



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 2, 2020

Dallas County Reports 1,640 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 3 Deaths Including 233 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm December 2, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 1,640 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 1,407 confirmed cases and 233 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 129,193 cases (PCR test), including 1,221 confirmed deaths. There is a cumulative total of 12,424 probable cases (antigen test), including 36 probable deaths.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A woman in her 40's who was a resident of the City of Lancaster. 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 Duncanville. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, and did not have any 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.

The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 47 was to **1,347**, which is a rate of **51.1** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 has increased, with **17.3%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 47 (week ending 11/21/20).

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 1,157 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 47 -- which is 50% more than the number of cases in this age group reported during the highest week of cases during July (Week 28). Thirteen K-12 schools in Dallas County have initiated temporary closures of their campuses to in-person instruction for this week due to COVID-19 cases. Since November 1, there have been over 134 COVID-19 cases in children and staff reported from 101 separate daycares in Dallas County.

There are currently 95 active long-term care facility outbreaks. 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, a total of 798 COVID-19 cases have been reported from these facilities, including 309 staff members. Of these cases 44 have been hospitalized, and 27 have died, including 2 deaths of staff members. Twenty-two 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 168 cases, including one facility with 87 confirmed COVID-19 cases.

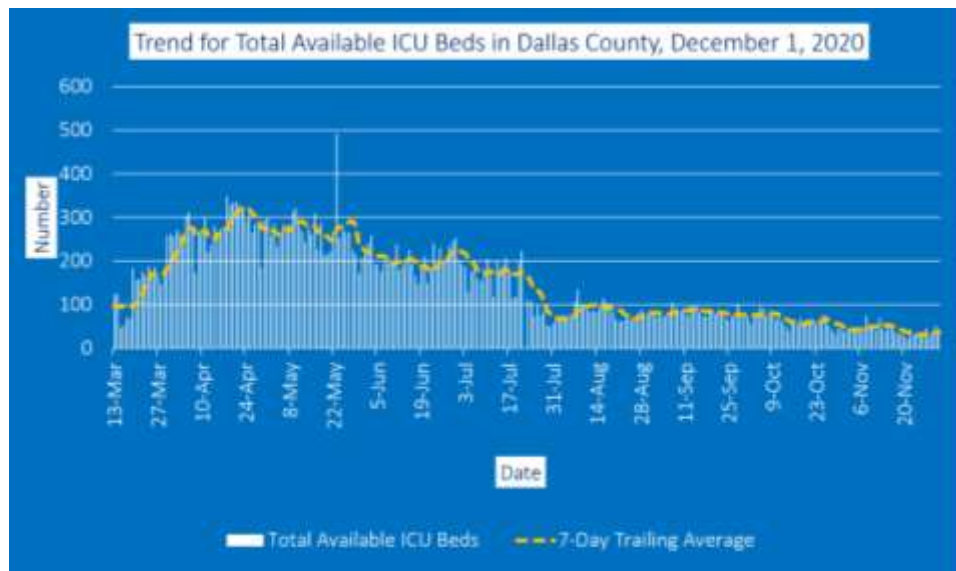
Of all confirmed cases requiring hospitalization to date, more than two-thirds have been under 65 years of age. Diabetes has been an underlying high-risk health condition reported in about a third of all hospitalized patients with COVID-19. Of the total confirmed deaths reported to date, about 23% have 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 is attached.

