



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 31, 2020**

**Dallas County Reports 759 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases  
Including 137 Probable Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 2:00 pm October 31, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 759 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County for a cumulative total of 96,694 confirmed cases (PCR test), including 1,116 confirmed deaths. There are 137 additional probable cases (antigen test) to report today for a total of 5,948 probable cases including 15 probable deaths. Of the 622 new confirmed cases we are reporting today, 360 came through the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) system and all were from October.

The additional 3 deaths being reported today include the following:

- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. He had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in his 70'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 Dallas. He had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had 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 43 has increased to **652** -- the highest daily average of new cases since July. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 has increased to **15.4%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 43 (week ending 10/24/20). A provisional total of 587 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 43 – over twice the numbers of children diagnosed in this age group 4 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. Friday's report is attached.

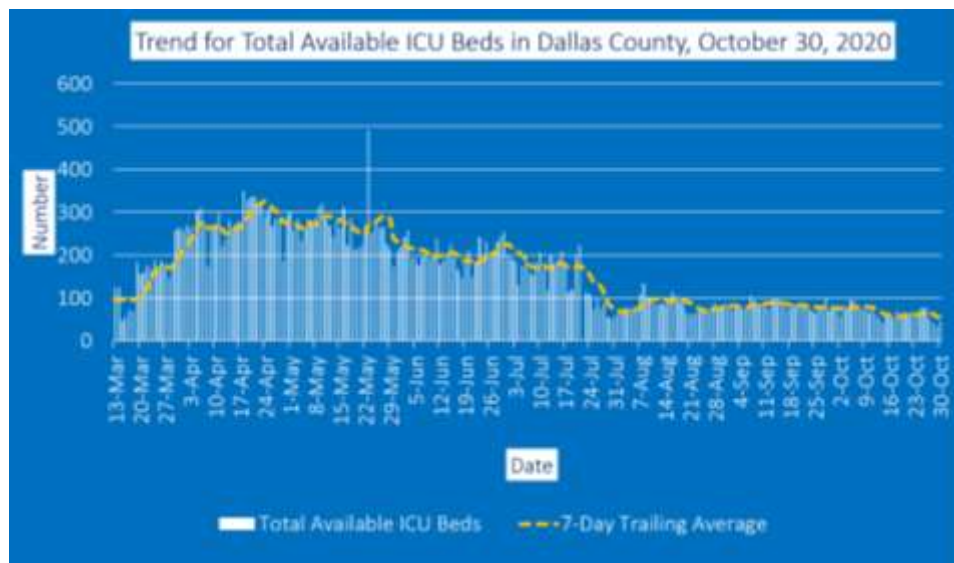
Local health experts use hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and ER visits as three of the key indicators as part of determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. There were 462 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Friday, October 30. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 428 for the same time period, which represents around 19 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. The ongoing impact of COVID on our hospitals and health care workers remains significant. As of October 30, 2020 there is nearly **DOUBLE** the amount of COVID-19 patients in

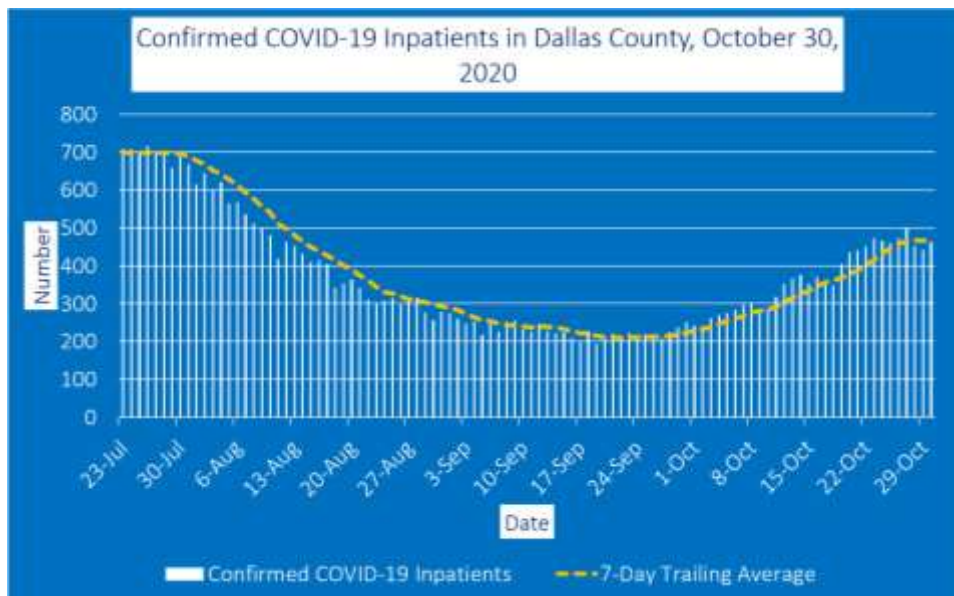
Dallas County hospitals as there were on September 30, 2020. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).

Additionally, Table 12 below is from the October 30, 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 15 weeks in Dallas County.

**Table 12. Summary of weekly COVID-19 confirmed and probable cases and deaths, Dallas County (CDC Weeks 29 - 43)**

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	6,620	675	946	11	21.7%
30	7/25/2020	4,516	482	645	15	19.3%
31	8/1/2020	3,363	415	480	12	15.9%
32	8/8/2020	2,888	313	413	9	13.8%
33	8/15/2020	2,178	182	311	9	13.0%
34	8/22/2020	1,738	187	248	6	11.0%
35	8/29/2020	2,202	184	315	6	10.6%
36	9/5/2020	2,050	150	293	3	10.6%
37	9/12/2020	1,853	183	265	2	9.6%
38	9/19/2020	2,203	236	315	2	11.5%
39	9/26/2020	2,440	251	349	2	10.6%
40	10/3/2020	2,710	305	387	2	10.1%
41	10/10/2020	3,547	446	507	2	11.5%
42	10/17/2020	4,163	496	595	2	14.0%
43	10/24/2020	4,566	587	652	1	15.4%





“For this week, we rose to an average of 681 cases a day, up from 551 last week, with a total of 19 deaths this week too. Our average number of COVID-19 cases per day continues to rise each week as does the

number of patients in the hospital and our positivity rate. For the last CDC week, with cases assigned back to the date of test collection, we had an average of 652 new cases per day and today's numbers are 759 new cases.

UT Southwestern Medical modelers tell us that we are on pace to have our highest number of average daily cases per week by Thanksgiving if we do not immediately go back to doing the things that we know how to do: wear our mask, avoid crowds and practice good social distancing and hygiene. Have a safe and fun 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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