



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 22, 2020**

**Dallas County Reports 2,366 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 30 Deaths Including 278 Probable Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 12:00 pm December 22, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 2,366 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 2,088 confirmed cases and 278 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 158,354 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 18,552 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 1,514 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 50's who was a resident of the City of Garland. He expired in an area hospital ED, and had underlying high-risk conditions.
- A man in his 50's who was a resident of the City of Farmers Branch. He was found deceased at home.
- A man in his 50's who was a resident of the City of Garland. 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 Irving. He expired in an area hospital ED, and did not have underlying high-risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. She expired in an area hospital ED, and had underlying high-risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Irving. 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 Mesquite. He had been hospitalized, 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 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 Rowlett. 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 Garland. 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 Garland. 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 Mesquite. She 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 Irving. 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 Desoto. 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 Dallas. She had been hospitalized, 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 Mesquite. He had been hospitalized, and had underlying high-risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Rowlett. She had been critically ill in an area hospital.
- 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.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of the City of Lancaster. 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 a the City of Dallas. He had been hospitalized, and did not have underlying high-risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. He had hospitalized, and had underlying high-risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Garland. She had been hospitalized, and had underlying high-risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Garland. 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 Desoto. 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 Dallas. 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 a long-term care facility in the City of Garland. He had been hospitalized, and had underlying high-risk health conditions.
- A man in his 90's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Garland. He expired in an area ED, and had underlying high-risk health conditions.
- A man in his 90's who was a resident of a long-term care facility the City of Irving. He expired in the facility.

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.

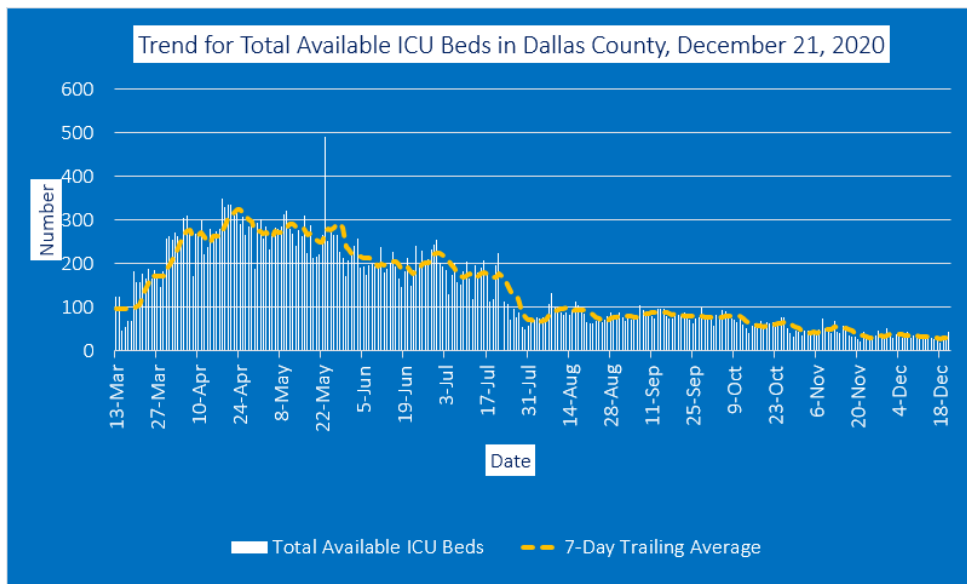
Of all confirmed cases requiring hospitalization to date, more than two-thirds have been under 65 years of age. Diabetes has been an underlying high-risk health condition reported in about a third of all hospitalized patients with COVID-19. New cases are being reported as a daily aggregate, with a more detailed summary report

