



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 7, 2021**

**For Fourth Day in a Row, Dallas County Reports Record High Hospitalizations,  
2,590 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 20 Deaths  
Including 383 Probable Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 12:00 pm January 7, 2021, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 2,590 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 2,207 confirmed cases and 383 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 186,181 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 23,211 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 1,735 Dallas County residents have lost their lives due to COVID-19 illness.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- 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 did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 40's who was a resident of the city of Mesquite. She expired in an area hospital ED 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 did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 50's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in 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 Garland. 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 hospitalized and had underlying high risk 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 60's who was a resident of the city of Balch Springs. 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 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 conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the city of Seagoville. She had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70'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 70's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the city of Dallas. He had been critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70'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.

- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the city of Farmers Branch. 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 Dallas. He expired in an area hospital ED and had underlying high risk conditions.
- A man in his 80'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 woman in her 80's who was a resident of the city of Dallas. She had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80'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.

The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 52 was to **1,637**, which is a rate of **62.1** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high, with **27.2%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 52 (week ending 12/26/20). Since the beginning of the pandemic, over 3,864 healthcare workers and first responders have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in Dallas County.

Over the past 30 days, there have been 5,309 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 677 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County, including 454 staff members. There are currently 106 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. A total of 3,201 residents and 1,808 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 688 have been hospitalized and 361 have died. About 22% of all deaths reported to date have been associated with long-term care facilities. Forty 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 99 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. New cases are being reported as a daily aggregate, with more detailed summary reports updated Tuesday and Friday evenings are available at: <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/2019-novel-coronavirus/daily-updates.php>.

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 1,166 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Wednesday, January 6. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 592 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. This is the fourth day in a row with record high numbers. This growth is pushing hospitals into surge planning models, standing up additional COVID units and repurposing space to care for patients. ICU capacity across the county remains close to single digits, these beds are critical to provide high-level care to many types of patients. We are seeing concerning situations across the country, similar to New York City in the spring. Our individual actions alone are what can change this trajectory and prevent overload and lack of access here in North Texas. 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.

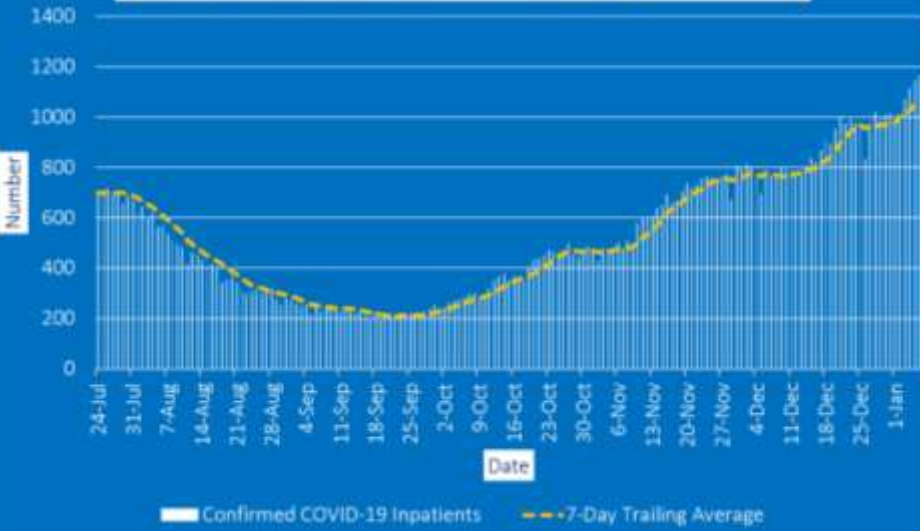
Trend for Total Available ICU Beds in Dallas County, January 6, 2021



Trend for Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 ER Visits in the Last 24 Hrs in Dallas County, January 6, 2021



Confirmed COVID-19 Inpatients in Dallas County, January 6, 2021





“Today we add 2,590 new COVID positive cases and 20 deaths to our count. One notable death today is a man in his 30’s who had been ill in an area hospital with COVID but had no underlying high-risk health conditions. This is a somber reminder that COVID can strike everyone and can cause grave illness and potentially death to anyone.

January and February are modeled to be our worst months for COVID positive cases and deaths assuming that the population continues to make good choices and avoid crowds throughout that time and in the following months. If we’ll do that, we’ll begin to see the benefits of the people who have been vaccinated thus far, both in the capacity of our healthcare heroes to be at work and not be sick with COVID and with our most at risk residents being protected from COVID. We’ll continue to improve and get back to our pre-COVID activities, but it takes all of us making good, smart decisions to make that happen by wearing your mask, washing your hands and avoiding crowds.

We are working feverishly to get the sites open that will increase vaccination to our 1B population next week. It will be an effort led by Dallas County but with the help of EMTs from all of our cities. The shots are by appointment only and those who come without an appointment will be turned away. The only persons who will receive those appointments are people who sign up on the [Dallas County registration website](https://www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/). Once you have signed up, you need not do anything else to be on the Dallas County list and you may not hear from us for some time as the list is worked based on the doctors’ calculations of the persons on the 1A and 1B list that are most vulnerable to a bad outcome should they get COVID. At this current point for vaccinations, the key is to be both patient and diligent. Patient in understanding that there’s not enough vaccine to vaccinate everyone immediately but diligent in making sure you sign up for the registration list and any other list that you may be entitled to be a part of such as with your healthcare provider,” 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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