



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 24, 2020

Dallas County Reports 778 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases Including 130 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 2:00 pm October 24, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 778 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County for a cumulative total of 92,845 confirmed cases (PCR test), including 1,098 confirmed deaths. There are 130 additional probable cases (antigen test) to report today for a total of 5,028 probable cases including 14 probable deaths. Of the 648 new confirmed cases we are reporting today, 381 came through the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) system and all were from October.

Month	# of positive patients
October	381

The additional death being reported today includes the following:

- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Balch Springs. She 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 42 was **525**, an *increase* from the previous daily average of 492 for CDC week 41. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 has increased to **14.2%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 42 (week ending 10/17/20).

A provisional total of 441 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 42, an *increase* from the previous week.

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.

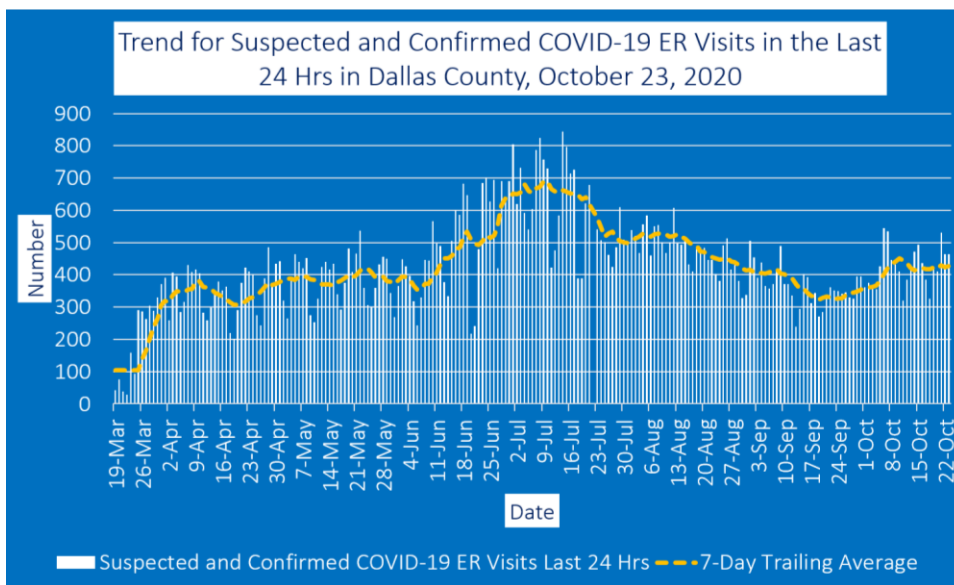
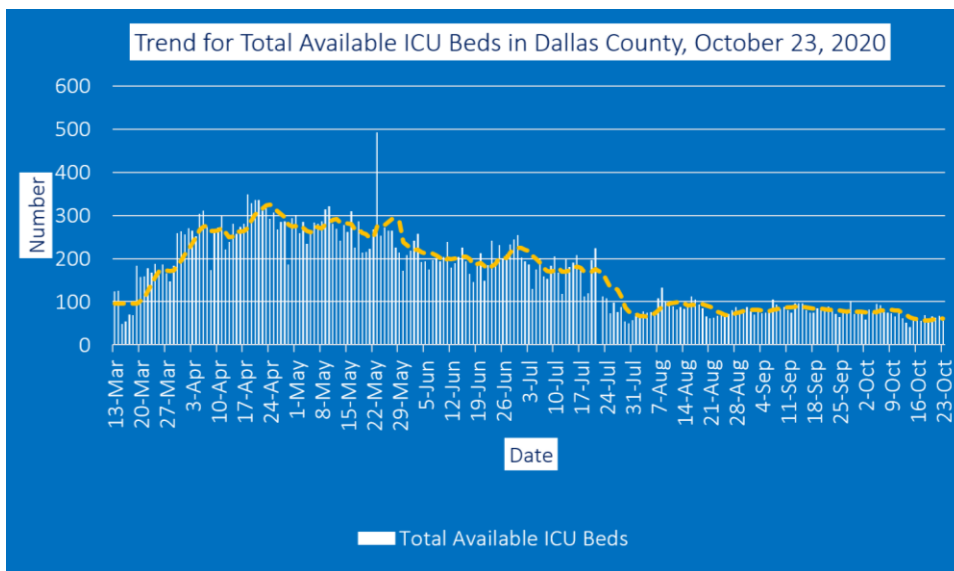
New cases are being reported as a daily aggregate, with a more detailed summary report updated Tuesdays and Fridays.

