



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 9, 2020

Dallas County Reports 1,348 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 33 Deaths Including 258 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm December 9, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 1,348 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 1,090 confirmed cases and 258 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 138,233 cases (PCR test), including 1,275 confirmed deaths. There is a cumulative total of 14,055 probable cases (antigen test), including 42 probable deaths.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A man in his 20'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 30'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 40'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 man in his 40'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 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 Duncanville. She expired in an area hospital ED, 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 woman in her 50'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 50'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 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 Dallas. 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 Mesquite. 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 70'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 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- A man in his 70’s who was a resident of the City of Dallas. 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 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 long term care facility in the City of Dallas. He expired in the facility, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70’s who was a resident of long term care facility in the City of Dallas. He expired in the facility, He expired in the facility.
- A woman in her 80’s who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She had been hospitalized, and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80’s who was a resident of long term care facility in the City of Dallas. 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 Dallas. He had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80’s who was a resident of long term care facility in the City of Lancaster. She 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 long term care facility in the City of Dallas. He expired in the facility, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80’s who was a resident of long term care facility in the City of Dallas. He had been hospitalized, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 90’s who was a resident of long term care facility in the City of Dallas. He expired in the facility, and did not have underlying high risk health conditions
- A man in his 90’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 90’s who was a resident of long term care facility in the City of Dallas. He expired in the facility, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 90’s who was a resident in the City of Hutchins. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 90’s who was a resident of the City of Cedar Hill. 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 48 was **1,117**, which is a rate of **42.4** 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).

Over the past 30 days, there have been 4,520 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 735 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County, including 681 staff members. Of these cases, 534 have been associated with extracurricular activities, including athletics.

There are currently 101 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 857 COVID-19 cases have been reported from these facilities, including 328 staff members. During this timeframe, 38 have been hospitalized, and 30 have died, including 2 deaths of staff members. Twenty-four 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 155 cases, including 5 hospitalizations and 2 deaths. One facility has reported 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 report is attached.

