



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2021

Dallas County Reports 383 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 35 Deaths, Including 31 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm February 17, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 383 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 352 confirmed cases and 31 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 241,884 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 33,899 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 2,701 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 Saturday, February 20 due to inclement weather.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A man in his 40'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 50's who was a resident of the City of Rowlett. He had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 50's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He expired in an area hospital ED and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. He expired at home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Garland. He expired at home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He expired in an area hospital ED and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Farmers Branch. He expired at home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60'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 60'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 man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. 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 Dallas. He expired at home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. She had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60'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 60'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 70's who was a resident of the City of Rowlett. 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 Farmers Branch. 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 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 Dallas. He 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 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 Grand Prairie. She had been hospitalized 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 Carrollton. He 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 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 Carrollton. She had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of the City of Irving. He expired at home 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
- A woman in her 80's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Garland. She expired in the facility and did not have 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 Mesquite. She expired in the facility 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 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 was hospitalized in an area hospital and had 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 Richardson. He expired in a facility and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80's who was a resident of the City of Coppell. She had been hospitalized and had 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 Garland. He expired in the facility.
- A woman in her 90's who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. She expired at home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 90's who was a resident of the City of Addison. She had been hospitalized 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 Dallas. He expired at home and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.

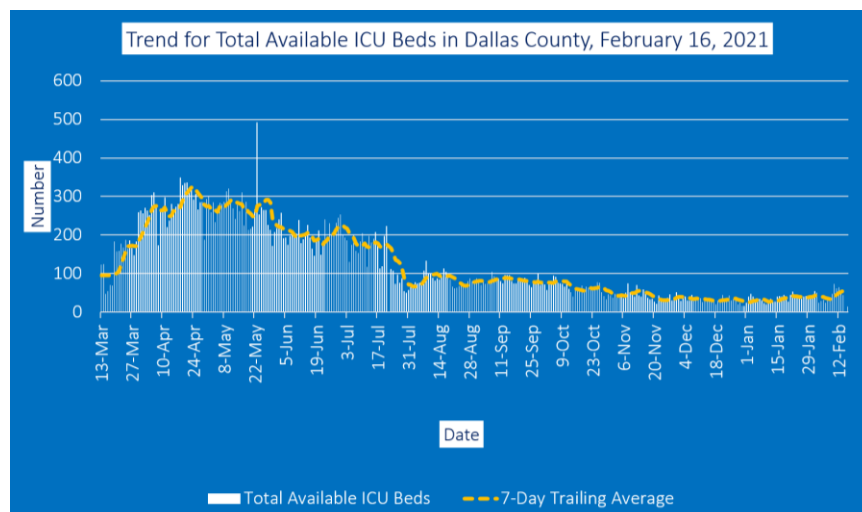
Four cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 have been identified in residents of Dallas County who did not have recent travel outside of the US. The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 5 was **990**, which is a rate of **37.6** 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).

