. Please see a provisional breakdown below of these newly reported cases by date of collection:

<b>Month</b>	<b># of positive patients</b>
June	1
September	8
October	319

The additional death being reported today includes the following:

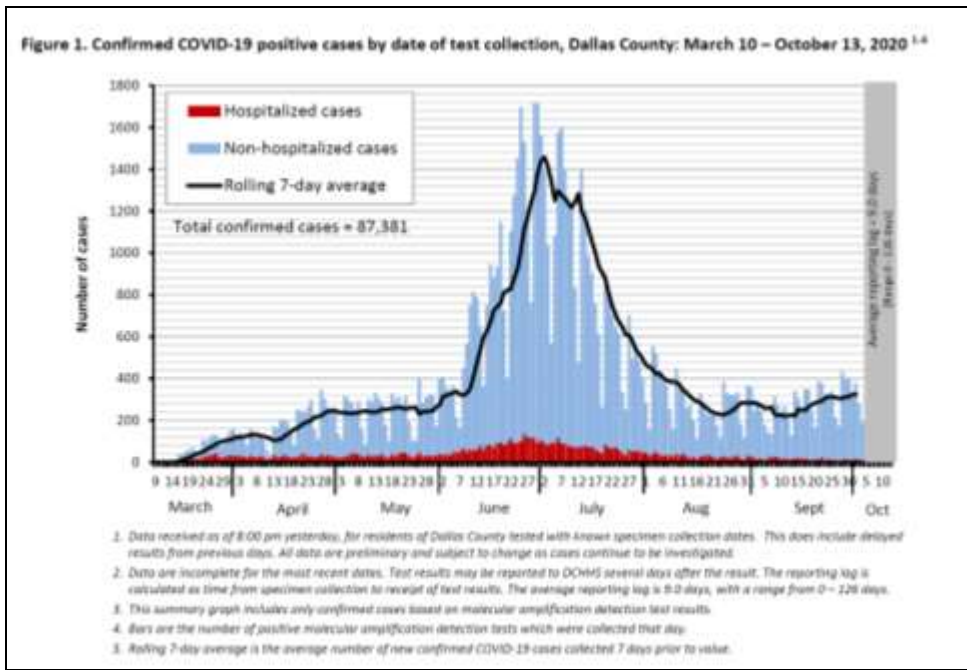
- A man in his 50's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.

The provisional 7-day average daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 40 was 374, an *increase* from the previous daily average of 346 for CDC week 37. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high with 10.0% of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 40 (week ending 10/3/20). A provisional total of 283 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 40, 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. Tuesday's report is attached.

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 351 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Monday, October 12. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 385 for the 24 hour period ending on Monday, October 12, 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. These numbers reflect an alarming and steady increase in hospitalizations. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).

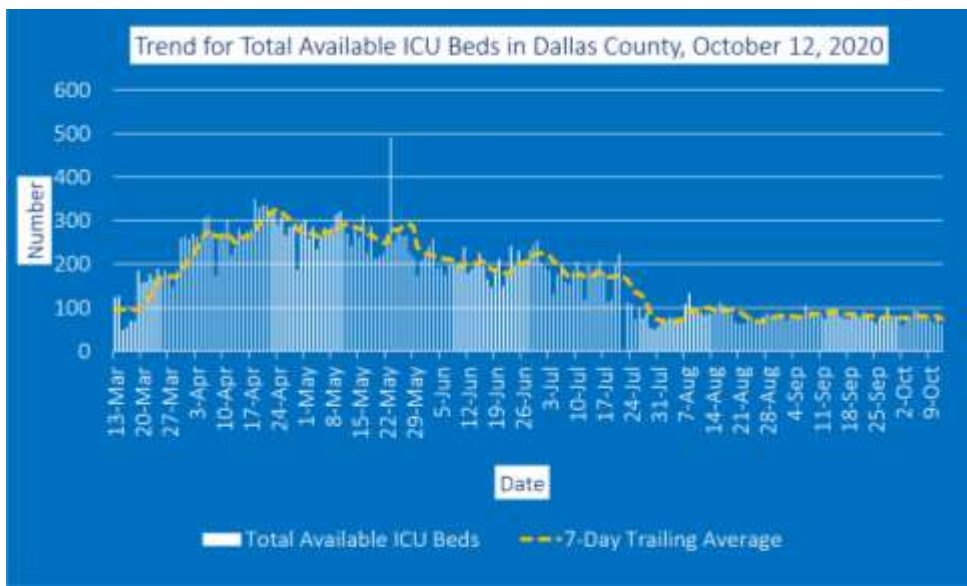
Additionally, Figure 1 and Table 12 below are from the October 13, 2020 Dallas County Health and Human Services 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Summary. Figure 1 shows the confirmed COVID-19 positive cases by date of test collection. This chart includes all delayed results that were received by DCHHS as of 8:00pm Monday. Table 11 is a summary of confirmed and probable cases and deaths over the past five weeks in Dallas County.

