



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 23, 2020**

**Dallas County Reports 2,512 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 30 Deaths Including 677 Probable Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 12:00 pm December 23, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 2,512 positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 1,835 confirmed cases 677 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 160,189 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 19,229 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 1,544 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 20's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He expired in a vacant residence.
- A woman in her 40'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 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 woman in her 50'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 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 woman in her 50'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 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 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 woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Balch Springs. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. 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 Grand Prairie. 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 Grand Prairie. 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 a long-term care facility in the City of Richardson. He expired in the facility, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70'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 man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He expired in hospice, 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 did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Garland. He had been hospitalized.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Sunnyvale. 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 expired in hospice, 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 a long-term care facility in 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 Garland. He expired in an area hospital ED, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Dallas. She expired in hospice, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Garland. She expired in the facility.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of the City of Irving. 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 Irving. 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 Grand Prairie. He had been critically ill in an area hospital.

- A man in his 90's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Dallas. He had been critically ill in an area hospital, and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 100's who was a resident of a long-term care facility the City of Garland. She had been hospitalized, 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 **1,722**, which is a rate of **65.3** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high, with **23.3%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 50 (week ending 12/12/20).

Since the beginning of the pandemic, 3,864 healthcare workers and first responders have been reported with COVID-19 in Dallas County. Over the past 30 days, there have been 4,955 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 764 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County, including 692 staff members. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 21 school nurses have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

There are currently 100 active long-term care facility outbreaks. Since the beginning of the pandemic, a total of 2,696 residents and 1,590 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 640 have been hospitalized and 323 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 172 cases, including 6 hospitalizations. One facility has reported 93 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 972 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Tuesday, December 22. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 562 for the same time period, which represents around 21 percent of all emergency department visits in the county. The projections from UTSW show Dallas County with hospitalizations as high as 1,500 by January 5. Without similar state restrictions in place as we saw in the spring and summer 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](#).

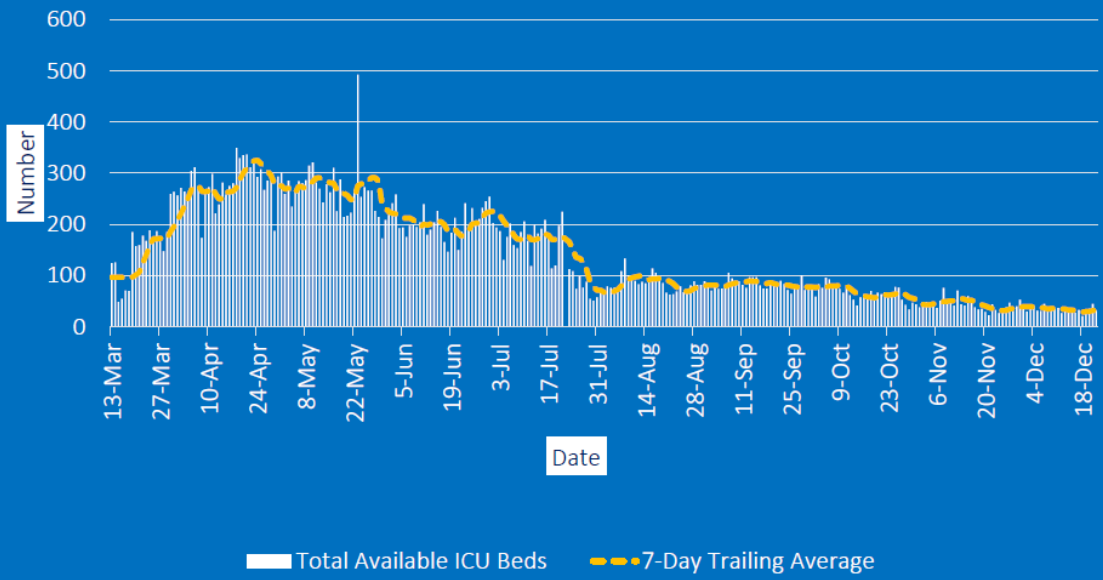
On December 3, Trauma Service Area E (TSA E), which includes Dallas County and the greater Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, reached seven consecutive days where the percentage of COVID-19 confirmed patients in regional hospitals, as a percentage of available hospital beds, exceeded 15 percent. According 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.

Additionally, the chart below is the December 22, 2020 Dallas County Health and Human Services 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) summary of confirmed and probable cases and deaths since late June in Dallas County.

