



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 16, 2021

Dallas County Reports 245 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 13 Deaths, Including 126 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm February 16, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 245 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 119 confirmed cases and 126 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 241,532 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 33,868 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 2,666 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 43,823 first doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered at the Fair Park mega-vaccine clinic, which started operations on Monday, January 11. Fair Park vaccine operations have been suspended through Wednesday, February 17 and additional closures may be necessary depending on the impacts of the next winter weather system.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A man in his 30's who was a resident of the City of Garland. He was found deceased at home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 50's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. 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 Lancaster. 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 Grand Prairie. 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 the City of Sunnyvale. He expired at home 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 Irving. 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 Dallas. He expired at home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Richardson. He had been critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70's was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. He had been hospitalized.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Garland. He expired in the facility and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Irving. He expired in hospice and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 90'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 90's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Dallas. He expired in the facility 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 5 was **990**, which is a rate of **37.6** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high, with **21.1%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 5 (week ending 2/6/21).

During the past 30 days, there were 7,012 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 713 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County. There are currently 89 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,098 residents and 2,304 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 894 have been hospitalized and 518 have died. About 22% of all deaths reported to date have been associated with long-term care facilities. Thirteen 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 383 residents and 194 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 in determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. Due to inclement weather affecting reporting, new data is not yet available.

“Today we report 245 new cases and 13 deaths. Our numbers today are artificially low due to the cold weather disrupting reporting processes. The overall trend though over the last two weeks has been very positive in that cases are declining. Things are extremely difficult right now for everyone and social distancing may not be possible in some situations where families are taking in others. It is very important in these situations to use as much spacing as possible, wear your mask, wash your hands, and do all that you can to avoid the spread of COVID during this unprecedented weather emergency,” 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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