



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 28, 2020

**Dallas County Reports 624 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases
Including 145 Probable Cases**

DALLAS -- As of 3:00 pm October 28, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 624 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County for a cumulative total of 94,837 confirmed cases (PCR test), including 1,104 confirmed deaths. There are 145 additional probable cases (antigen test) to report today for a total of 5,558 probable cases including 14 probable deaths. Of the 479 new confirmed cases we are reporting today, 346 came through the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) system, and all are from October.

Month	# of positive patients
October	346

The additional 3 deaths being reported today include the following:

- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of the City of Irving. He had been critically ill in an area hospital, and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.

The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 42 was **588** -- the highest daily average of new cases since July. 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 493 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 42 – about twice the numbers of children diagnosed in this age group 3 weeks earlier (CDC week ending 9/26/2020).

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.

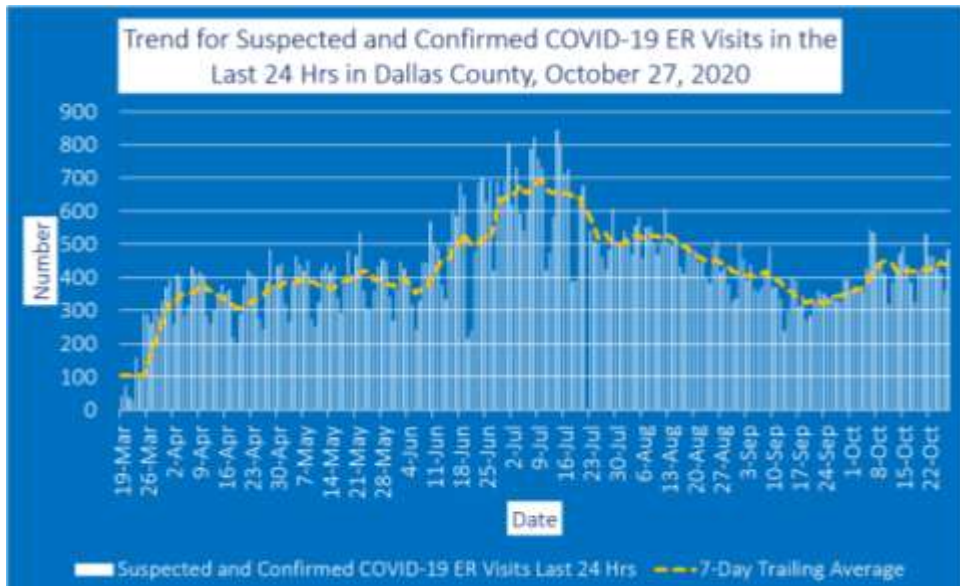
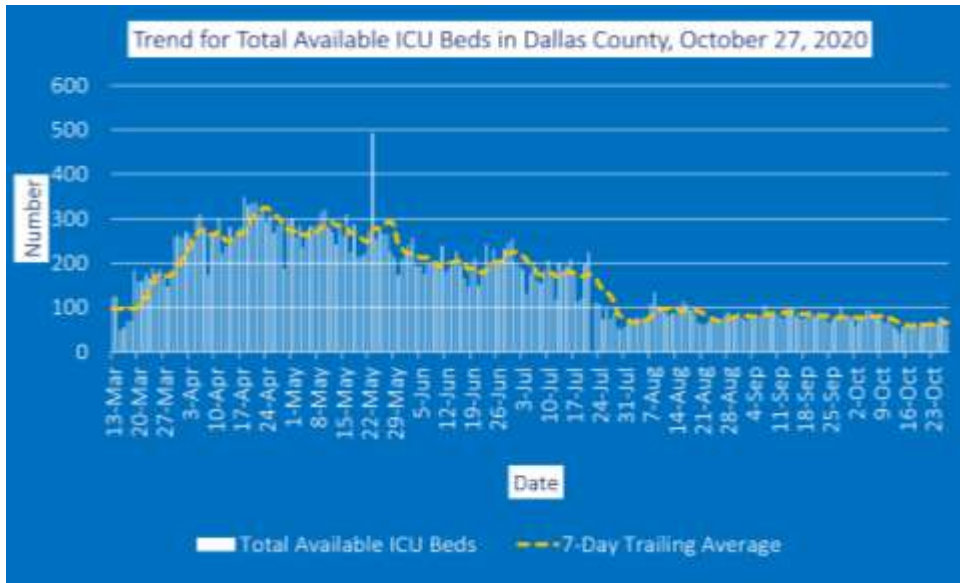
Local health experts use hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and ER visits as three of the key indicators as part of determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. There were 498 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Tuesday, October 27. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 485 for the 24 hour period ending on Tuesday, October 27, which represents around 20 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. We know historically from the increase over the summer, that hospitalizations can rise rapidly and take months to decline. Local hospitals also have patients that have been hospitalized for extensive

