



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 5, 2020

Dallas County Reports 1,675 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 2 Deaths Including 264 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm December 5, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 1,675 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 1,411 confirmed cases and 264 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 132,890 cases (PCR test), including 1,232 confirmed deaths. There is a cumulative total of 13,430 probable cases (antigen test), including 38 probable deaths.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- 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.
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The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 48 was to **1,069**, which is a rate of **40.6** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 has increased, with **22.3%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 48 (week ending 11/28/20).

Since November 1, there have been 5,320 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from over 770 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County, including 849 staff members. Thirteen K-12 schools in Dallas County initiated temporary closures of their campuses to in-person instruction this past week due to COVID-19.

There are currently 97 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 927 COVID-19 cases have been reported from these facilities, including 309 staff members. Of these cases 42 have been hospitalized, and 29 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. Friday's report 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 764 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Friday, December 4. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 474 for the same time period, which represents around 21 percent of all emergency department visits in the

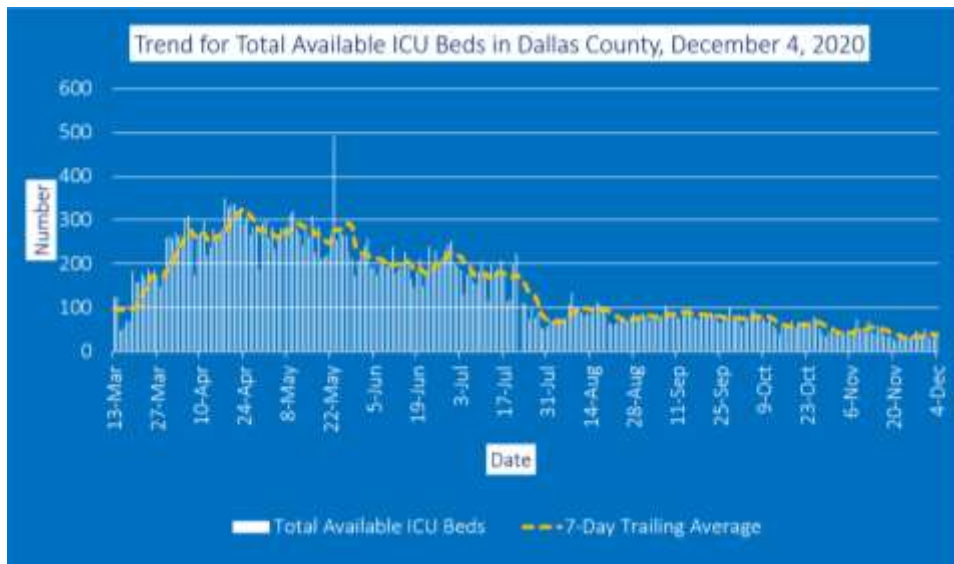
county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. Our hospitals are seeing record numbers of patients and are concerned about additional increases expected following Thanksgiving gatherings.

