



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 17, 2020**

**Dallas County Reports 645 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases  
Including 188 Probable Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 12:00 pm November 17, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 645 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 457 confirmed cases and 188 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 111,174 cases (PCR test), including 1,147 confirmed deaths. There is a cumulative total of 10,186 probable cases (antigen test), including 20 probable deaths.

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

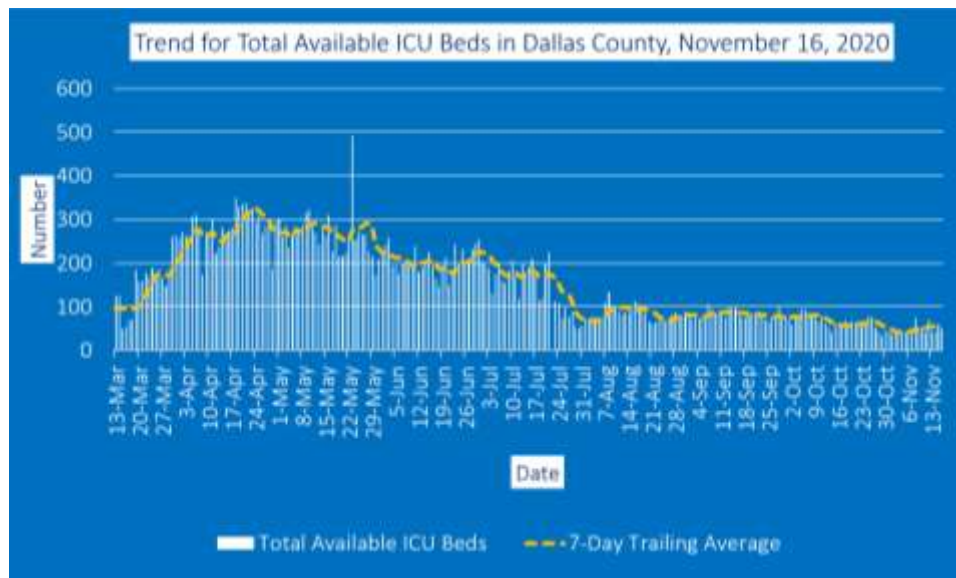
The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 45 has increased to **958**, which is a rate of **37.4** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high, with **15.3%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 45 (week ending 11/7/20).

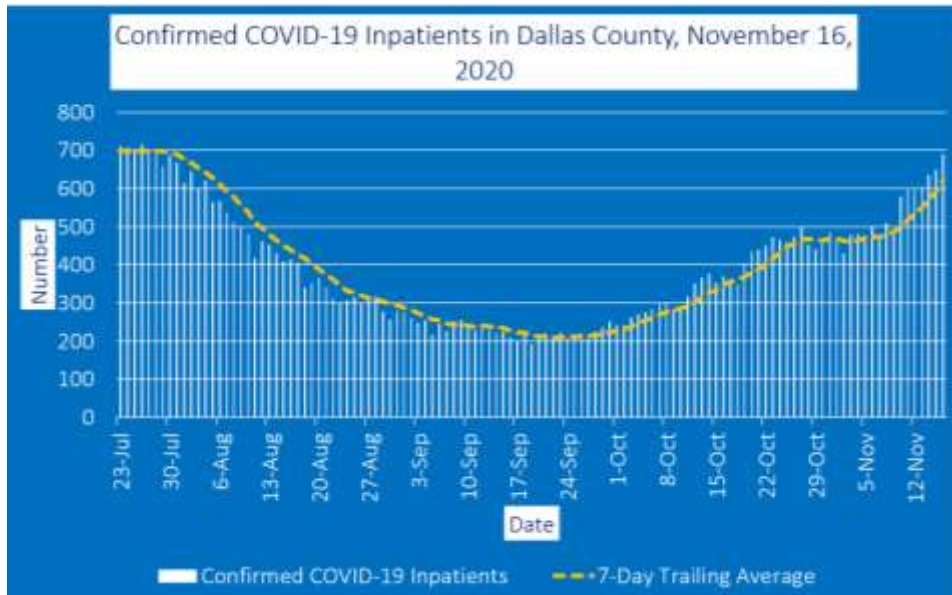
A provisional total of 843 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 45, an increase of 37% from the previous week. During this past week, ten K-12 schools in Dallas County have initiated temporary closures of their campuses to in-person instruction due to COVID-19 cases.

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 691 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Monday, November 16. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 489 for the same time period, which represents around 23 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas

Trauma Regional Advisory Council. Hospitalizations continue to increase rapidly within the county and across the region. Our hospitals remain concerned about the unmitigated spread and the strain on their staff. With nationwide increases, unlike the relief provided to NYC in the spring with their surge, there are serious staffing concerns if numbers continue to increase. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).





“Today the County reports an additional 645 COVID-19 cases. There have been problems with the State’s electronic laboratory reporting system in the past and today it appears the system is reporting artificially low numbers to several counties. In the meantime, there is little reason to believe that if the full numbers were reported, they would be different than the trend we’ve been seeing for the last several days or the projections that the medical modelers have made for North Texas.

Please think about your routine, both at work and at home, and think of ways that you can avoid crowds. If you’ve been going to the grocery store, consider curbside pick-up or delivery. Forgo in-restaurant dining experiences and in-home get-togethers. When people visit your home who you do not live with, please ensure that everyone including you wears a mask during the time that your visitors are there, and if you are going to take your mask off to eat or drink, please take the opportunity to do that in an outdoor setting with appropriate spacing. It’s imperative that we stop our increased gatherings. The number one cause of spread at this time are in-home gatherings with friends and family.

COVID won’t be with us forever. The vaccines are very promising and will be here soon, but wishing that it would go away and pretending that things are better than they are will not work. We must all come together in a spirit of community sacrifice, forgoing those few things we would like to do that the doctors tell us are not safe, for the good of ourselves, our families, our community and our economy for just a little while longer. North Texas always rises to the challenge and I know we can do it again, so please make your best

decisions. The decisions we make today, individually and collectively, will determine where we are next week and the week after that,” 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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