



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2020

Dallas County Reports 1,179 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 8 Deaths Including 83 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm December 1, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 1,179 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 1,096 confirmed cases and 83 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 127,786 cases (PCR test), including 1,218 confirmed deaths. There is a cumulative total of 12,191 probable cases (antigen test), including 36 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 Dallas. He had been critically ill in an area hospital, and did not have any underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City 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 Irving. She 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 woman in 70's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She had been hospitalized, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City DeSoto. 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 man in 80's who was a resident of the City DeSoto. He had been hospitalized, and had underlying high risk health conditions.

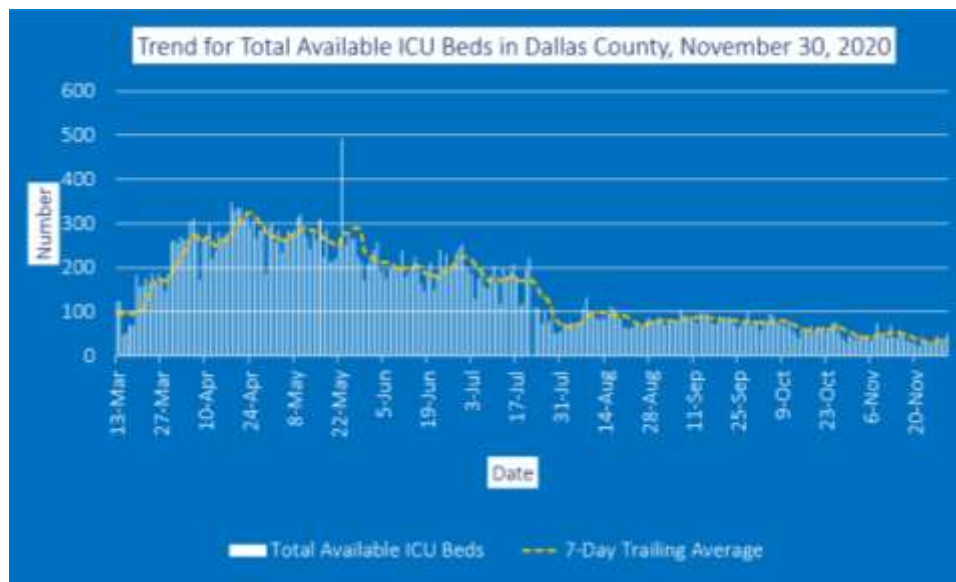
The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 46 has increased to **1,405**, which is a rate of **53.3** daily new cases per 100,000 residents-- the highest case rate in Dallas County since the beginning of the pandemic. The percentage 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).

