



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 28, 2020

Dallas County Reports 982 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 4 Deaths Including 243 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm November 28, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 982 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 739 confirmed cases and 243 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 122,923 cases (PCR test), including 1,204 confirmed deaths. There is a cumulative total of 11,870 probable cases (antigen test), including 31 probable deaths.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Lancaster. He had been hospitalized, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City Dallas. He had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80's who was a resident of the City of DeSoto. 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 DeSoto. 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 46 has increased to **1,405**, which is a rate of **53.3** daily new cases per 100,000 residents-- the highest case rate in Dallas County since the beginning of the pandemic. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 has increased, with **17.0%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 46 (week ending 11/14/20).

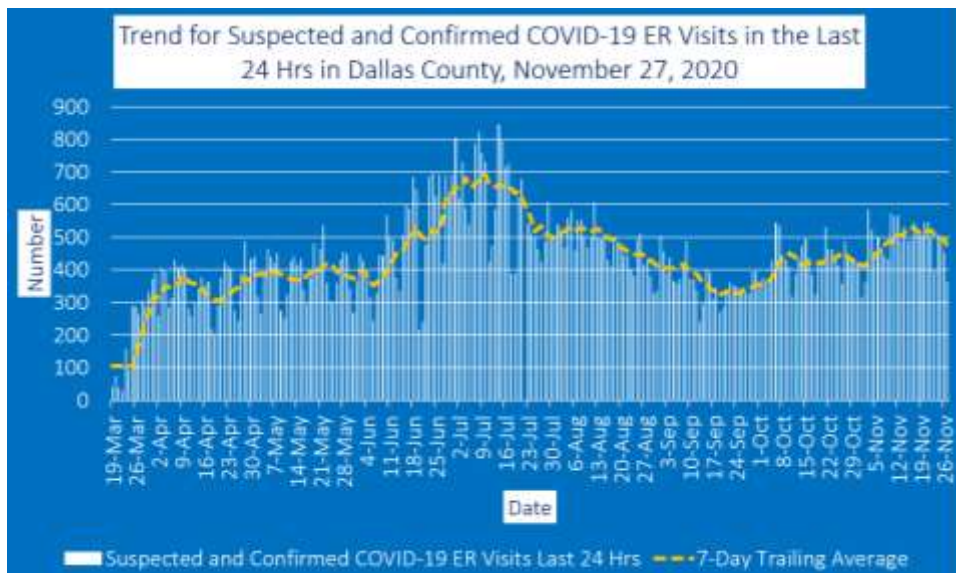
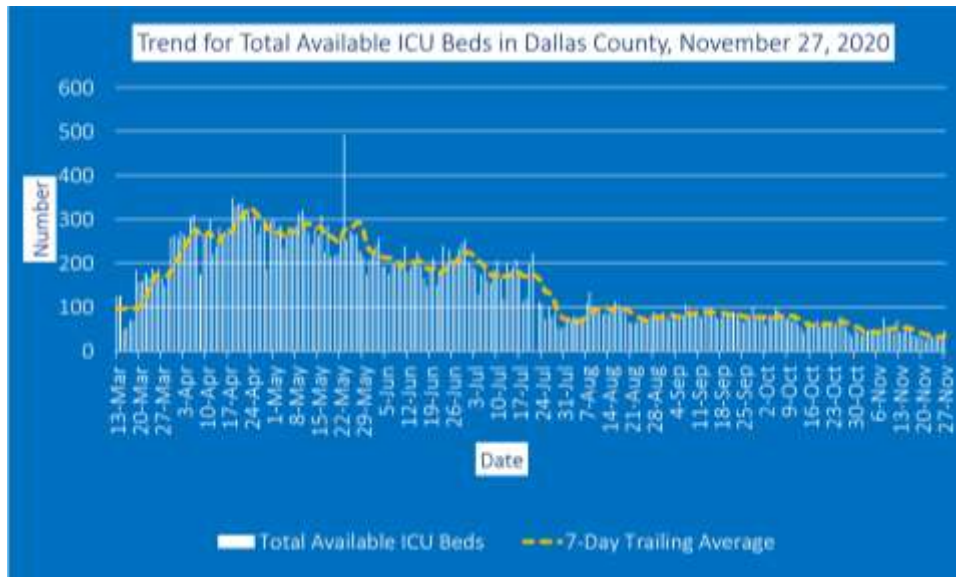
A provisional total of 1,224 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 46, a **three-fold** increase from 5 weeks earlier (week ending 10/10/20). Since November 1, there have been 3,630 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from over 632 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County, including 466 staff members. A total of 1,282 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 46 -- which is 50% more than the number of cases in this age group reported during the second highest peak week of cases in July (Week 28). Since November 1, there have been over 130 COVID-19 cases in children and staff reported from 97 separate daycares in Dallas County.

