



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 23, 2021

Dallas County Reports 1,920 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 21 Deaths, Including 395 Probable Cases

The 138 Deaths Reported this Week Makes this Dallas County's Deadliest Week Since the Start of the Pandemic

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm January 23, 2021, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 1,920 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 1,525 confirmed cases and 395 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 216,968 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 28,678 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 1,996 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 and 18,859 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered at the Fair Park mega-vaccine clinic, which started operations on Monday, January 11. DCHHS is expecting an allotment of 9,000 doses from the State of Texas for next week's operations.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A man in his 40's who was a resident of the City of Richardson. He was 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 Dallas. She was found deceased in her home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 50's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She was found deceased in her home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 50's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He was 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 Wilmer. He was 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 was 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 70's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He was 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 Mesquite. She was critically ill in an area hospital and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She was 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 Dallas. She was critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Dallas. She was 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 Garland. He had been hospitalized in an area hospital and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She was 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 Farmers Branch. She was found deceased in her home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He was critically ill in an area hospital 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 Irving. She expired in the facility.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Garland. 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 hospitalized in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 90's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She had been hospitalized in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 90's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Mesquite. She had been hospitalized in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.

Four cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 have been identified in residents 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 2 was **1,814**, which is a rate of **68.8** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high, with **25.5%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 2 (week ending 1/16/21).

Over the past 30 days, there have been 7,284 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 678 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County, with 1,842 of these cases reported during the last week of December. One COVID-19 outbreak in a school in December originated with spread among 11 staff members, with transmission to 10 students, and subsequent additional SARS-CoV-2 infections documented among at least 13 household members of these students and staff. One death and one hospitalization occurred from this outbreak.

There are currently 111 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 3,669 residents and 2,091 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 745 have been hospitalized and 402 have died. About 22% of all deaths reported to date have been associated with long-term care facilities. Twenty-seven 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. A cumulative total of 350 residents and 168 staff members in congregate-living facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

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 1,212 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Friday, January 22. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 542 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. These numbers are close to record highs and concerning after we'd seen some leveling. Updated UTSW modeling predicts hospitalization could reach 1,470 by February 2, with cases remaining high at 2,700/day by the same date. The hospital projections reflect a slight increase, and should they reach the projected high our systems would be overwhelmed. 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.

Summary of weekly COVID-19 confirmed and probable cases, deaths, and percentage positive laboratory tests, Dallas County (CDC Weeks 25 - 2)

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	8,616	647	1,231	8	30.5%
27	7/4/2020	8,943	699	1,277	9	30.0%
28	7/11/2020	9,190	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	2,163	183	309	9	13.2%
34	8/22/2020	1,763	187	252	7	11.2%
35	8/29/2020	2,210	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	2,253	239	322	3	11.4%
39	9/26/2020	2,505	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	4,486	556	641	4	14.3%
43	10/24/2020	5,314	692	759	5	15.1%
44	10/31/2020	5,448	617	778	8	15.0%
45	11/7/2020	7,756	950	1,108	7	15.3%
46	11/14/2020	10,134	1,312	1,448	11	20.3%
47	11/21/2020	10,132	1,233	1,447	8	21.2%
48	11/28/2020	8,621	908	1,232	11	21.4%
49	12/5/2020	12,193	1,701	1,742	9	25.0%
50	12/12/2020	12,325	1,677	1,761	9	23.4%
51	12/19/2020	13,001	1,645	1,857	8	26.6%
52	12/26/2020	12,043	1,338	1,720	10	27.7%
53	1/2/2021	15,889	1,864	2,270	16	31.3%
1	1/9/2021	18,394	2,451	2,628	6	31.5%
2	1/16/2021	12,698	1,778	1,814	4	25.5%

* For 7-day time period for respective CDC week by date of test collection

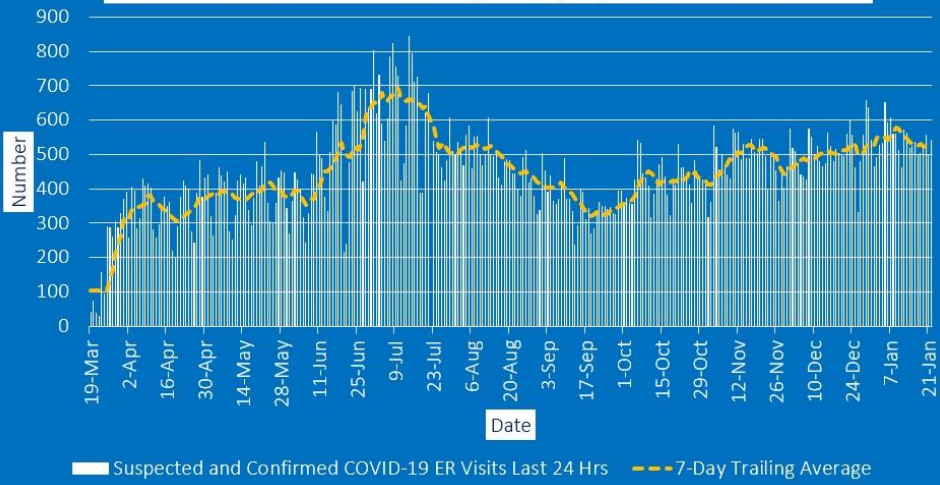
** For 7-day time period for respective CDC week by date of death

