



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 21, 2020

Dallas County Reports 1,814 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 23 Deaths Including 159 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm December 21, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 1,814 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 1,655 confirmed cases and 159 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 156,266 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 18,274 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 1,484 Dallas County residents have lost their lives due to COVID-19 illness.

The additional deaths being reported today includes the following:

- A man in his 40's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He was found deceased at home.
- A man in his 40'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 woman in her 40's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Desoto. 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 Hutchins. 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 expired in an area hospital ED, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She was found deceased at home, 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 60's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Lancaster. 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 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 had underlying high risk health conditions.
- 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 man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Coppell. 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 a long-term care facility in the City of Dallas. He expired in the facility, 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.
- 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 Farmers Branch. He 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 Mesquite. He had been hospitalized, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. He had been hospitalized, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. He expired in hospice, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 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 a long term care facility in the City of Dallas. She had been hospitalized, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 90's who was a resident of the City of Irving. She had been hospitalized, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 90's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Dallas. She expired in in the facility, 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 50 was to **1,668**, which is a rate of **62.9** daily new cases per 100,000 residents.

The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high, with **19.7%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 50 (week ending 12/12/20).

Over the past 30 days, there have been 6,050 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 780 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County, including 686 staff members. Of these cases, 603 have been associated with extracurricular activities, including athletics.

There are currently 99 active long-term care facility outbreaks. Since the beginning of the pandemic, a total of 2,696 residents and 1,550 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 631 have been hospitalized and 318 have died. About 22% of all deaths reported to date have been associated with long-term care facilities.

Thirty-nine outbreaks of COVID-19 in congregate-living facilities (e.g. homeless shelters, group homes, and halfway homes) have been reported in the past 30 days associated with 163 cases, including 6 hospitalizations. One facility has reported 89 COVID-19 outbreak cases since October.

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.

New cases are being reported as a daily aggregate, with a more detailed summary report updated Tuesdays and Fridays available at: <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/2019-novel-coronavirus/daily-updates.php>

