FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 12, 2020

Dallas County Reports 2,111 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 8 Deaths Including 442 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm December 12, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 2,111 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 1,669 confirmed cases and 442 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 141,972 cases (PCR test), including 1,323 confirmed deaths. There is a cumulative total of 15,364 probable cases (antigen test), including 52 probable deaths.

The additional deaths being reported today includes the following:
  – A man in his 50's who was a resident of the City of Garland. 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 Farmers Branch. He had been critically ill in an area hospital, and did not have 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 Irving. He 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 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 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 80's who was a resident of the City of Desoto. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, 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 49 increased to **1,560**, which is a rate of **56.6** 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 **21.6%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 49 (week ending 12/5/20).

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 97 active long-term care facility outbreaks. Over the past 30 days, a total of 928 COVID-19 cases have been reported from these facilities, including 364 staff members. Of these cases 35 have been hospitalized, and 41 have died, including 2 deaths of staff members. Twenty-six 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 166 cases, including 8 hospitalizations. One facility has reported 89 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. Of the total confirmed deaths reported to date, about 22% 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.
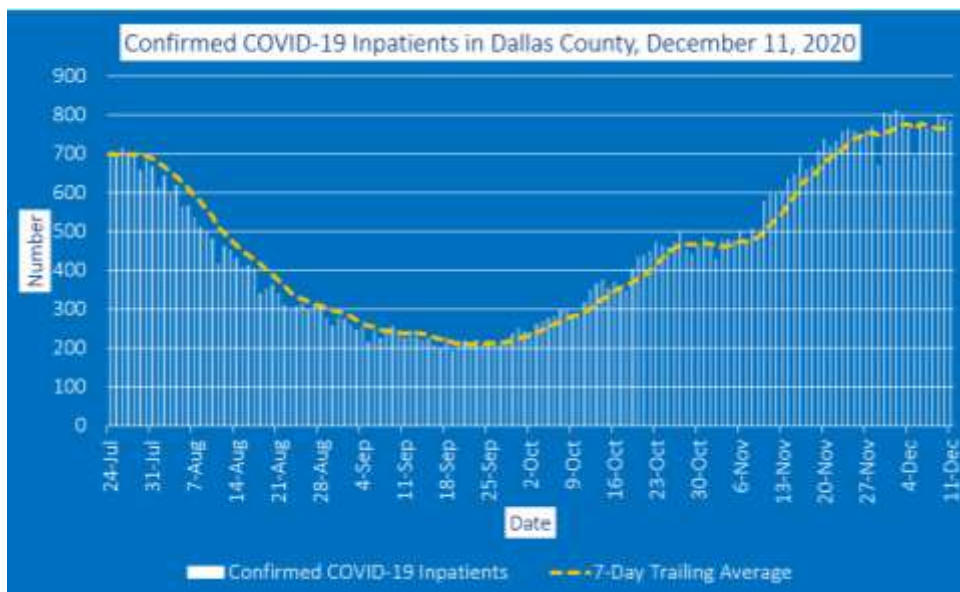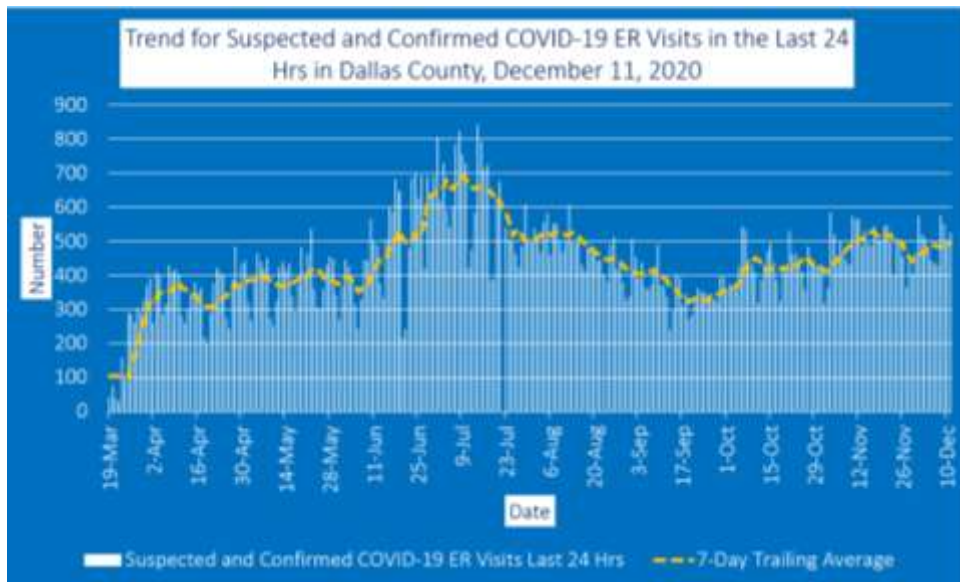
Local health experts use hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and ER visits as three of the key indicators as part of determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. There were 786 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Friday, December 11. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 525 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. UTSW modeling predicts hospitalizations could be as high as 900 in Dallas County and 1,250 in Tarrant County by December 22. If these high projections are realized the strain on our North Texas facilities would be substantial. 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 11, 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 - 49)