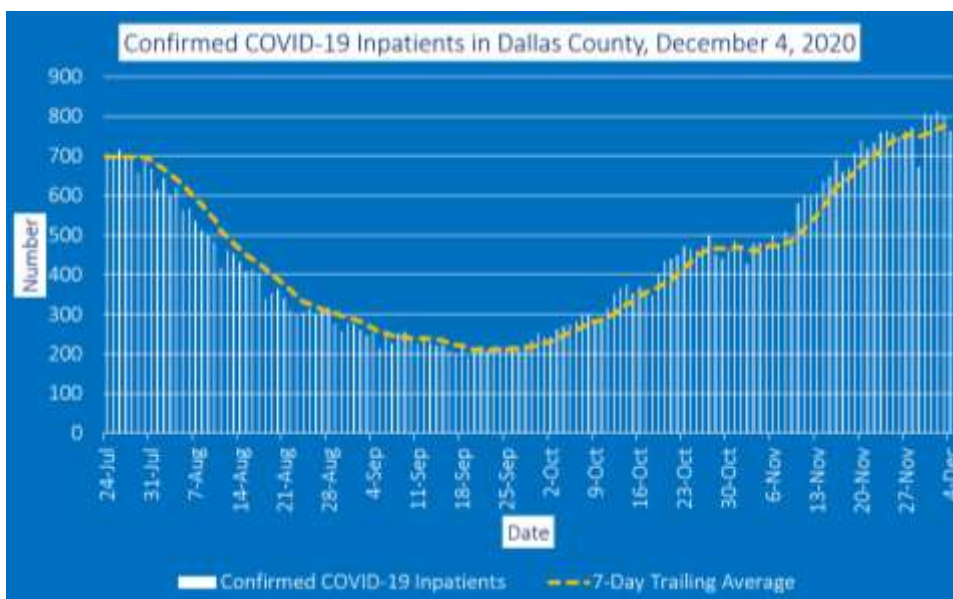
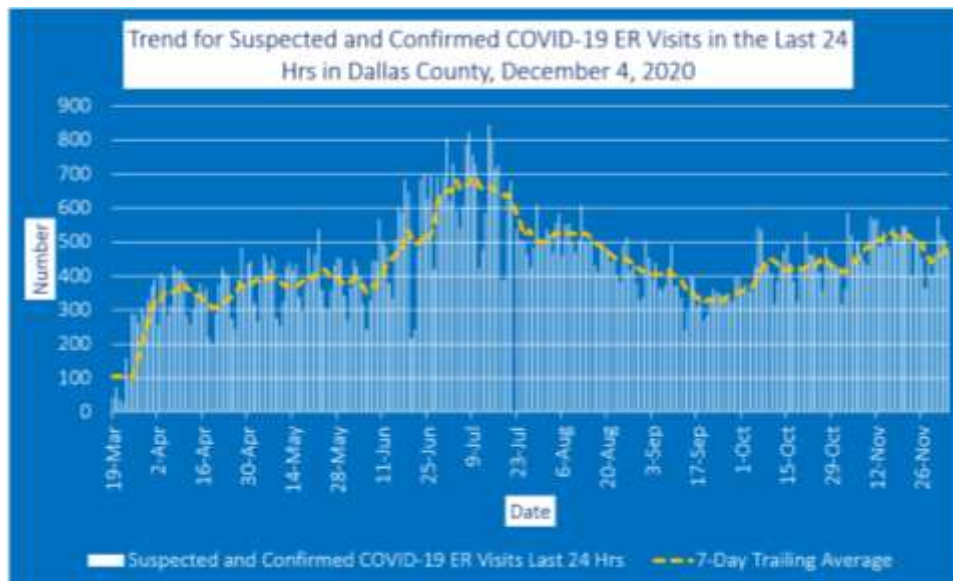
On December 3, Trauma Service Area E (TSA E), which includes Dallas County and the greater Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, reached seven consecutive days where the percentage of COVID-19 confirmed patients in regional hospitals, as a percentage of available hospital beds, exceeded 15 percent. According 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. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).

Additionally, Table 8 below is from the December 4, 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 - 48)

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	5,859	472	837	5	26.9%
26	6/27/2020	8,611	647	1,230	8	30.5%
27	7/4/2020	8,943	699	1,278	9	30.0%
28	7/11/2020	9,192	865	1,313	9	26.6%
29	7/18/2020	6,602	688	943	11	21.7%
30	7/25/2020	4,520	493	646	15	19.3%
31	8/1/2020	3,350	418	479	12	15.9%
32	8/8/2020	2,846	320	407	9	13.8%
33	8/15/2020	2,161	183	309	9	13.0%
34	8/22/2020	1,758	188	251	6	11.0%
35	8/29/2020	2,195	188	314	6	10.6%
36	9/5/2020	2,067	161	294	3	10.6%
37	9/12/2020	1,870	198	267	3	9.6%
38	9/19/2020	2,237	238	320	2	11.5%
39	9/26/2020	2,499	261	357	2	10.6%
40	10/3/2020	2,659	307	380	2	10.1%
41	10/10/2020	3,570	451	510	2	11.5%
42	10/17/2020	4,460	554	637	2	14.3%
43	10/24/2020	5,283	690	754	4	15.1%
44	10/31/2020	5,425	617	775	4	15.0%
45	11/7/2020	7,651	943	1,093	4	15.3%
46	11/14/2020	9,956	1,307	1,422	3	19.8%
47	11/21/2020	9,672	1,193	1,381	3	20.4%
48	11/28/2020	7,480	828	1,069	2	22.3%





“Today we report another 1675 COVID cases and two deaths. Our numbers for the CDC week, which are attached, are improved in all categories except for our positivity rate as it’s two percentage points higher. The improving numbers, while early, are an indication that residents are renewing their strength and engaging in

shared sacrifice and patriotism to keep our community and our country strong until such time as the vaccine can be widely distributed and have its effect. We've just got to keep it up and keep making those smart decisions.

By next week we'll have a feel for what the after effects of Thanksgiving will be, and with the colder weather, we know that COVID cases are likely to uptick as more and more people are forced into tight spaces indoors. So it's a time to be thankful for all the things that we have and not focus on the things that we would like to do that the disease is keeping us from doing. We also should not focus on our neighbors for their perceived failures but rather look at ourselves and those in our family and work teams and ask ourselves how we can get incrementally better and a little safer.

If you are a senior citizen, take advantage of the free prescription delivery services available from your pharmacies. Groceries shoppers, please consider curbside pickup. Do your workouts outside and away from others, and avoid crowds and postpone get-togethers in this time of high spread. If we do those things and other things that lessen our contacts, we can keep our community and America strong. I know you can do it North Texas. You've done it before in this pandemic and with other challenges. We are in this together and together we will defeat COVID-19," 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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