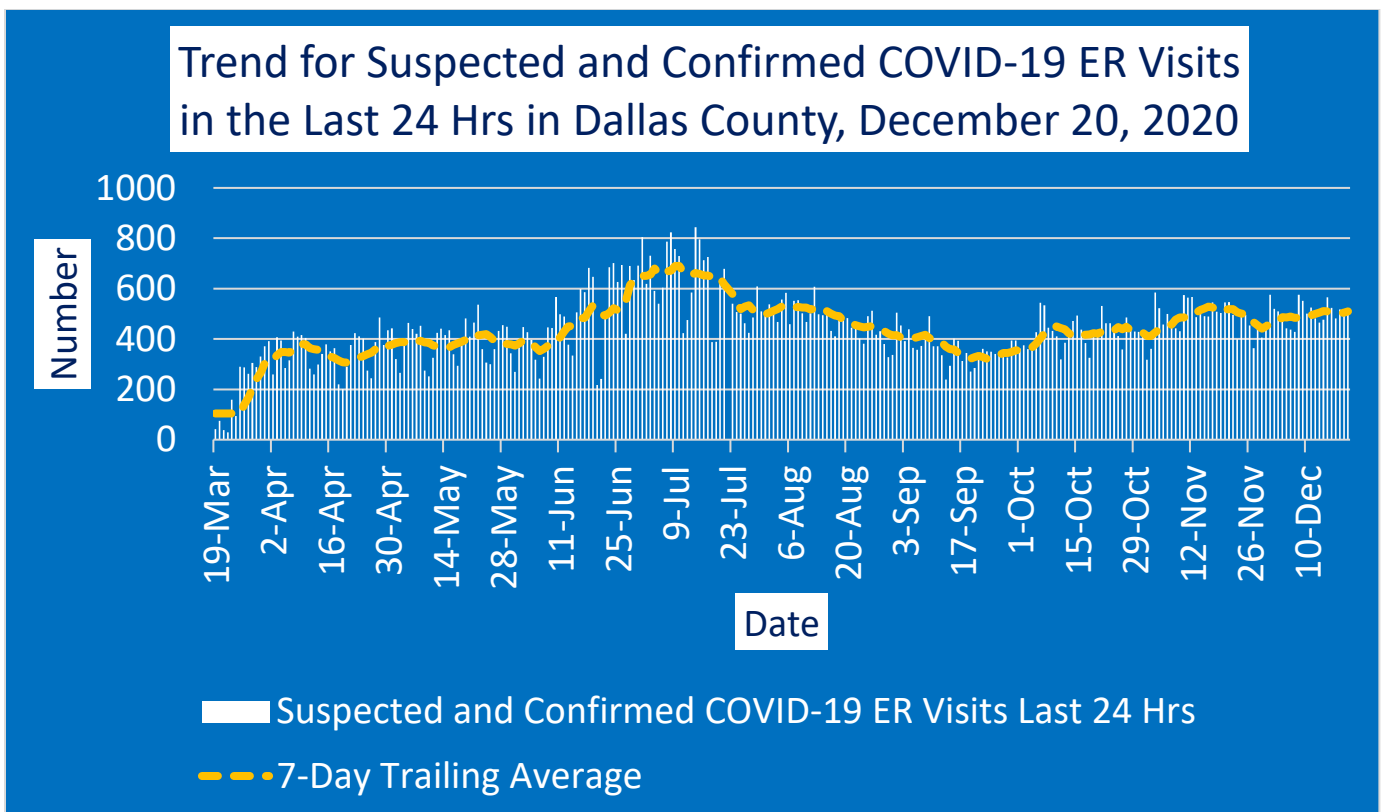
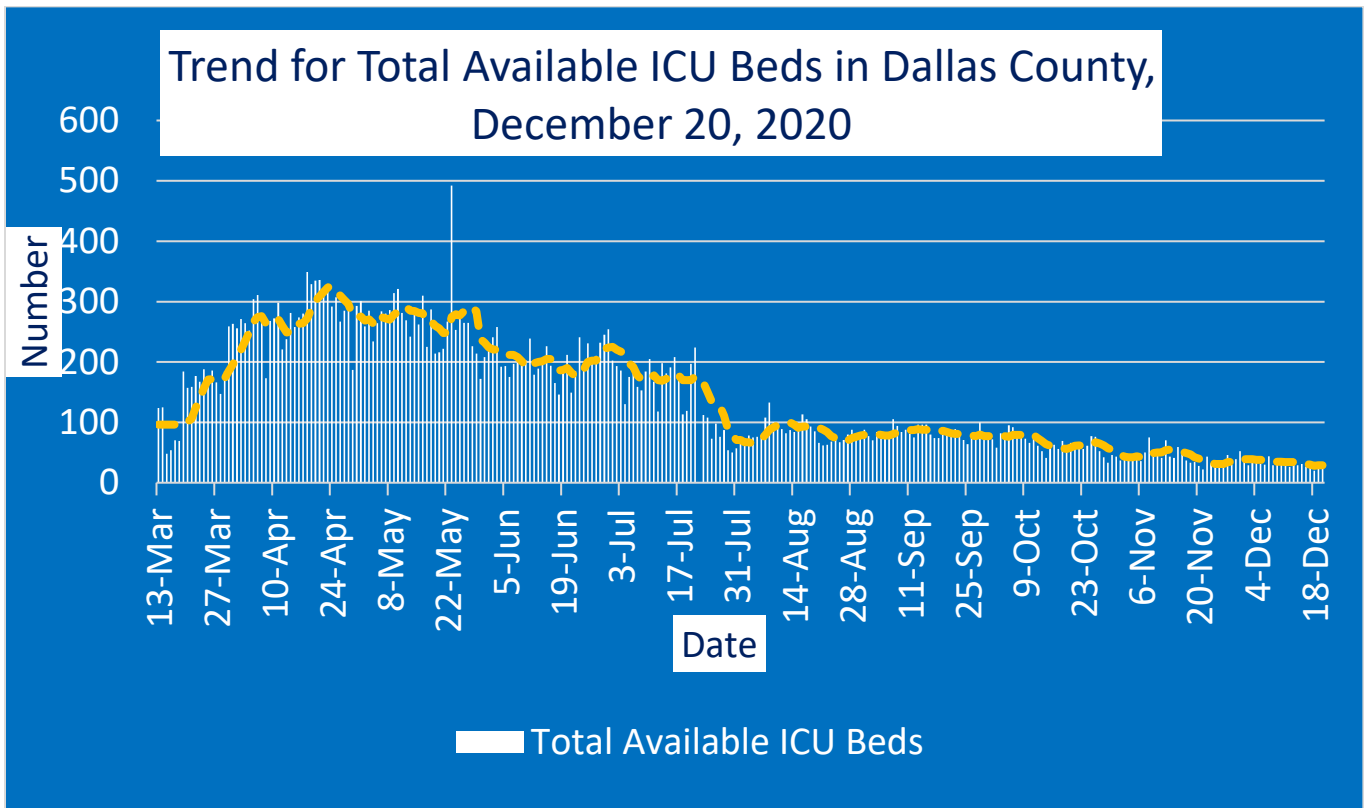
Summary of weekly COVID-19 confirmed and probable cases, deaths, and percentage positive laboratory tests, Dallas County (CDC Weeks 25 - 50)