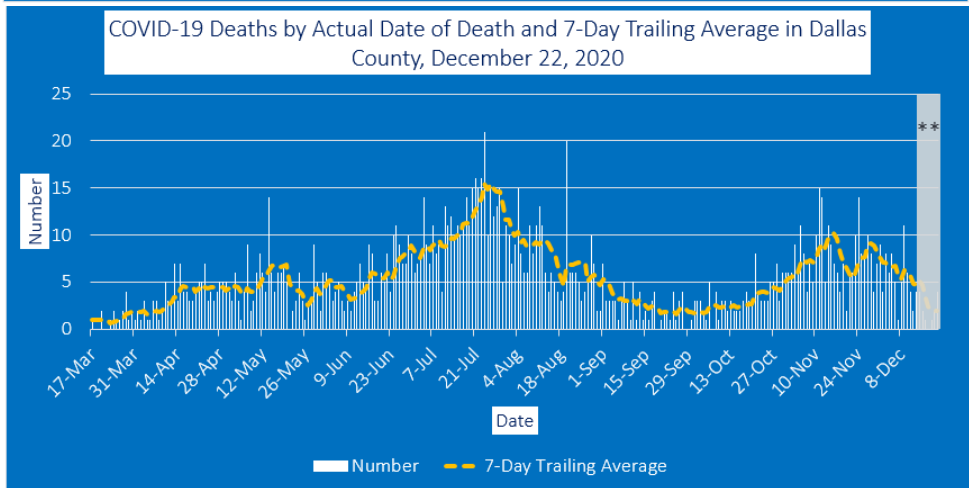
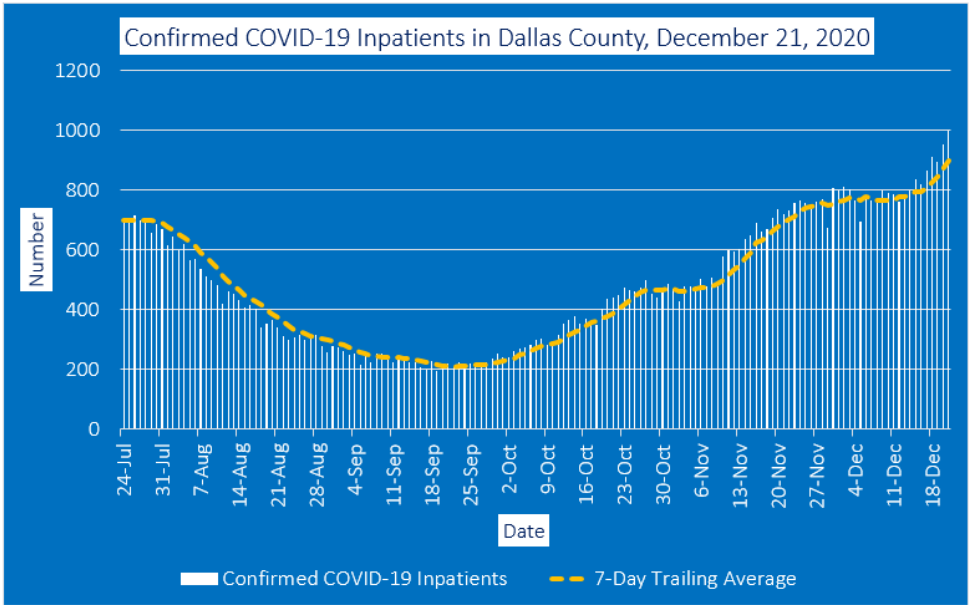
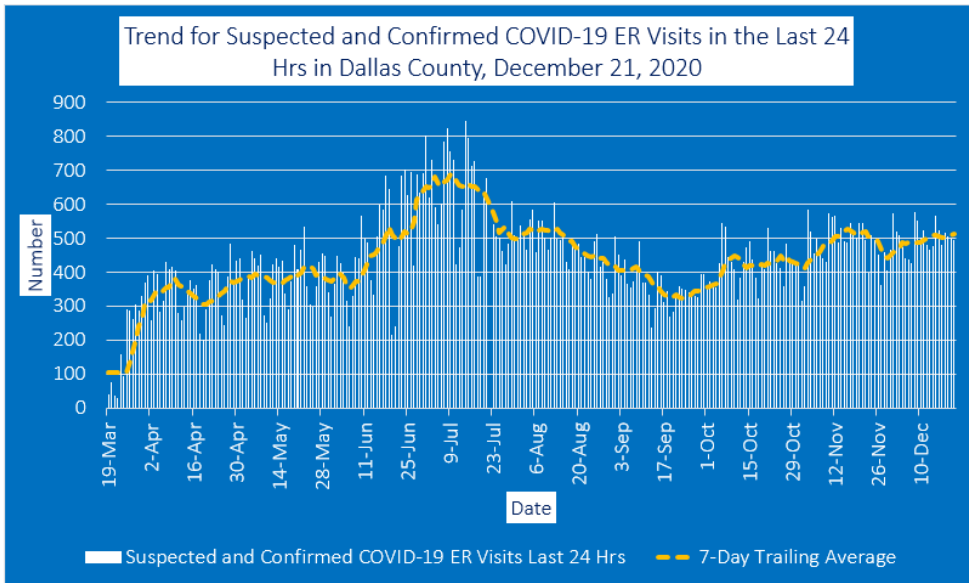
updated Tuesdays and Fridays available at: <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/2019-novel-coronavirus/daily-updates.php>

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 as part of determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. There were 1,000 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Monday, December 21. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 494 for the same time-period, which represents around 24 percent of all emergency department visits in the county. At a 1,000 patients, we are nearly 200 higher than the record from the July peak. Without similar state restrictions in place as we saw in July to bend the curve down, we are alarmed by the growth and potential for even more spread over the holidays. Please follow public health guidance and do not meet outside your household, avoid indoor settings such as restaurants, bars, and malls, and stay home to the fullest extent possible. #StayHomeStaySafe was critical to our success in the spring and summer, with higher numbers today we must commit to that strategy again. 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.





“Today we add another 2,366 new cases and 30 deaths to our COVID-19 numbers. With the holidays approaching and unprecedented high case counts, we are echoing the requests of our public health community, hospitals, and our health care heroes, that everyone make sacrifices this year to protect our community and save lives. Wearing a mask whenever you are in an indoor setting and outside your home, and within your home when anyone other your household members are present. Foregoing get-togethers this holiday and avoiding crowds is critical. It’s not too late to shop curbside locally. Local retailers would be glad to have you make

selections and bring them to your car. But, please stay out of crowded stores and malls, where distancing can be compromised. Now is the time for patriotism, to help our essential workers and health care heroes who've worked so hard to help us. Again, please encourage everyone you know to shop locally curbside, but not indoors, and follow the advice found on [Dallascounty.org/covid-19/](https://www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/) to help our health care heroes help you. I wish everyone joyous and meaningful holidays. We can get through this, fueled largely by the courage and the smart personal decisions that you and your loved ones make, until the vaccine can be widely administered," 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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