*** Percentage positive PCR tests in symptomatic patients presenting to area hospital emergency department reporting surveillance data

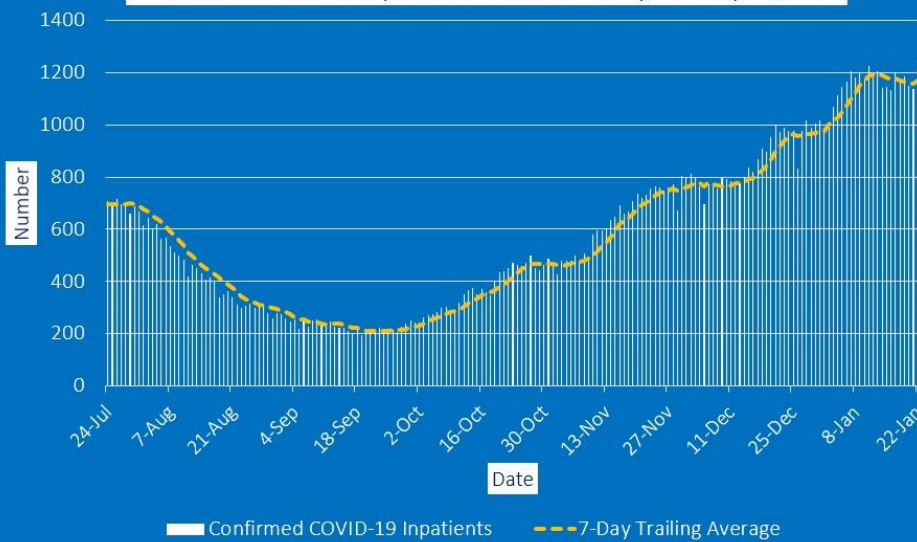
Trend for Total Available ICU Beds in Dallas County, January 22, 2021



Trend for Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 ER Visits in the Last 24 Hrs in Dallas County, January 22, 2021



Confirmed COVID-19 Inpatients in Dallas County, January 22, 2021





“Today we report 1920 new cases and 21 new deaths, making the death total for this week 138 persons. As we have said for weeks, January and February will be our darkest months. This week is our deadliest week thus far. It is imperative that all of us make the small sacrifices to keep our community and our country strong in these difficult times. Please wear your mask, wash your hands, maintain at least 6-foot distance from others, avoid crowds and forego get togethers. The decisions we make today will determine what the numbers will look like: new cases in two weeks and deaths in a month.

Vaccination opportunities continue to expand throughout North Texas. With the additions of Garland, Baylor Scott and White, and Frisco this week, and the City of Dallas starting next week, thousands more vaccines will reach our residents next week than ever before. You have the right to sign up at any mass vaccination center in North Texas, regardless of where you live. That means North Texans can sign up at Dallas, Denton, Tarrant or Collin County, as well as in Tyler, Texas, and with the mass vaccination sites in Frisco and Garland. Currently there's not one statewide registration for vaccination, and the state is working to put together a website to make that happen. If you want your best change to get vaccination, you need to register in as many places as you are willing to go to get the vaccine. With 340,000 on the list here in Dallas County, and the list growing every day, we will not be able to get to all the demand for some time. But we continue to focus on getting to vulnerable communities and the most vulnerable individuals in an equitable and fair way. I expect this week that DCHHS will present a contract for a vendor that can provide a more secure QR code appointment system that can improve the appointment process and allow for the doubling of the throughput for when we receive more vaccine. With the new administration invoking the defense production act and making efforts to double production at Moderna and Pfizer, plus the pending decision in February on the approval of Johnson & Johnson's vaccine, we continue to work to make sure we are ready to provide you many more vaccines per week, whenever the vaccines are made available to us. Please stay safe and have a peaceful weekend,” 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>

CONTACT:

Clay Lewis Jenkins, Dallas County Judge

Clay.Jenkins@dallascounty.org

[214-653-7949](tel:214-653-7949)

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