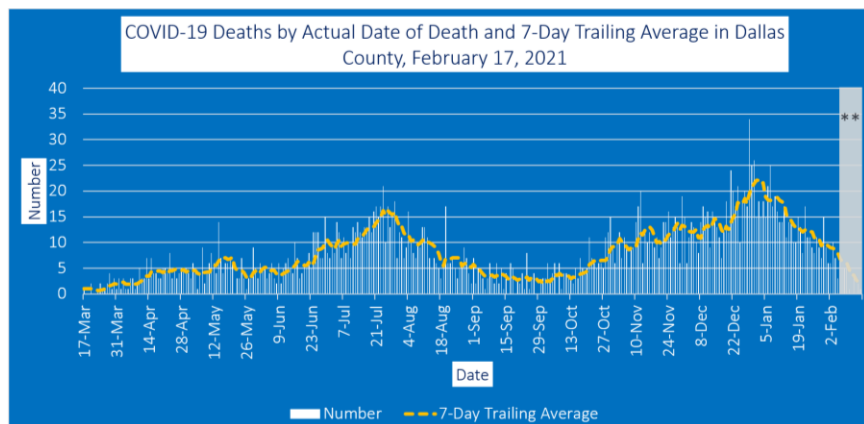
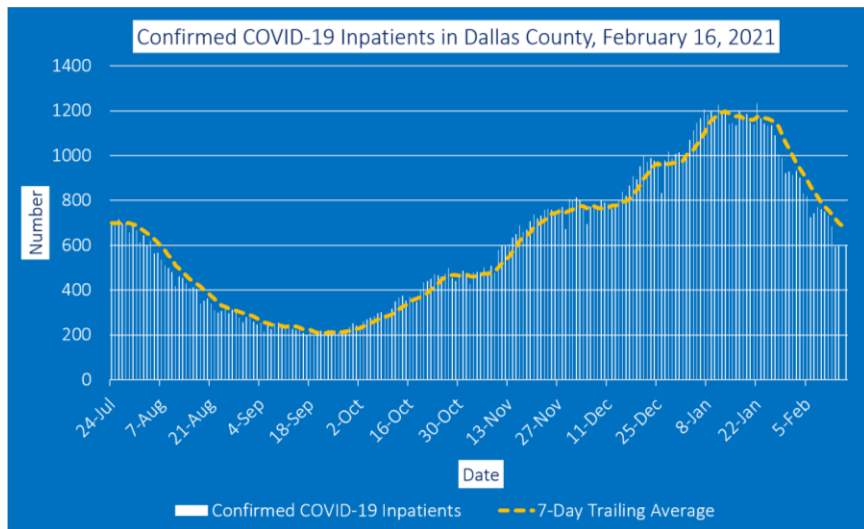
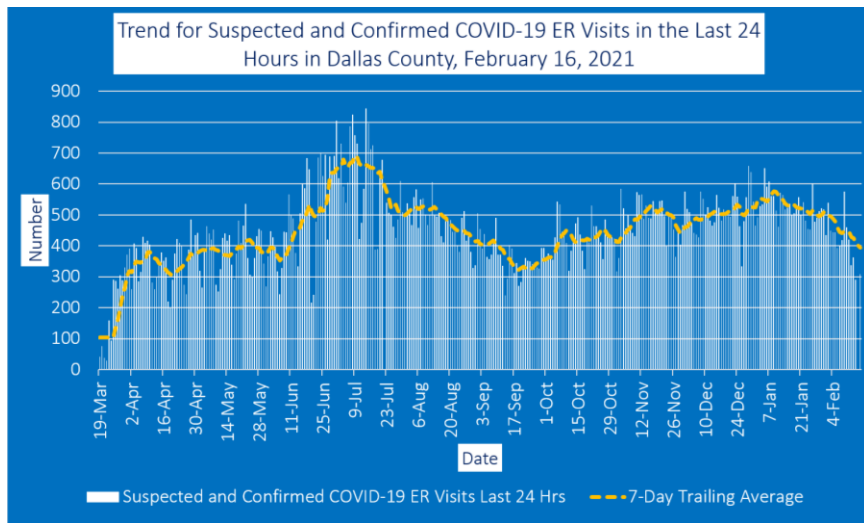
During the past 30 days, there were 7,012 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 713 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County. There are currently 90 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,155 residents and 2,315 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 921 have been hospitalized and 555 have died. About 22% of all deaths reported to date have been associated with long-term care facilities. Fourteen 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 385 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 the severe weather response there were no hospital numbers reported February 15. There were 601 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Tuesday, February 16. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 309 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. Severe weather may impact people’s behavior in relation to seeking care and numbers may fluctuate in the coming days. Please continue masking, distancing, and other protective measures, as these remain critically important even if you have received the COVID-19 vaccination. With cold temperatures, we recognize safer outdoor activities might be less accessible so please avoid indoor spaces with individuals outside of your household to help reduce spread. If you are staying with family or friends due to the weather, please mask inside and take other precautions as possible. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).

On February 16, 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, was at or below 15 percent. According to Governor Abbott’s Executive Order GA-32 (GA-32), TSA E is no longer an area with high hospitalizations and certain occupancy reductions are automatically rescinded by reaching this threshold.





“Today we report an additional 35 deaths from COVID-19 and only 383 new positive cases. The numbers are artificially low due to the power outages, which has disrupted reporting. While everyone's focus right now is on survival due to widespread outages due a failure of the state's electricity scheme, we should also remember the importance of maintaining masking and social distancing when around others outside our homes, at warming stations, grocery stores or other venues.

This is an extremely tough situation. My hope is that power will continue to be restored today and tomorrow and that those who are suffering the most will be able to get relief. Please do all that you can to keep your spirits up and help one another in these times. If you do not have power at this point and have not had it cycle on, you may not have power for some time and you may want to seek shelter elsewhere. If your home is cycling on and

off, that is likely to continue through tomorrow. If your home is largely maintaining power, please do all you can to take in loved ones and help as many people as you can. Now is the time to help one another and to keep our spirits up.

Today is Ash Wednesday, which for many of us marks the beginning of the 40 holiest days of our calendar. Let us count our blessings and approach these challenging times with optimism knowing brighter days are on the horizon. I hope you will meet the challenges of these times with a strong attitude while focusing on gratitude and not despair," 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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