



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 20, 2020**

**Dallas County Reports 1,974 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 15 Deaths Including 328 Probable Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 3:00 pm November 20, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 1,974 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 1,646 confirmed cases and 328 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 115,410 cases (PCR test), including 1,177 confirmed deaths. There is a cumulative total of 10,731 probable cases (antigen test), including 24 probable deaths.

The additional deaths being reported today includes the following:

- A man in his 40's who was a resident of the City of Cedar Hill. He had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 50's who was a resident of the City of Irving. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 50'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.
- A man in his 50's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. He 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 Dallas. He had been critically ill in an area hospital, and didn't have any underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60'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.
- A man in his 60'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.
- A man in his 70'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.
- A man in his 70'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.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Balch Springs. He 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 Irving. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, and didn't have any underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80'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 90's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, and expired in the facility.
- A man in his 90's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He had been hospitalized, and had underlying high risk health conditions.

- A man in his 90's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He had been hospitalized, and had underlying high risk health conditions.

Over the past 30 days, there have been over 850 COVID-19 cases reported from 84 separate long-term care facilities, including 304 staff members. This is the highest number of long-term care facilities with active outbreaks reported in Dallas County since the beginning of the pandemic. Over the past 30 days, there have been 90 COVID-19 cases reported from 14 separate congregate-living facilities, including 22 staff members and one death of a staff member.

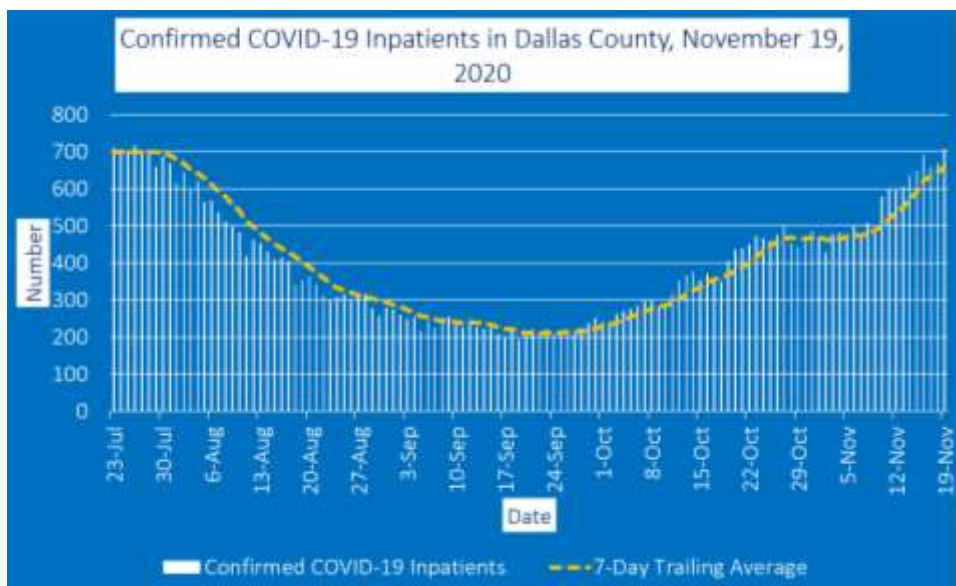
Since November 1, there have been over 116 COVID-19 cases in children and staff reported from 60 separate daycares in Dallas County. Since November 1, there have been 2,851 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from over 558 separate schools in Dallas County, including 393 staff members.

The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 45 has increased to **1,078**, which is a rate of **40.9** 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 919 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 45, a **three-fold** increase from 5 weeks earlier (week ending 10/3/20). During the week ending 11/7/2020, ten K-12 schools in Dallas County 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. Friday's report will be 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 707 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Thursday, November 19. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 503 for the same time period, 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. Hospitalizations over 700 are what we saw during the sustained peak in July. With unmitigated case spread, upcoming holidays, and flu activity beginning, we are extremely concerned about the impact on our hospital providers and their staff. Please do your part to reduce spread, and prevent you or a loved one from ending up in the hospital. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).





“Today, Dallas County sets another new record for COVID positive cases with 1,974 cases and an additional 15 deaths. For the week thus far, we’ve reported 40 deaths, which medical modelers predicted as the cases began to rise several weeks earlier. When those same medical modelers predicted over 2,000 daily cases by Thanksgiving, many people jeered at their predictions saying they were alarmist and false. It is important to remember that the local medical modelers have been right thus far throughout the pandemic. They are telling us that without a modification of our behavior to stop getting together with people outside of our homes, the numbers will continue to rise and with it, more stress on the hospitals, death, and damage to our economy.

As we approach this holiday week, we must think about what Thanksgiving is all about: being thankful for the many blessings that we have. We live in a tremendous country with great personal freedoms, but with freedom comes responsibility: responsibility to protect yourself, your family, and your community. In this country, we ask relatively little of our citizens compared to most of our allies. There is no draft, no forced military or government service, and no requirement to serve in the reserves. We have a volunteer military, and with our citizens, we ask that they pay taxes, answer the call for jury service, and obey the law. In this time of a worldwide pandemic and national emergency, we ask more of patriotic Americans. We ask that they follow the science, wear a mask, and avoid unnecessary crowds. When you consider the sacrifices of our healthcare heroes, our first responders, and those that have served this country in the military and in other roles, it is a small price to pay to protect America and our community.

We must move to a spirit of community sacrifice, forgoing those things that we treasure to protect those things that we treasure more. COVID will not always be with us but it’s with us this Thanksgiving and it will be with us this Christmas and Hanukkah. It’s up to us to respond to the threat in a way that we and our children can look back on and be proud of your decisions as family, business and community leaders,” 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](mailto:Clay.Jenkins@dallascounty.org)

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

###