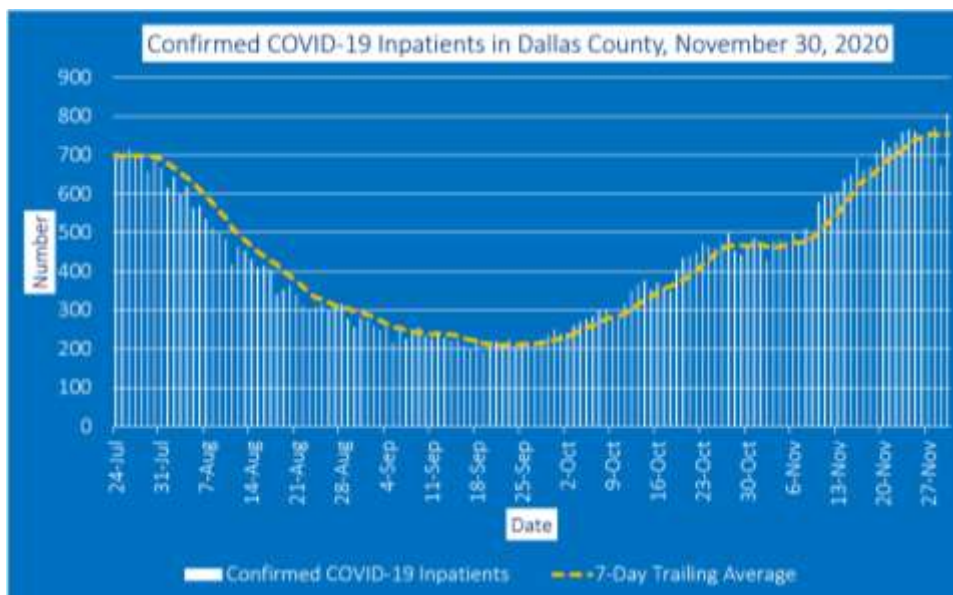
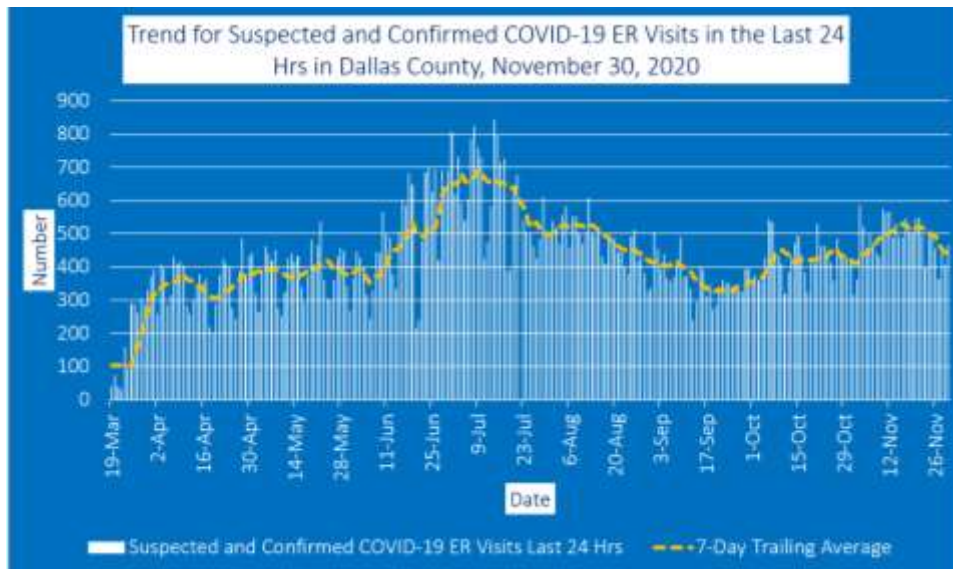
A provisional total of 1,282 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 46, a **three-fold** increase from 5 weeks earlier (week ending 10/10/20). Since November 1, there have been 4,907 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from over 704 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County, including 550 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 130 COVID-19 cases in children and staff reported from 97 separate daycares in Dallas County.

There are currently 95 active long-term care facility outbreaks. Over the past 30 days, a total of 798 COVID-19 cases have been reported from these facilities, including 309 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. Of these cases 27 have died, including 2 deaths of staff members. Over twenty clusters of cases in congregate-living facilities (homeless shelters, group homes, and halfway homes) have been reported in the past 30 days associated with 168 cases, including one facility with 87 confirmed 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 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. Tuesday's summary report is 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 806 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Monday, November 30. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 467 for the same time period, which represents around 22 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. As expected, we saw a decrease in visits over the holiday weekend, but the numbers reported Monday are approaching all-time highs for hospitalized patients. We remain concerned about a potential surge on our hospitals over the next few weeks, as we see the impact holiday gatherings may have on the spread of COVID-19. Please take extra caution and stay away from others if you did choose to gather over the long weekend. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).





“Today we have 1,179 new COVID positive cases and eight deaths. Most labs that did not report over the holidays or did not test for several days over the holidays are back online and tomorrow’s numbers should be representative of a typical day of testing.

A report from Dr. Birx and the National Coronavirus Task Force, issued on November 22 and sent to Governor Abbott, was discovered by a watchdog group. The report contains recommendations for the Governor to act on including limiting crowd sizes at venues and businesses. These recommendations mirror the recommendations that the Public Health Committee, made up of local experts in infectious disease, epidemiology and public health in Dallas County, have been asking of Governor Abbott for over a month. It's unknown whether the Governor will act or to what extent, but you need not wait for government action to recognize that the health experts on the national and the local level are telling us it is not safe to go to crowded places, we should avoid get-togethers with people outside our family, and we should wear our mask whenever around others.

Now is a time for shared sacrifice and forgoing the selfish but understandable desires that we have to do the things that doctors tell us are just not safe for us, the community or the country. Now is a time for patriotism in doing things that not only will potentially protect you and your family, but that will protect and strengthen our community and our country. We won't have to do this forever. The vaccine is coming but it's not here yet and we must hold on a little bit longer. I hope we will keep our spirit of thanksgiving going throughout this holiday season. I know we're thankful for our own families and I hope we all recognize that following the doctors' scientific recommendations will protect not only your family but others you've never met and that is the foundation of patriotism: to protect your community and your country, even those you've never met. Let's stop looking at our neighbors with the thought that they're doing something wrong and we're doing something better, and all ask ourselves how we can do a little better because incremental changes in our behavior can have a big impact on the spread of COVID," 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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