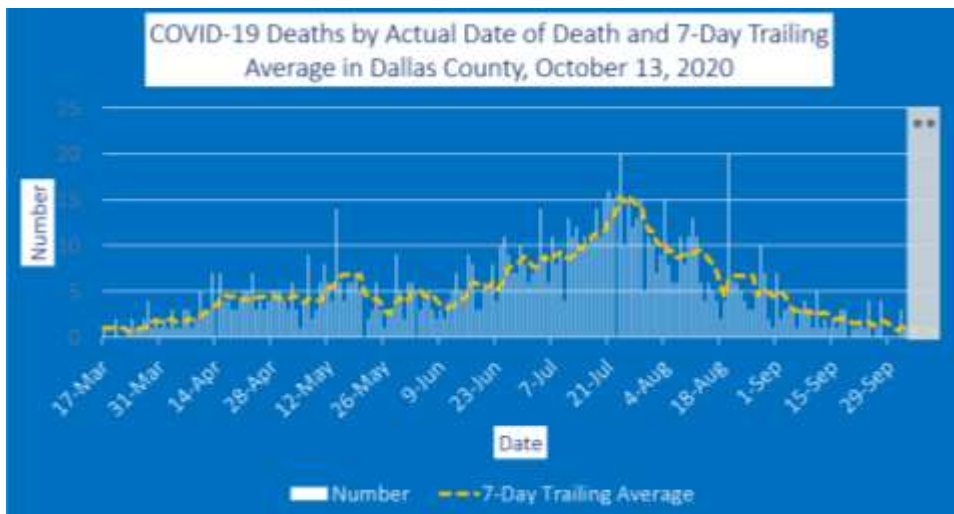
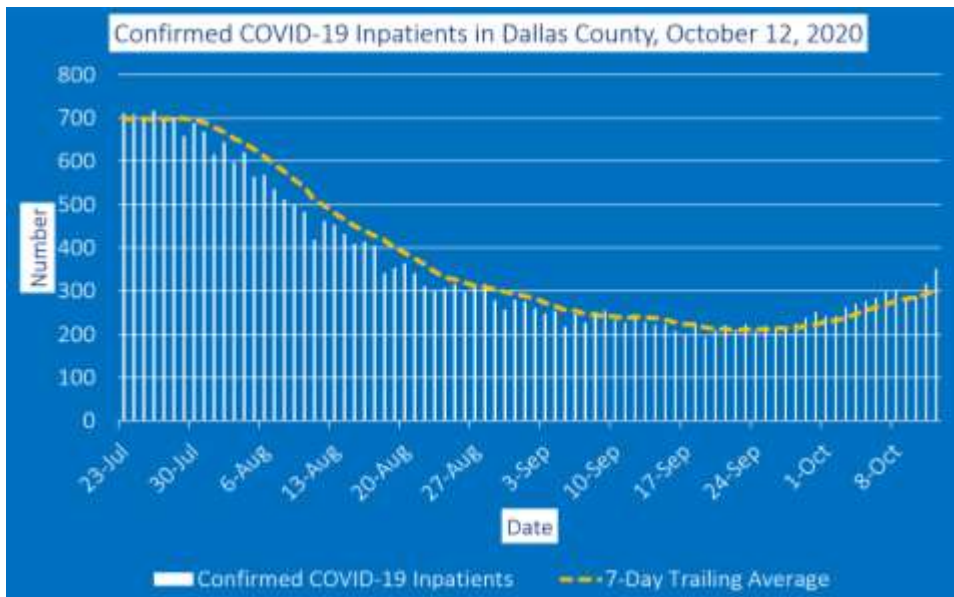
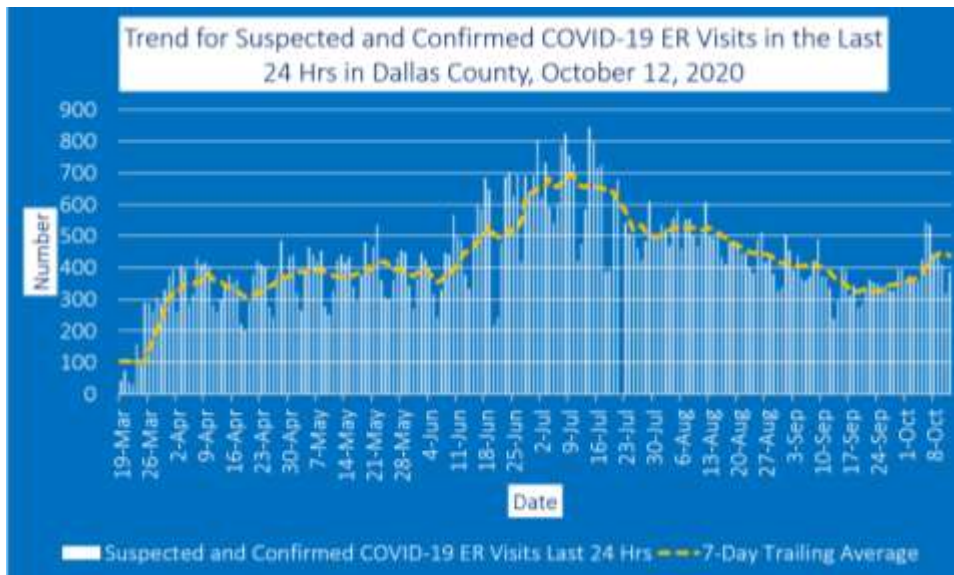


