FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 14, 2020

Dallas County Reports 493 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases
504 Total Cases Reported Today Including 11 Older Cases and 50 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 1:00 pm October 14, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 504 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County for a cumulative total of 87,835 confirmed cases, including 1,058 confirmed deaths. There are 50 additional probable cases to report today for a total of 4,424 probable cases including 13 probable deaths. Of the 454 new confirmed cases we are reporting today, 258 came through the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) system, and 11 are from September. Please see a provisional breakdown below of these newly reported cases by date of collection:

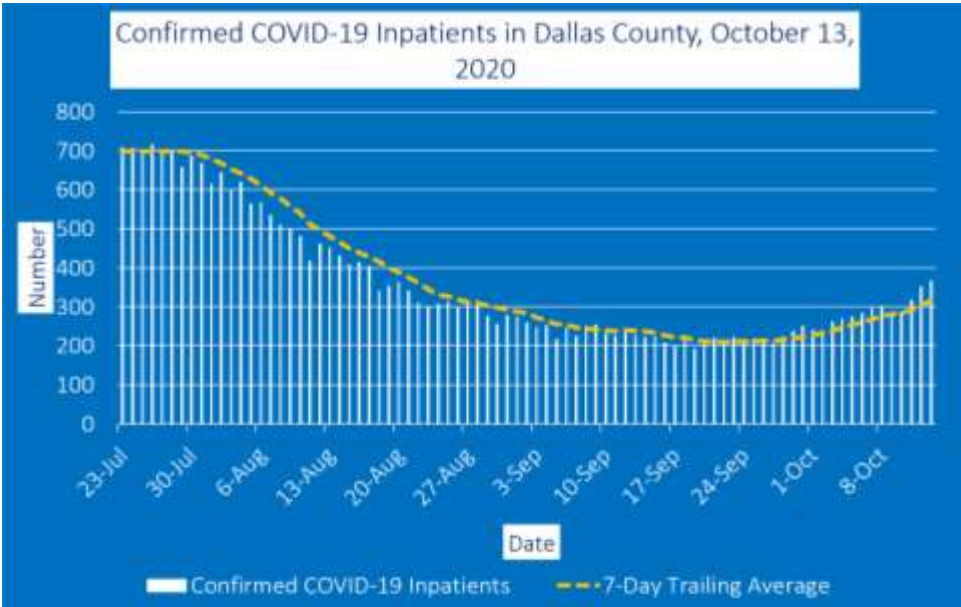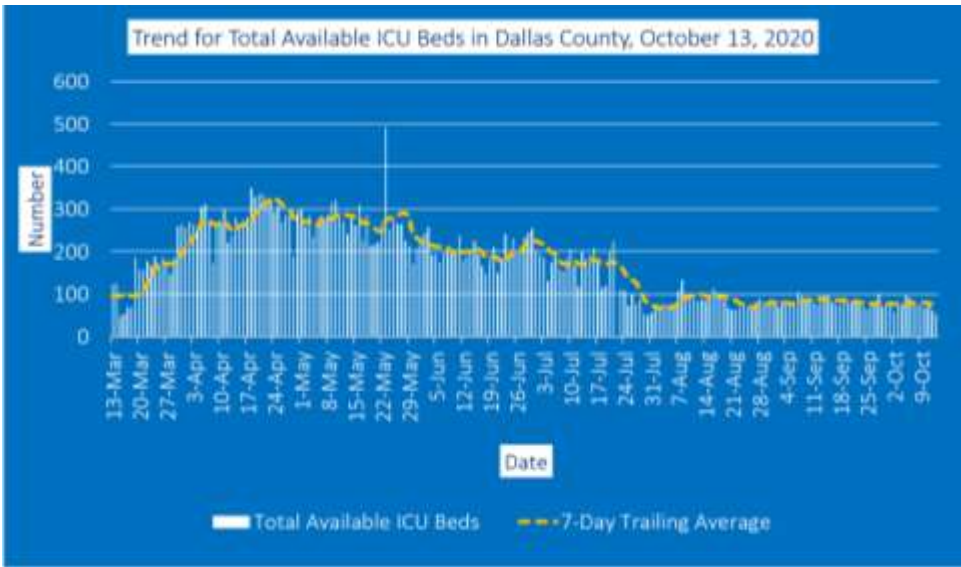| Month	# of positive patients
September	11
October	247

The additional death being reported today includes the following:
- A woman in her 80's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She 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 40 was 374, an *increase* from the previous daily average of 346 for CDC week 39. 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 367 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Tuesday, October 13. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 431 for the 24 hour period ending on Tuesday, October 13, which represents around 15 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. The number of hospitalized patients continues to rise in the county and across North Texas. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data here.

Trend for Total Available ICU Beds in Dallas County, October 13, 2020

Total Available ICU Beds   7-Day Trailing Average

Trend for Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 ER Visits in the Last 24 Hrs in Dallas County, October 13, 2020

Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 ER Visits Last 24 Hrs   7-Day Trailing Average

Confirmed COVID-19 Inpatients in Dallas County, October 13, 2020

Confirmed COVID-19 Inpatients   7-Day Trailing Average

COVID-19 Deaths by Actual Date of Death and 7-Day Trailing Average in Dallas County, October 14, 2020

"Today we see another high number of new COVID-19 cases with the numbers today being 454 confirmed cases and 50 probable cases for a total of 504 additional cases. The increase in hospitalizations, and new COVID-19 positive cases, as well as other metrics like the R-naught factor being above 1 for several weeks, has led the Public Health Committee to recommend a return to 'Red' on our color-coded chart, which can be found at www.DallasCountyCovid.org. With a new and quickly escalating wave of COVID-19 cases hitting North Texas, it is more important than ever that we make good decisions. Things that doctors recommend as safe and permissible in 'Orange,' they recommend against in 'Red.' These things include dining in restaurants and personal grooming services, among other activities.

One activity that is not affected by the move to 'Red' is voting. We've already had two elections, a primary and a runoff election during COVID-19, both of which took place under a 'Red' (Stay Home Stay Safe) recommendation from the Public Health Committee. There has been no known spread from voting or cases attributed back to polling places and this we believe is due to the extraordinary measures everyone is taking to keep you safe at the polls. Your fellow voters are wearing their masks and the County has spent millions of dollars on disinfectants, plexiglass screens and other precautions to ensure that voters are safe. You can go to www.DallasCountyVotes.org to see a color-coded map that shows which polls are least crowded and where voting can be done quickly and also download a sample ballot too.

The color-coded chart from the Public Health Committee is intended not to tell you what is legal, but rather what is safe. I encourage businesses and individuals to look at the color-coded chart to determine what activities are recommended by doctors who specialize in the fields of infectious disease, public health and epidemiology. There is also a School Health Committee that has set out recommendations for parents as far as in-person vs. virtual school learning options and extracurricular activities by color-coded chart as well which can be found here.

We encourage everyone to make their best decisions: wear your mask, maintain six-foot distance, and avoid large crowds. We must reverse the trend now while we have pleasant weather outside and an opportunity to do activities outside. We know that when people are forced inside with COVID-19, such as when it gets too cold for people to enjoy the outdoors later in the winter, the chance for spread increases due to the poor circulation of indoor air and there's less sunlight to kill virus remnants left on handles and other surfaces," 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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