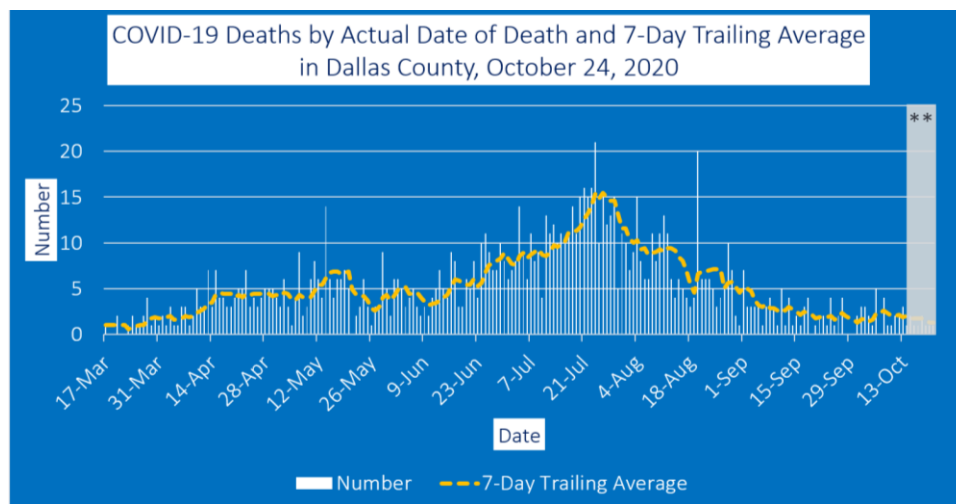
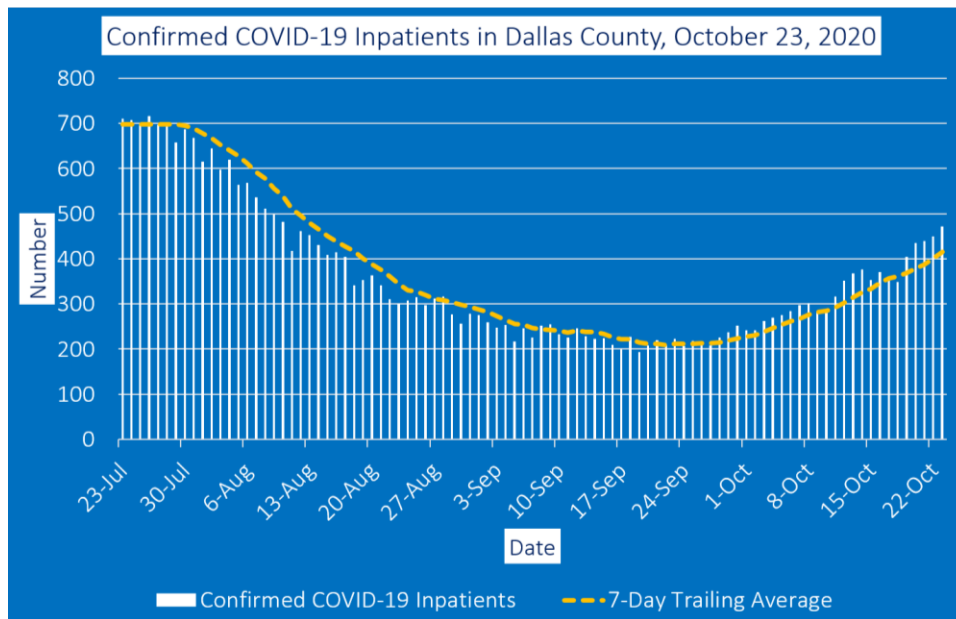
Local health experts use hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and ER visits as three of the key indicators as part of determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. There were 472 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Friday, October 23. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 463 for the 24 hour period ending on Friday, October 23, which represents around 18 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. This is another increase of 22 patients day over day. We must all reduce our chance of contracting and spreading COVID by following the Public Health Guidance and limiting all non-essential activities outside the home. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).

Additionally, Table 12 below is from the October 23, 2020 Dallas County Health and Human Services 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Summary. Table 12 is a summary of confirmed and probable cases and deaths over the past ten weeks in Dallas County.

Table 12. Summary of weekly COVID-19 confirmed and probable cases and deaths, Dallas County (CDC Weeks 33 - 42)

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***
33	8/15/2020	2,196	181	314	9	13.0%
34	8/22/2020	1,748	187	250	9	11.0%
35	8/29/2020	2,215	184	316	6	10.6%
36	9/5/2020	2,059	150	294	6	10.6%
37	9/12/2020	1,861	181	266	3	9.6%
38	9/19/2020	2,207	236	315	2	11.5%
39	9/26/2020	2,429	253	347	2	10.6%
40	10/3/2020	2,697	300	385	2	10.1%
41	10/10/2020	3,446	433	492	2	11.3%
42	10/17/2020	3,676	441	525	2	14.2%





“The average number of cases for this week is 642, an increase from last week. This week we sustained a total of 16 deaths. Our numbers for the most recent CDC week ending on 10/17 have once again gone up, and our positivity rate for COVID-19 tests is now above 14%. We must curve the current spike before it becomes a wave that further endangers public health and the economy for the holiday season and up into the spring. We all know what to do; we just need to do it. Wear your mask, avoid crowds, maintain six foot distance, and wash your hands. It's up to all of us to flatten the curve now before this spike gets any worse.” 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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