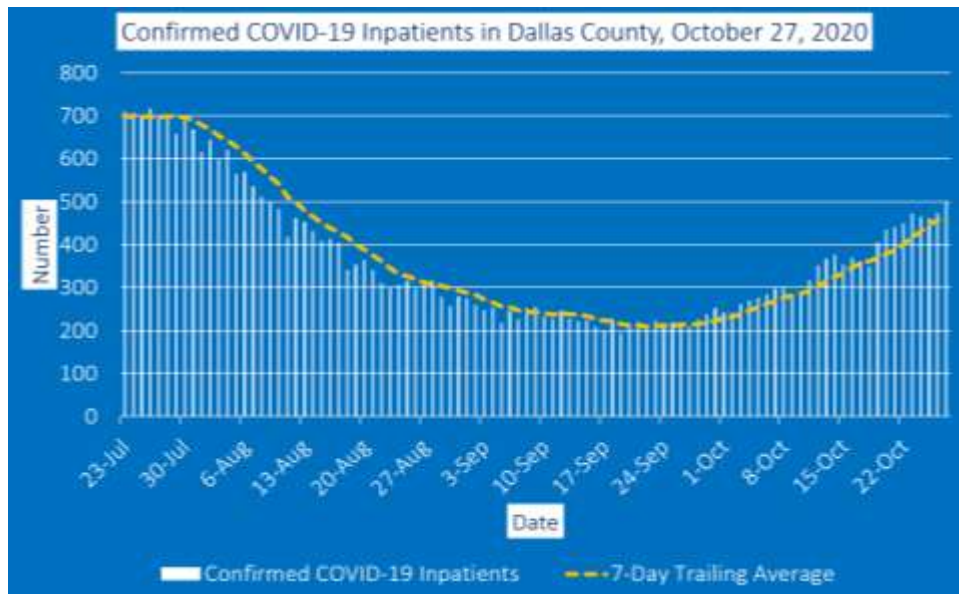
periods due to complications from COVID. These patients are not reflected in current numbers but illustrate the expansive impact of this pandemic on our hospital systems and health care workers. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).

Additionally, Table 12 below is from the October 27, 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 14 weeks in Dallas County.

Table 12. Summary of weekly COVID-19 confirmed and probable cases and deaths, Dallas County (CDC Weeks 29 - 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***
29	7/18/2020	6,633	675	948	11	21.7%
30	7/25/2020	4,521	486	646	15	19.3%
31	8/1/2020	3,373	416	482	12	15.9%
32	8/8/2020	2,888	310	413	9	13.8%
33	8/15/2020	2,182	182	312	9	13.0%
34	8/22/2020	1,742	187	249	6	11.0%
35	8/29/2020	2,203	184	315	6	10.6%
36	9/5/2020	2,054	149	293	3	10.6%
37	9/12/2020	1,854	181	265	2	9.6%
38	9/19/2020	2,206	234	315	2	11.5%
39	9/26/2020	2,438	251	348	2	10.6%
40	10/3/2020	2,707	303	387	2	10.1%
41	10/10/2020	3,545	446	506	2	11.3%
42	10/17/2020	4,113	493	588	2	14.2%





“As our numbers continue to climb, I’ll remind you that we know what we need to do, we just need to do it: wear your mask and avoid crowds. Please make sure to have a safe Halloween and forgo trick-or-treating and Halloween parties this year for family activities. The number of school-aged children with COVID-19 has doubled over the last three weeks from 251 cases to 493 new cases (see Table 12) and this is a reminder of the importance of keeping our community safe by keeping our children safe and avoiding crowds and promoting masking.

The most recent medical models indicate that we’ll have above 1,000 new cases per day by Thanksgiving unless we change our behavior, push through the COVID fatigue, and go back to doing the things that we know will keep us safe. We don’t want to get into the holiday season when it gets colder, more people are inside, and there are more gatherings with people outside our home, during an extremely high COVID spike or we will be in for a bad holiday season and spring. Let’s all band together now and move from selfishness to sacrifice to put our families, our community and our economy in a safer, better place,” 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

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

###