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***
25	6/20/2020	5,853	472	836	5	26.9%
26	6/27/2020	8,618	647	1,230	8	30.5%
27	7/4/2020	8,942	699	1,277	9	30.0%
28	7/11/2020	9,191	865	1,313	9	26.6%
29	7/18/2020	6,601	688	943	11	21.7%
30	7/25/2020	4,521	493	646	15	19.3%
31	8/1/2020	3,350	418	479	12	15.9%
32	8/8/2020	2,844	320	406	9	14.0%
33	8/15/2020	2,159	183	308	9	13.2%
34	8/22/2020	1,757	187	251	6	11.2%
35	8/29/2020	2,195	188	313	6	10.8%
36	9/5/2020	2,066	162	295	3	10.5%
37	9/12/2020	1,871	198	267	3	9.7%
38	9/19/2020	2,241	239	320	2	11.4%
39	9/26/2020	2,497	261	357	2	10.7%
40	10/3/2020	2,656	306	379	2	10.0%
41	10/10/2020	3,579	453	511	2	11.5%
42	10/17/2020	4,478	557	640	2	14.3%
43	10/24/2020	5,305	691	758	4	15.1%
44	10/31/2020	5,438	617	777	5	15.0%
45	11/7/2020	7,732	944	1,105	5	15.3%
46	11/14/2020	10,100	1,307	1,443	8	19.8%
47	11/21/2020	10,048	1,220	1,435	6	20.4%
48	11/28/2020	8,464	894	1,209	7	21.7%
49	12/05/2020	11,915	1,644	1,702	4	21.6%
50	12/12/2020	11,678	1,607	1,668	3	19.7%

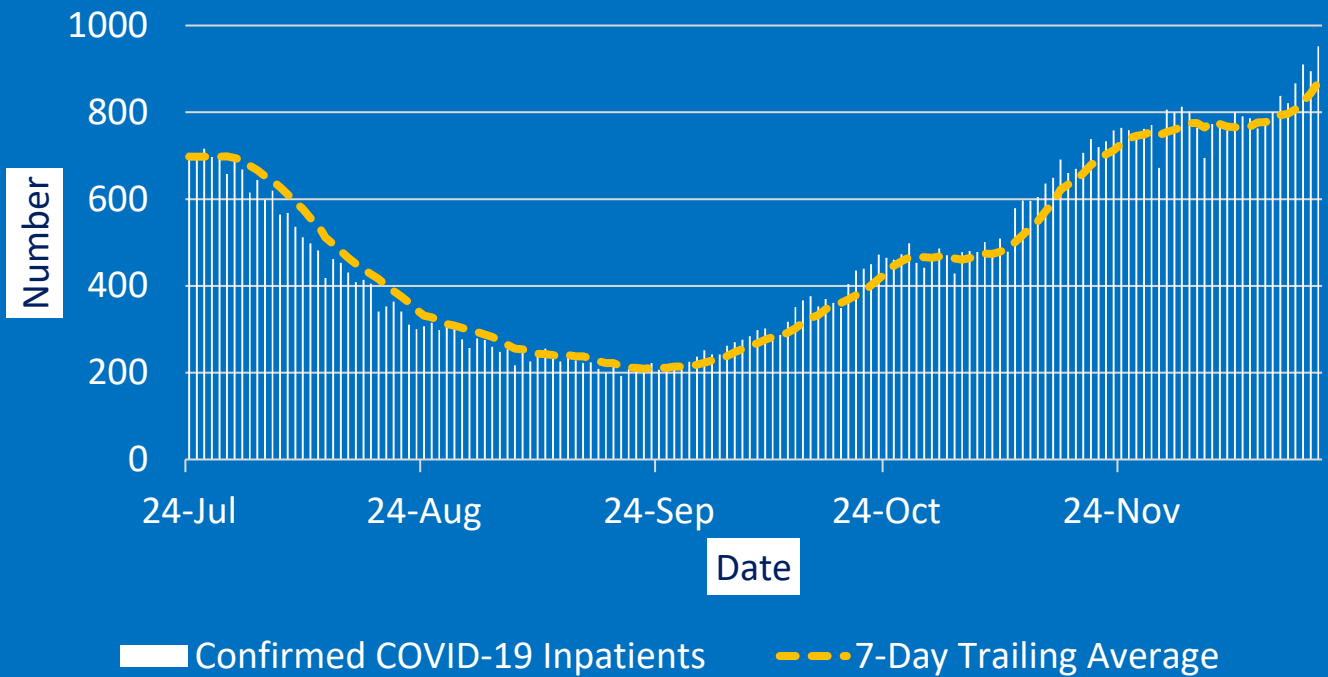
Due to the observance of the Christmas holiday, Dallas County will not be releasing COVID-19 data on Thursday, December 24 or Friday, December 25. Reporting will resume Saturday, December 26. Saturday's reporting will include data processed Wednesday evening and Sunday's reporting will include data from Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Local health experts use hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and ER visits as three of the key indicators in determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. Due to weekend reporting, new data will be available on Tuesday, December 22, 2020. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).

