



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 16, 2021**

**Dallas County Reports 2,809 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 5 Deaths, Including 377 Probable Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 4:00 pm January 16, 2021, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 2,809 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 2,432 confirmed cases and 377 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 206,329 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 26,919 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 1,858 Dallas County residents have lost their lives due to COVID-19 illness.

Dallas County Health and Human Services is providing initial vaccinations to those most at risk of exposure to COVID-19. As of this morning, 10,121 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered at the Fair Park mega-vaccine clinic, which started operations on Monday, January 11. With the additional allotment from the State of Texas for Week 6, after today's vaccination efforts, there will be approximately 6,000 doses still available for the next week.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A man in his 50's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. 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 man in his 60'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 80'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 80'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.

The first case of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 has been identified in a resident of Dallas County, who did not have recent travel outside of the US. The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 1 was **2,545**, which is a rate of **96.6** 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 remains high, with **31.5%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 1 (week ending 1/9/21).

Over the past 30 days, there have been 7,310 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 674 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County, with 1,842 of these cases reported during the last week of December. There are currently 111 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 3,453 residents and 1,982 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 717 have been hospitalized and 386 have died. About 22% of all deaths reported to date have been associated with long-term care facilities. Thirty-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 93 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>.

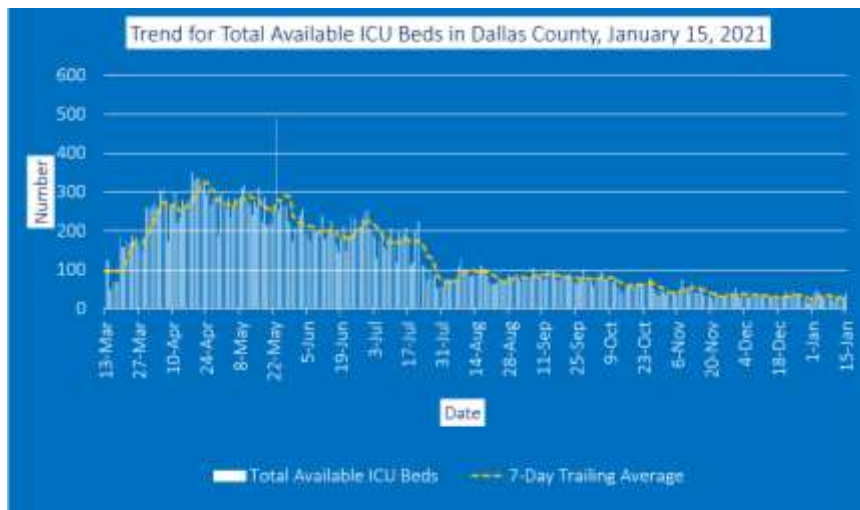
Due to the observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday, Dallas County will not be releasing COVID-19 data on Monday, January 18. Reporting will resume Tuesday, January 19. Tuesday's reporting will include data from Sunday (1/17), and Wednesday's reporting will include data from Monday (1/18) and Tuesday (1/19).