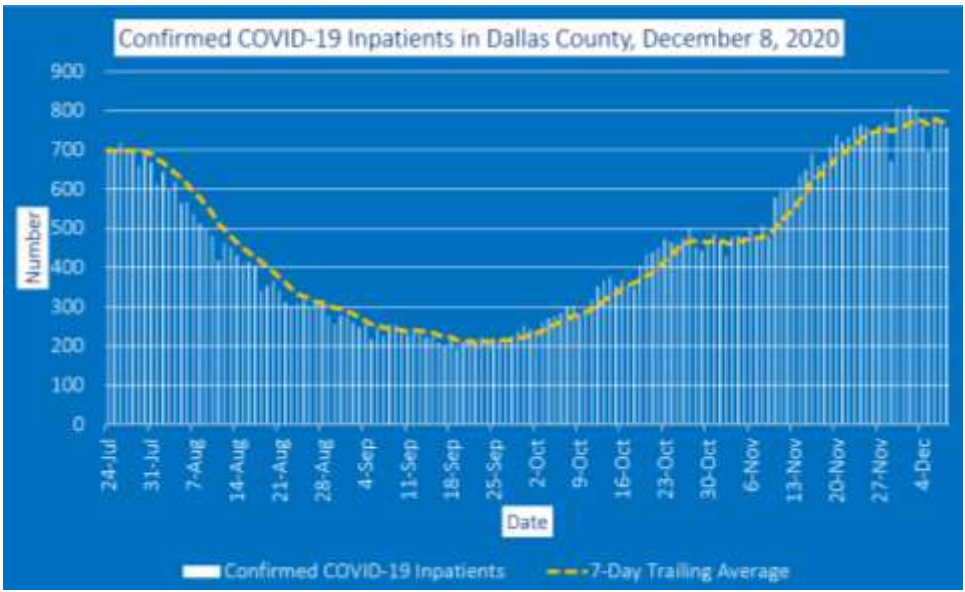
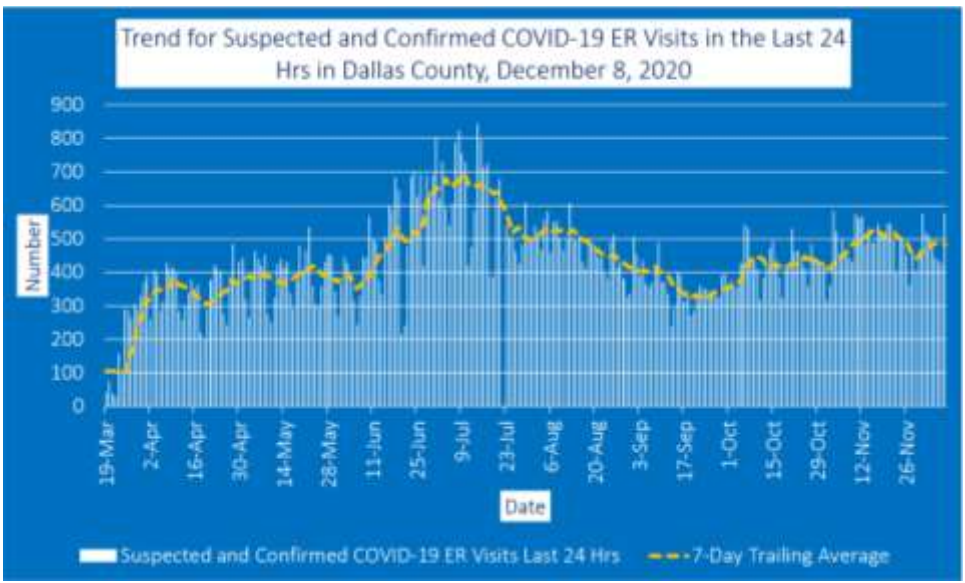
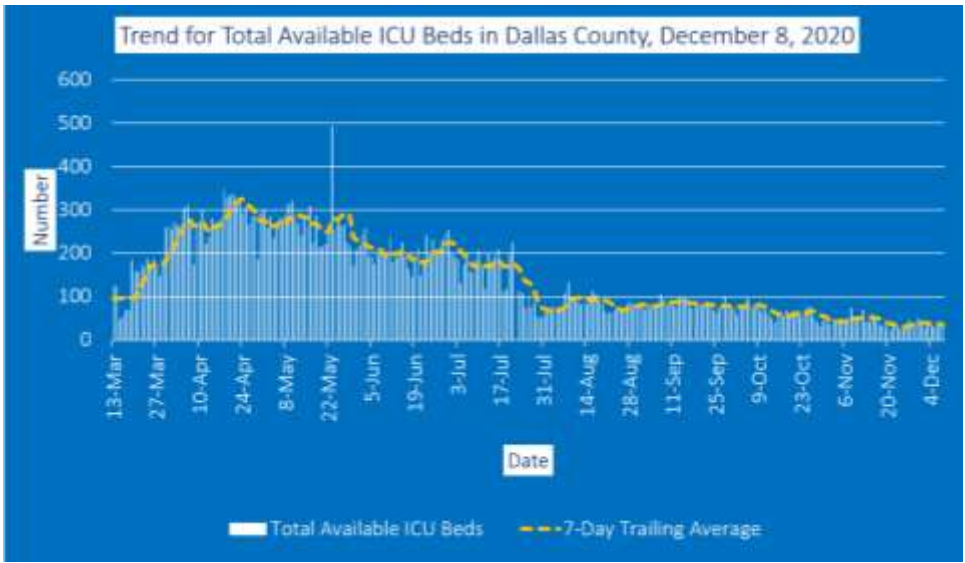
Local health experts use hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and ER visits as three of the key indicators as part of determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. There were 758 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Tuesday, December 8. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 576 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. Additionally, hospitals have many patients who remain hospitalized with complications following COVID-19, but are no longer in need of isolation and therefore not reflected in these numbers. The impact on our medical facilities and their medical professionals and staff remains elevated. 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, Table 8 below is from the December 8, 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	5,855	472	836	5	26.9%
26	6/27/2020	8,611	647	1,230	8	30.5%
27	7/4/2020	8,942	699	1,277	9	30.0%
28	7/11/2020	9,190	865	1,312	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	2,844	320	406	9	14.0%
33	8/15/2020	2,159	183	308	9	13.2%
34	8/22/2020	1,758	188	251	6	11.2%
35	8/29/2020	2,195	188	314	6	10.8%
36	9/5/2020	2,067	161	295	3	10.5%
37	9/12/2020	1,868	198	267	3	9.7%
38	9/19/2020	2,240	239	320	2	11.4%
39	9/26/2020	2,500	260	357	2	10.7%
40	10/3/2020	2,655	306	379	2	10.0%
41	10/10/2020	3,575	451	510	2	11.5%
42	10/17/2020	4,456	553	637	2	14.3%
43	10/24/2020	5,274	689	753	4	15.1%
44	10/31/2020	5,423	615	775	4	15.0%
45	11/7/2020	7,652	940	1,093	4	15.3%
46	11/14/2020	9,984	1,306	1,426	4	19.8%
47	11/21/2020	9,773	1,192	1,396	3	20.4%
48	11/28/2020	7,824	857	1,117	3	22.3%





“Today we report 1,348 new cases of COVID-19 and 33 deaths. This is the second highest number of deaths we’ve reported in one day from COVID-19 and a chilling reminder of the importance of making good choices at this time of extremely high community spread. The deaths we report today are a direct correlation to the high number of cases reported several weeks ago. The decisions that we make today will determine how many cases are confirmed in 7 to 14 days, how many hospitalizations we have three weeks from now, and how many deaths we report at this time next month.

Please focus not just on the people that you do know but on the people in the community and the country that you don’t know personally but that we all must work to protect until the vaccine can be widely distributed and have its effect. Take note of the new CDC and White House Task Force guidance to wear your mask one hundred percent of the time when in an office setting outside your home or in any other indoor location. Take advantage of periodic testing either at our free sites or through your insurance if you are exposed to crowds outside your home, and avoid crowds and get-togethers to the fullest extent possible.

Now is the time for advance planning, thinking ahead of the gifts and supplies we’ll need for the holidays and ordering those for curbside pickup or online. Doing our grocery shopping with curbside pickup and other modest changes, can help us to limit our number of contacts. We will get through this North Texas and we’ll get through it together by supporting one another and making good choices, not just for ourselves but for our entire community,” 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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