**Table 12. Summary of weekly COVID-19 confirmed and probable cases and deaths, Dallas County (CDC Weeks 36 - 40)**

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***
36	9/5/2020	2,060	152	294	3	10.8%
37	9/12/2020	1,862	184	266	2	10.0%
38	9/19/2020	2,216	237	317	2	11.9%
39	9/26/2020	2,421	255	346	1	10.7%
40	10/3/2020	2,615	283	374	1	10.0%

\* Per 7-day time period for respective CDC week by date of test collection.  
 \*\* Per 7-day time period for respective CDC week by date of death.  
 \*\*\* See Table 6 for historical data.





“Today we see a large increase in the number of new COVID-19 positive cases. Remember that we are looking for weekly trends and not one day spikes; however, we saw the release of CDC week 40 in the Dallas County Health and Human Services summary report which was yet another increase in the number of positive cases. Our hospitalizations and ED visits are continuing to go up in the region and here in Dallas County and we are seeing a CDC week 40 climb in the number of children ages 5-17 who are contracting COVID-19 as well.

Overall our schools are doing a good job with infection prevention, and many of our families are making good choices, but it's up to all of us to make a choice to wear our mask when around people outside our home, maintain six-foot distance, wash our hands frequently, and avoid crowds. We want the numbers to flatten and begin to go down with this pleasant weather and as we enter the holiday season. Unfortunately, we are currently going in the wrong direction but I know together we can turn it around and get to a better place for the fall.

Also, today is the first day of early vote. I want to reiterate the great amount of effort that has gone into making sure the voting experience is safe. You can go to [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org) to find a color-coded map that shows which early voting sites have the shortest lines and you can download a sample ballot at <https://www.dallascountyvotes.org/voter-lookup> to see the races that you'll be voting on based on your address," 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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