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	1,313	9	26.6%
29	7/18/2020	6,601	688	943	11	21.7%
30	7/25/2020	4,521	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	1,869	198	267	3	9.7%
38	9/19/2020	2,240	239	320	2	11.4%
39	9/26/2020	2,501	261	357	2	10.7%
40	10/3/2020	2,656	306	379	2	10.0%
41	10/10/2020	3,577	451	511	2	11.5%
42	10/17/2020	4,470	553	639	2	14.3%
43	10/24/2020	5,296	691	757	4	15.1%
44	10/31/2020	5,434	615	776	5	15.0%
45	11/7/2020	7,699	943	1,100	5	15.3%
46	11/14/2020	10,039	1,306	1,434	7	19.8%
47	11/21/2020	9,904	1,209	1,415	5	20.4%
48	11/28/2020	8,106	868	1,158	5	21.7%
49	12/5/2020	10,992	1,560	1,570	3	21.6%

Trend for Total Available ICU Beds in Dallas County, December 11, 2020

Legend: Total Available ICU Beds — 7-Day Trailing Average

Y-axis: Number

X-axis: Date (13-Mar, 27-Mar, 10-Apr, 24-Apr, 8-May, 22-May, 5-Jun, 19-Jun, 3-Jul, 17-Jul, 31-Jul, 14-Aug, 28-Aug, 11-Sep, 25-Sep, 9-Oct, 23-Oct, 6-Nov, 20-Nov, 4-Dec)

Trend for Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 ER Visits in the Last 24 Hrs in Dallas County, December 11, 2020

Legend: Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 ER Visits Last 24 Hrs — 7-Day Trailing Average

Y-axis: Number

X-axis: Date (19-Mar, 2-Apr, 16-Apr, 30-Apr, 14-May, 28-May, 11-Jun, 25-Jun, 9-Jul, 23-Jul, 6-Aug, 20-Aug, 3-Sep, 17-Sep, 1-Oct, 15-Oct, 29-Oct, 12-Nov, 26-Nov, 10-Dec)

Confirmed COVID-19 Inpatients in Dallas County, December 11, 2020

Legend: Confirmed COVID-19 Inpatients — 7-Day Trailing Average

Y-axis: Number

X-axis: Date (24-Jul, 31-Jul, 7-Aug, 14-Aug, 21-Aug, 28-Aug, 4-Sep, 11-Sep, 18-Sep, 25-Sep, 2-Oct, 9-Oct, 16-Oct, 23-Oct, 30-Oct, 6-Nov, 13-Nov, 20-Nov, 27-Nov, 4-Dec, 11-Dec)

COVID-19 Deaths by Actual Date of Death and 7-Day Trailing Average in Dallas County, December 12, 2020

"Today we announce 2,111 new cases and eight new deaths. This is the end of our deadliest week from COVID and our highest average daily number of newly reported cases to date. Our first vaccines will arrive soon in Dallas County, and my hope is that within hours of arrival, those will be administered to some of our healthcare heroes at local hospital across North Texas.

While the news of the vaccine is exciting, remember you have two 'vaccines' or great tools at your disposal now. One is the 'vaccine' you can wear: your mask. Masks provide protection for you and those around you. The other is the tool of the smart choices you make when you follow the doctors' advice and make those small sacrifices of patriotism to protect not just yourself and your loved ones, but those who you don't even know in our community who inevitably will pay a high price as each new infection works its way to more people until it reaches a person who is ill-equipped to handle this deadly disease. This holiday season I hope you will find something to laugh about every day and practice intentional thankfulness. I am thankful for you, your courage, and the good friends who lift me up and am hopeful that together we will have a meaningful and joyous holiday as we work in unison to defeat 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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