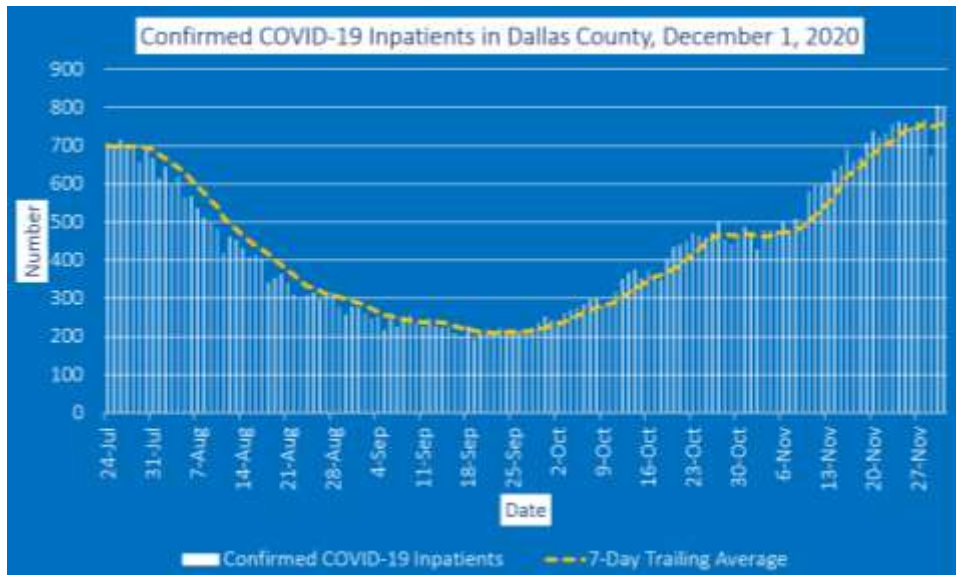
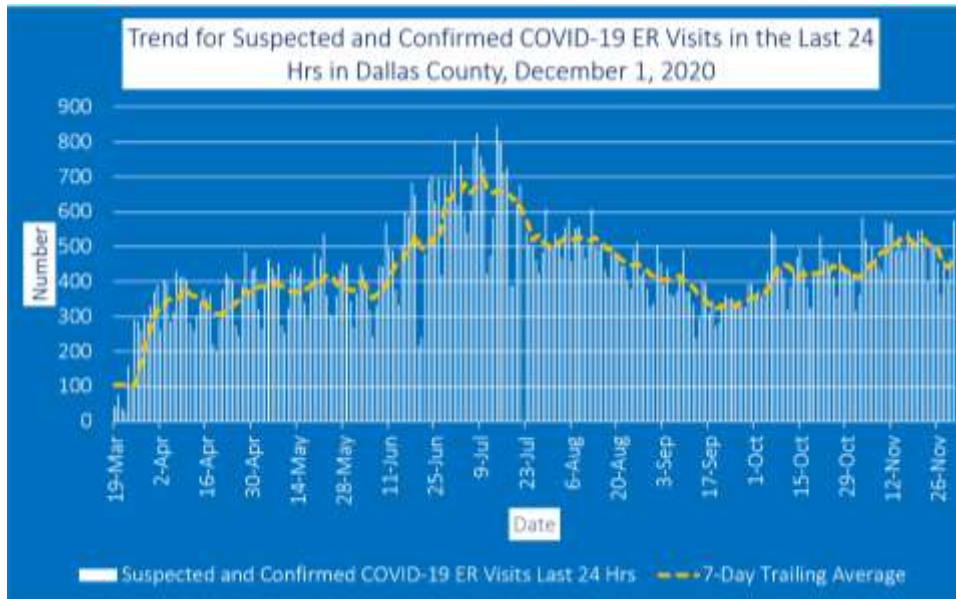
Local health experts use hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and ER visits as three of the key indicators as part of determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. There were 800 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Tuesday, December 1. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 575 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. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).

Additionally, Table 8 below is from the December 1, 2020 Dallas County Health and Human Services 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Summary. Table 8 is a summary of confirmed and probable cases and deaths since late June in Dallas County.

Table 8. Summary of weekly COVID-19 confirmed and probable cases and deaths, Dallas County (CDC Weeks 25 - 47)

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	5,860	454	837	5	26.9%
26	6/27/2020	8,613	624	1,230	8	30.5%
27	7/4/2020	8,945	658	1,278	9	30.0%
28	7/11/2020	9,194	831	1,313	9	26.6%
29	7/18/2020	6,607	657	944	11	21.7%
30	7/25/2020	4,520	476	646	15	19.3%
31	8/1/2020	3,351	414	479	12	15.9%
32	8/8/2020	2,846	302	407	9	13.8%
33	8/15/2020	2,162	180	309	9	13.0%
34	8/22/2020	1,757	185	251	6	11.0%
35	8/29/2020	2,195	183	314	6	10.6%
36	9/5/2020	2,069	154	296	3	10.6%
37	9/12/2020	1,871	190	267	2	9.6%
38	9/19/2020	2,235	236	319	2	11.5%
39	9/26/2020	2,500	264	357	2	10.6%
40	10/3/2020	2,664	305	381	2	10.1%
41	10/10/2020	3,586	453	512	2	11.5%
42	10/17/2020	4,477	549	640	2	14.3%
43	10/24/2020	5,293	682	756	3	15.1%
44	10/31/2020	5,435	613	776	4	15.0%
45	11/7/2020	7,652	933	1,093	4	15.3%
46	11/14/2020	9,919	1,288	1,417	3	17.1%
47	11/21/2020	9,426	1,157	1,347	3	17.3%





“Today we have 1,640 new COVID cases and three deaths. The numbers that we have today should be accurate numbers as all reporting agencies are back online with regular reporting after the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Dr. Birx, head of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, issued a November 22 report, sent to the Governor, discussing the importance of limiting crowd size and testing. We need not wait for action at the state level. We can all make a decision to limit our exposures now by avoiding in-home get-togethers, masking whenever around people outside of our home, and forgoing crowded experiences. We must stop looking at our neighbors with contempt for their perceived shortcomings in keeping our community safe, and instead focus on what we can do to get a little bit better as we all renew our strength towards shared sacrifice and patriotism. This will make our community and country stronger for a little while longer as we await the broad dissemination of a vaccine. Forgoing restaurant dining in lieu of take-out, delivery or uncrowded patio dining, forgoing indoor workouts and taking your exercise outside, and utilizing curbside pickup in lieu of shopping in a crowded grocery store, are all ways that we can get a little safer not just for ourselves but for people that we don't even know.

Dr. Birx also mentioned testing which is very important. It is recommended by Dr. Birx and others that if you have been around crowds last week, that you get tested and there are ample opportunities for testing in Dallas County. The County offers free testing at several drive-through and walk up locations. A comprehensive list of public and private testing locations can be found at www.DallasCountyCOVID.org. Please also check that site for the latest recommendations from local doctors and everyone work towards getting just a little bit safer as we work together to protect one another this holiday season," 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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