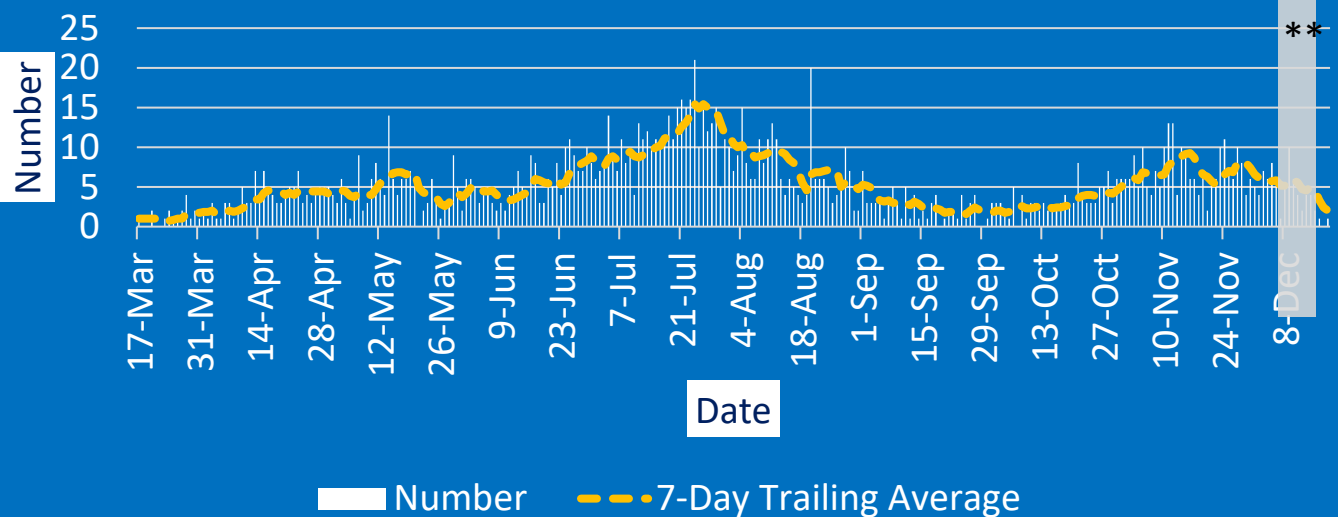
On December 3, Trauma Service Area E (TSA E), which includes Dallas County and the greater Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, reached seven consecutive days where the percentage of COVID-19 confirmed patients in regional hospitals, as a percentage of available hospital beds, exceeded 15 percent. According to Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-32 (GA-32), this makes TSA E an area with high hospitalizations and certain occupancy reductions are automatically triggered by reaching this threshold.



Confirmed COVID-19 Inpatients in Dallas County, December 20, 2020



COVID-19 Deaths by Actual Date of Death and 7-Day Trailing Average in Dallas County, December 21, 2020



“As we begin this week of Christmas, today we report 1,814 new cases, 23 new deaths, and for the first time a 1,000 people hospitalized with COVID-19. It is more important now than ever that we follow the doctors’ advice to avoid crowds, forego in-person celebrations with people outside of those we live with, and wear our masks whenever we are in an indoor setting outside the home or in our home if non-household members are present. By doing these things and planning ahead to take advantage of online, curbside and delivery options,

we can hopefully give our healthcare heroes the capacity they need to help those who are sick in this time of unprecedented spread. Stopping this current surge, which will continue to weaken our community and our country, is imperative.

Now is the time for gratitude and I am thankful for all of you and the courage you have shown during this year in dealing with this deadly pandemic.

It is the time to renew our strength and continue to find the courage to make the small sacrifices necessary to keep our community and country as strong as possible until the vaccine can be administered to the vast majority of everyone and do its job,” 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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