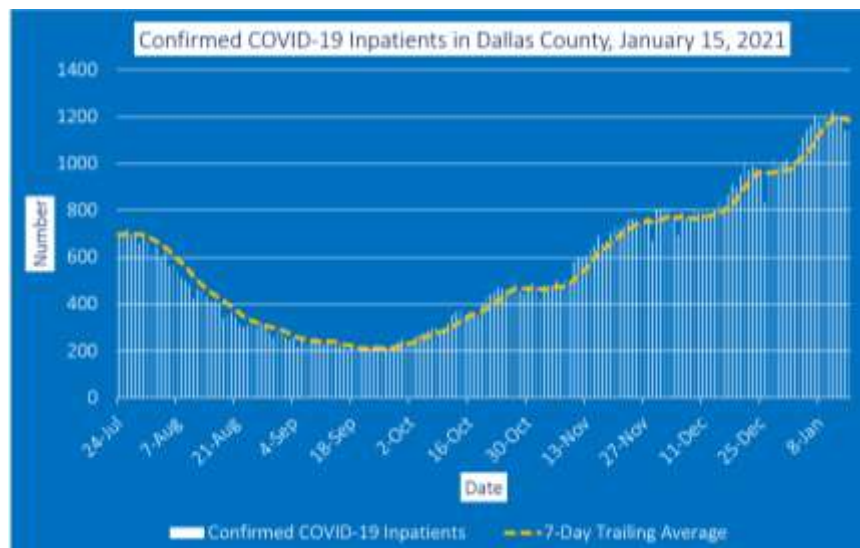
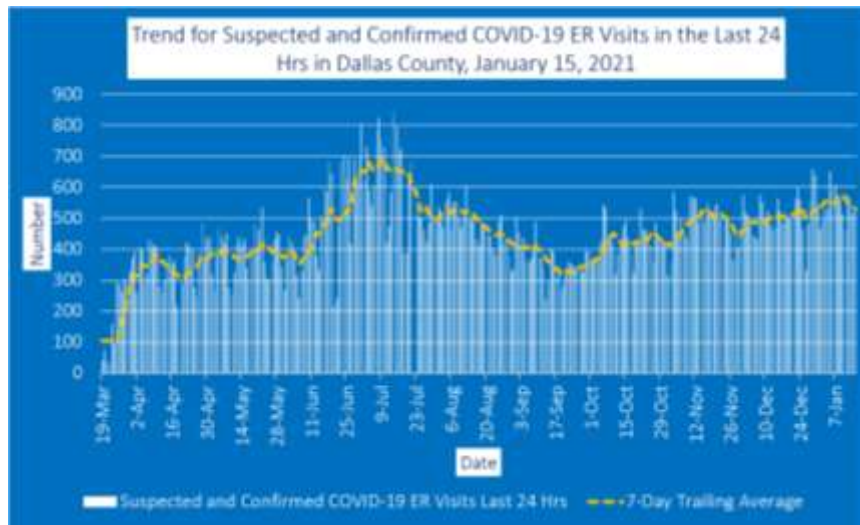
Local health experts use hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and ER visits as three of the key indicators as part of determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. There were 1,145 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Friday, January 15. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 524 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. We remain close to record highs and concerned about capacity in the upcoming weeks. Updated UTSW modeling predicts hospitalization could reach 1,076 – 1,700 by January 26, with cases as high as 3,300/day by the same date, an increase over previous predictions. 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, the chart below is from the January 15, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Summary. The chart shows a summary of confirmed and probable cases and deaths since late June in Dallas County.

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	5,852	472	836	5	26.9%
26	6/27/2020	8,617	647	1,231	8	30.5%
27	7/4/2020	8,943	699	1,277	9	30.0%
28	7/11/2020	9,191	864	1,313	9	26.6%
29	7/18/2020	6,604	688	943	12	21.7%
30	7/25/2020	4,528	494	647	15	19.3%
31	8/1/2020	3,361	418	480	12	15.9%
32	8/8/2020	2,850	321	407	9	14.0%
33	8/15/2020	2,164	183	309	9	13.2%
34	8/22/2020	1,763	187	252	7	11.2%
35	8/29/2020	2,211	189	316	6	10.8%
36	9/5/2020	2,087	163	298	4	10.5%
37	9/12/2020	1,878	198	268	3	9.7%
38	9/19/2020	2,254	239	322	3	11.4%
39	9/26/2020	2,503	261	358	3	10.7%
40	10/3/2020	2,661	306	380	2	10.0%
41	10/10/2020	3,587	453	512	3	11.5%
42	10/17/2020	4,485	556	640	4	14.3%
43	10/24/2020	5,312	692	759	5	15.1%
44	10/31/2020	5,451	617	778	7	15.0%
45	11/7/2020	7,760	950	1,108	7	15.3%
46	11/14/2020	10,137	1,312	1,448	11	20.3%
47	11/21/2020	10,146	1,234	1,444	8	21.2%
48	11/28/2020	8,683	912	1,227	11	21.4%
49	12/5/2020	12,241	1,707	1,731	9	25.0%
50	12/12/2020	12,315	1,675	1,753	8	23.4%
51	12/19/2020	12,965	1,641	1,849	8	26.6%
52	12/26/2020	12,012	1,337	1,710	7	27.7%
53	1/2/2021	15,812	1,856	2,227	9	31.3%
1	1/9/2021	17,815	2,370	2,545	4	31.5%





“Today we report 2,809 new COVID cases and an additional five deaths. Our daily average of new COVID cases for the first week of January, ending January 9, has reached an all-time high of 2,545 and the positivity rate now sits at 31.5%. These numbers, along with near record high numbers of COVID hospitalizations, a low number of adult ICU beds available, and the announcement earlier today of the first reported case with the B.1.1.7 variant in Dallas County, are all reasons for our public health experts to be concerned about this virus in our community and region over the next several weeks. We must do what we can now to slow and stop the spread by wearing our masks around anyone outside of our household, washing our hands frequently, and avoiding crowds,” 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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