



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 14, 2020**

**Dallas County Reports 1,699 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 6 Deaths Including 180 Probable Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 12:00 pm December 14, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 1,699 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 1,519 confirmed cases and 180 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 146,042 cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 15,803 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 1,385 Dallas County residents have lost their lives due to COVID-19 illness.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A woman in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Richardson. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in his 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 woman in his 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 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 80's who was a resident of the City of Cedar Hill. 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 the City of Garland. 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 49 was 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).

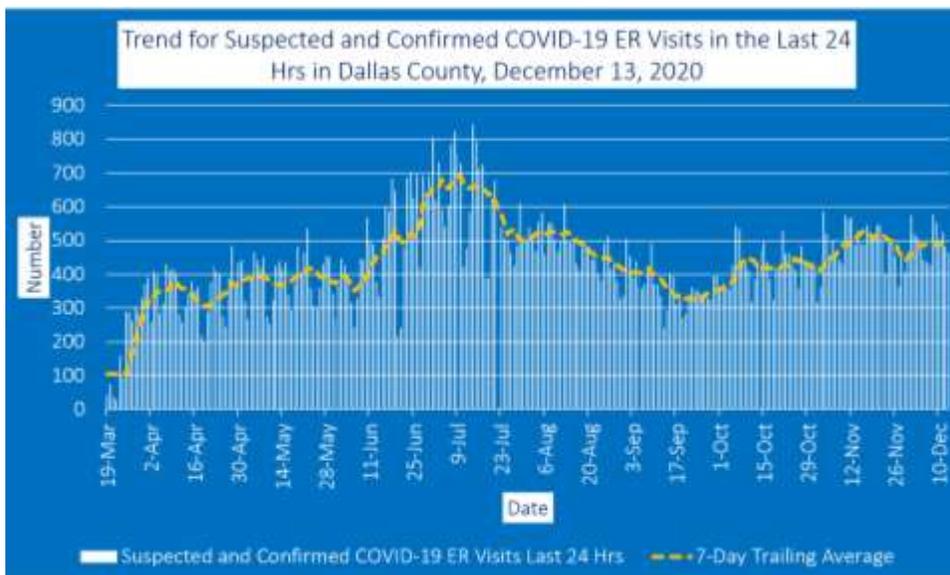
Over the past 30 days, there have been 4,520 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 735 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County, including 681 staff members. Of these cases, 534 have been associated with extracurricular activities, including athletics.

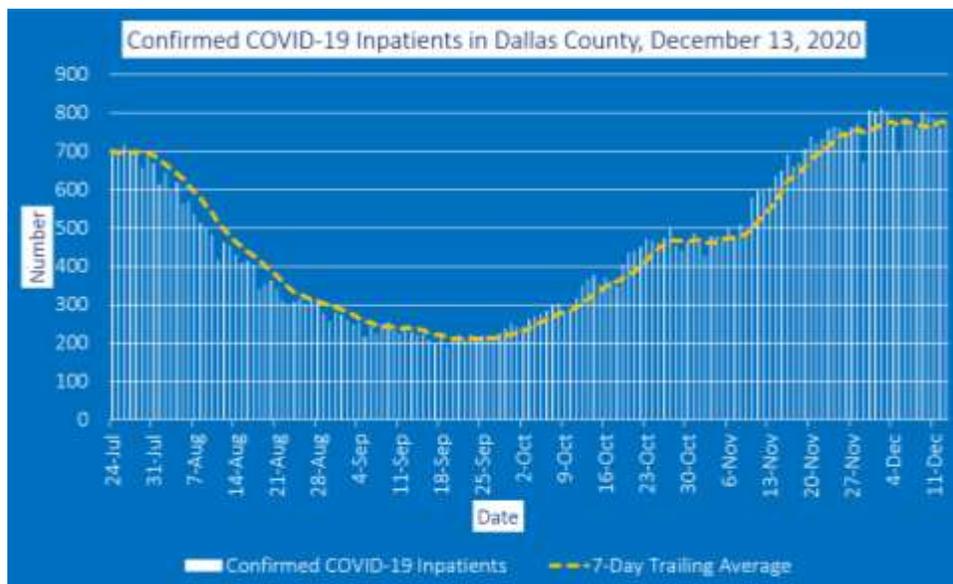
There are currently 97 active long-term care facility outbreaks. Over the past 30 days, a total of 928 COVID-19 cases have been reported from these facilities, including 364 staff members. Of these cases 35 have been hospitalized, and 41 have died, including 2 deaths of staff members. Twenty-six outbreaks 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.

Local health experts use hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and ER visits as three of the key indicators in determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. Due to weekend reporting, new data will be available on Tuesday, December 15, 2020.





“Today we report 1,699 new cases and six new deaths. It is an exciting day for America and for Dallas County as the first COVID vaccines are being given today, but remember, as these 1,699 cases and six deaths illustrate, COVID is still with us. Last week was our deadliest week and we are currently at our highest daily average of new COVID cases that we have seen thus far in the pandemic.

It’s important that we use the two ‘vaccines’ that we currently have to keep ourselves protected. Our mask is a ‘vaccine’ we wear on our face. It protects us and those around us from the spread of COVID. The second ‘vaccine’ is our good judgement in following doctors’ advice in taking patriotic actions to plan ahead such as doing our shopping online or through curbside pickup and forgoing those crowds and get-togethers with people outside your home. It’s important that we do these things for now until such time as a vaccine can be taken by the broad population and we can end this threat to public health and our nation’s security.

Patriotism dictates now that we all make small sacrifices for the good of the community and the strength of the country until the vaccine is more widely administered. This holiday season, similar to the other holidays in 2020, will look different but need not be less meaningful. As we reflect on this tough year, let’s not forget to exercise intentional thankfulness, thinking of the things that we are thankful for. I’m thankful for you and the courage that you’ve shown and I’m thankful that the vaccine is here and I’m confident in your ability to rise to the challenge as you have done in the past,” 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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