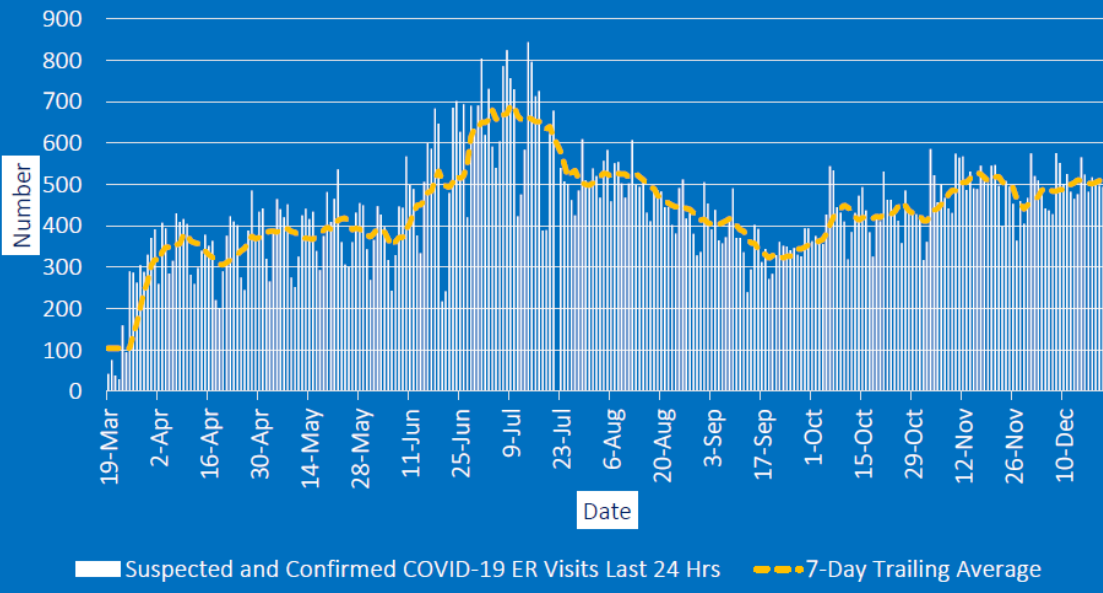
**Summary of weekly COVID-19 confirmed and probable cases, deaths, and percentage positive laboratory tests, Dallas County (CDC Weeks 25 - 50)**