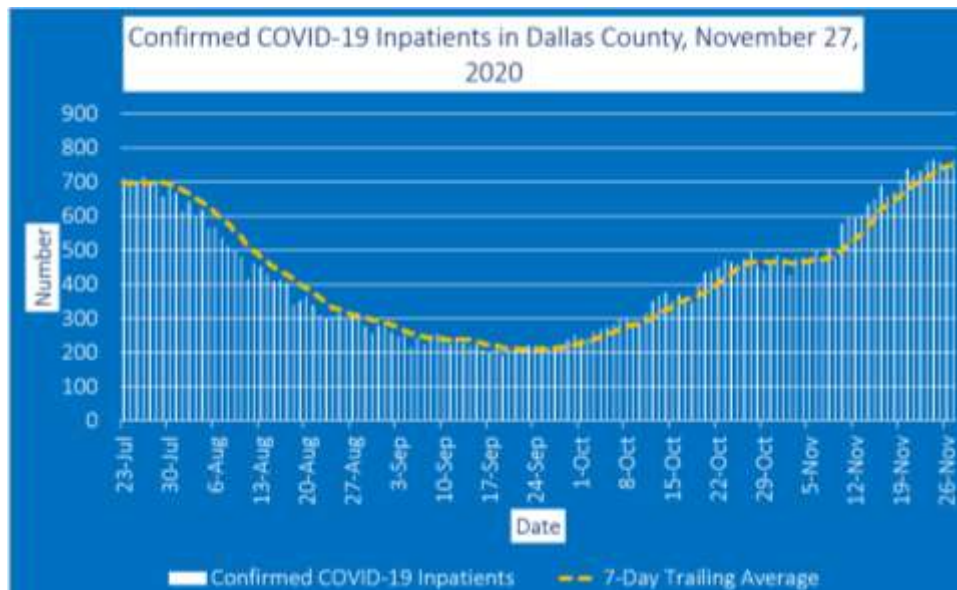
Over the past 30 days, there have been over 850 COVID-19 cases reported from 84 separate long-term care facilities, including 304 staff members. This is the highest number of long-term care facilities with active outbreaks reported in Dallas County since the beginning of the pandemic. Over the past 30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

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 23% 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 759 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Wednesday, November 25. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 495 for the same time period, which represents around 21 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. Health care facilities are not our first line of defense but rather our last. Individual choices are critical in reducing your risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19. Please think of yourself, our community as a whole, and especially our health care providers, and make responsible decisions in line with public health guidance. Our hospital staff are working tirelessly to save lives, you can do the same and reduce their burden by staying home this holiday season. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).





“Today we are reporting the results through Wednesday late afternoon and tomorrow we will report testing from Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Testing generally goes down on holiday weekends and we expect the numbers will be more representative of the situation on the ground by mid-week. Overall, I believe Dallas County residents took the health community’s warnings and advice to heart and there was less gathering and less going to crowded spaces for this holiday. We will be able to tell to what extent we saw a spike from the Thanksgiving weekend beginning one to two weeks after it is over. This is due to the latency period for the virus and the onset of symptoms.

Thank you for your patriotism and sacrifice this holiday season. I know your Thanksgiving was different but I hope it was still special for you and those that you love. Let us continue to give our healthcare heroes what help we can by making smart decisions, avoiding crowds, forgoing get-togethers and wearing our mask. Let’s go into this holiday season with a spirit of grace towards one another and focus not on what our neighbor could do differently or better, but on making those incremental changes in our own conduct that collectively will lead to flattening the curve and protecting our community, state, and country,” 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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