



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2020

**Dallas County Reports 596 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases
597 Total Cases Reported Today Including 1 Older Case and 178 Probable Cases**

DALLAS -- As of 3:00 pm October 27, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 597 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County for a cumulative total of 94,358 confirmed cases (PCR test), including 1,101 confirmed deaths. No additional deaths are being reported today. There are 178 additional probable cases (antigen test) to report today for a total of 5,413 probable cases including 14 probable deaths. Of the 419 new confirmed cases we are reporting today, 263 came through the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) system, and one case was from July.

Month	# of positive patients
July	1
October	262

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. Tuesday's report is forthcoming.

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 473 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Monday, October 26. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 358 for the 24 hour period ending on Monday, October 26, 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. Please take every effort to reduce your risk and contributing to the spread of this virus. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).

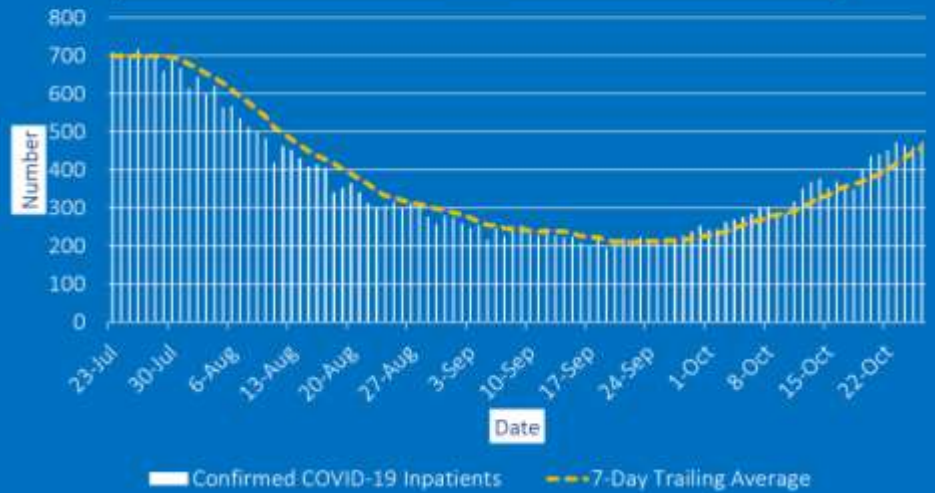
Trend for Total Available ICU Beds in Dallas County, October 26, 2020



Trend for Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 ER Visits in the Last 24 Hrs in Dallas County, October 26, 2020



Confirmed COVID-19 Inpatients in Dallas County, October 26, 2020





“With numbers increasing, it’s very important that we all make good choices. We know what to do, we just need to do it. Wear your mask and avoid crowds. This is not a year where we want to trick-or-treat door to door or go to Halloween parties. It’s a year to spend Halloween with family. A candy scavenger hunt around the house, a family baking or pumpkin carving and Halloween movie night are some ways to safely enjoy this holiday. Remember holidays are about making memories and spending time with people that you love and we can do that without exposing ourselves to people outside our home this Halloween. I hope you and your family have a wonderful Halloween holiday. We’re all in this together and it will get better if all make good choices and do our part to have a safe and happy Halloween,” 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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