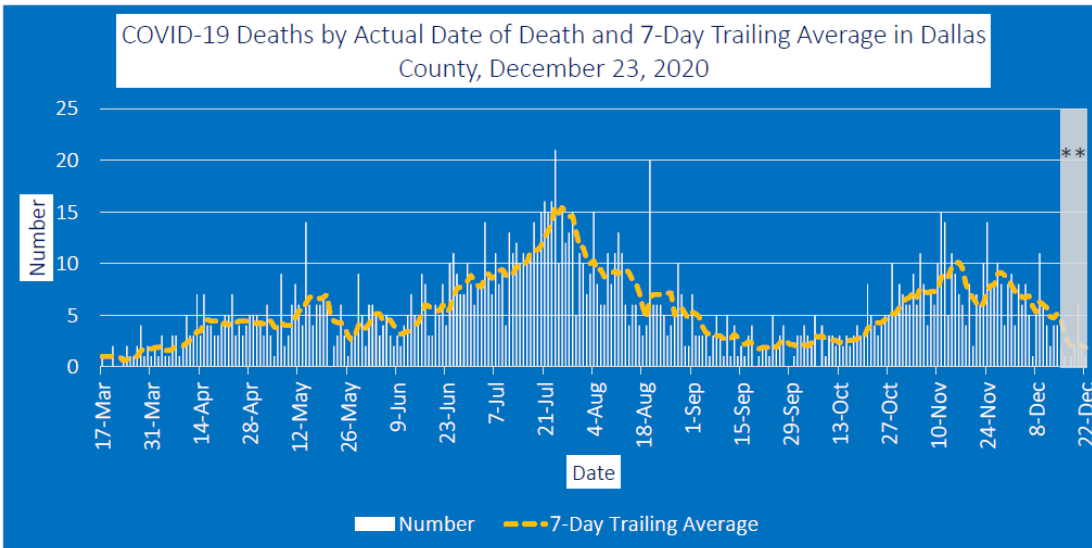
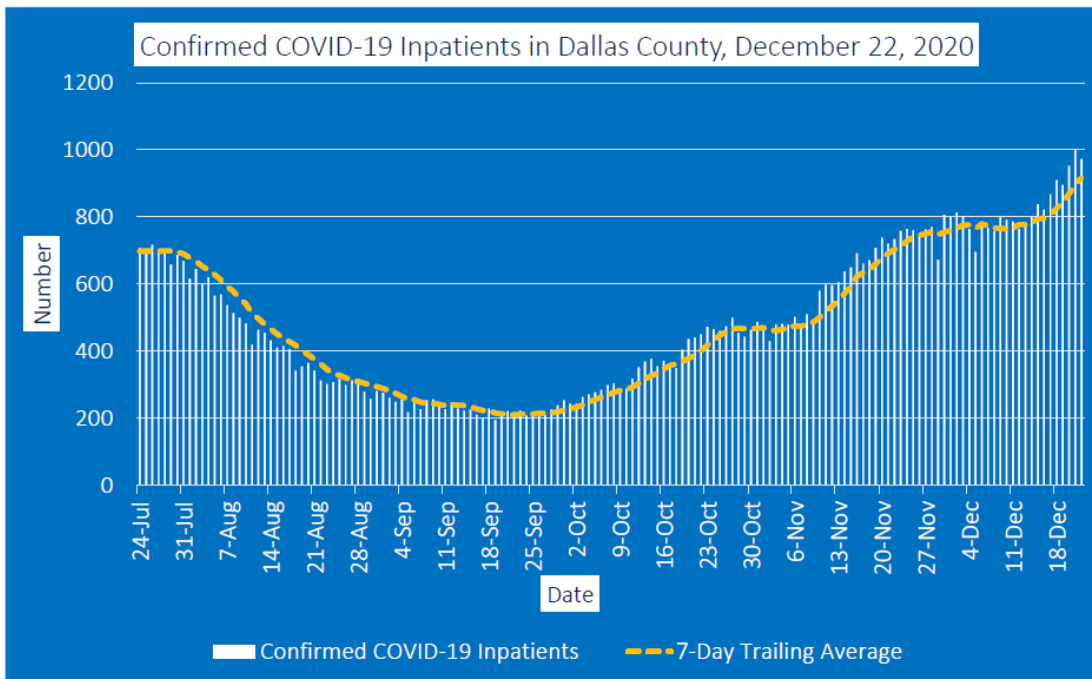
CDC Week	Week Ending	Total Confirmed and Probable Cases	Total School-Aged Cases (5 to 17 years)	Daily Average New Confirmed and Probable Cases*	Daily Average New Confirmed and Probable Deaths**	Percentage of Tests Positive for SARS-CoV-2***
25	6/20/2020	5,854	472	836	5	26.9%
26	6/27/2020	8,617	647	1,231	8	30.5%
27	7/4/2020	8,944	699	1,278	9	30.0%
28	7/11/2020	9,191	865	1,313	9	26.6%
29	7/18/2020	6,603	688	943	11	21.7%
30	7/25/2020	4,522	493	646	15	19.3%
31	8/1/2020	3,349	418	478	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	314	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	2,242	239	320	2	11.4%
39	9/26/2020	2,497	261	357	2	10.7%
40	10/3/2020	2,657	306	380	2	10.0%
41	10/10/2020	3,582	453	512	2	11.5%
42	10/17/2020	4,480	555	640	2	14.3%
43	10/24/2020	5,309	691	758	4	15.1%
44	10/31/2020	5,442	617	777	5	15.0%
45	11/7/2020	7,741	944	1,106	7	15.3%
46	11/14/2020	10,117	1,308	1,445	10	19.8%
47	11/21/2020	10,086	1,228	1,440	7	20.4%
48	11/28/2020	8,523	901	1,218	10	21.3%
49	12/5/2020	12,094	1,676	1,728	7	25.1%
50	12/12/2020	12,051	1,649	1,722	5	23.3%

Trend for Total Available ICU Beds in Dallas County, December 22, 2020



Trend for Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 ER Visits in the Last 24 Hrs in Dallas County, December 22, 2020





“Today we have 2,512 new COVID-19 cases, a new record high for Dallas County. We also have 30 deaths ranging from a man in his 20’s who was found dead, to a women in her 100’s who had been hospitalized. The latest COVID predictions from UTSW, show a sharp increase in cases per day and hospitalizations. Up to 2,700 cases per day and 1500 hospitalizations by January 5th. Whether we reach these record highs is entirely up to the personal decisions we all make in the next few days. As of this morning, we had 17 remaining ICU beds in Dallas County, the worst we’ve seen so far. If we reach the predicted worse case scenarios, we will clearly surpass our capacity. While hospitals can add beds, we do not have the ability to easily add physicians, nurses, and other clinical staff. Health care heroes will be asked to take on higher numbers of patients, and staff not normally worked in COVID units or ICU may be asked to provide this level of care. For the good of the community and the country, we ask that everyone make the sacrifices needed to curtail this spread, wearing masks in all indoor settings, shopping curbside and for delivery, avoiding getting together with individuals outside your household. Now is a time for patriotism as we battle a determined and relentless foe that is killing North Texans in record numbers. The virus doesn’t care it’s the holidays and that we are tired and want to spend time with family. We must not give up on the proven ways of keeping ourselves safe and our community strong. I know this holiday is different, as this year has been different, but I am so thankful for the courage the people of North Texas have shown thus far and the spirit of sacrifice and community. I wish you and yours a

very special holiday. I hope you will find joy and rest over the holidays, while keeping to the public health and CDC guidance,” 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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