



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2021

Dallas County Reports 266 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 50 Deaths, Including 56 Probable Cases

Today's Report Ties Highest Daily Number of Reported Deaths since the Beginning of the Pandemic

DALLAS -- As of 2:00 pm February 18, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 266 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 210 confirmed cases and 56 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 242,094 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 33,955 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 2,751 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. Dallas County's Fair Park vaccine operations will resume on Sunday, February 21.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A man in his 20'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 20'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 30's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Dallas. She had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 40's who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. He expired at home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 40's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. She had been critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 40's who was a resident of the City of Garland. 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 Garland. 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 Grand Prairie. He had been hospitalized and had 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 Garland. She had been critically ill in an area hospital and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 50'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 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 50'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 50'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 50'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 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 woman in her 50's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. She 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 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 Desoto. He expired in hospice 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 hospice and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She expired in hospice 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 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 Lancaster. 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 Richardson. 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 expired in a facility and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Irving. 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 Desoto. 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 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 Irving. 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 Garland. She expired at home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. She expired at home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She expired at home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80'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 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 the City of Dallas. She expired at home 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 a facility and had 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 Dallas. She 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 Dallas. He expired in hospice 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 expired in hospice and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80’s who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. He expired at home 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 a facility 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 did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 90’s who was a resident of the City of Lancaster. She had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 90’s who was a resident of the City of Coppell. She expired at home 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 Dallas. She expired in the facility and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 90’s who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. He expired at home 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 Dallas. She had been critically ill 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 Dallas. She expired in the facility 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 Lancaster. He expired in hospice and had underlying high risk health conditions.

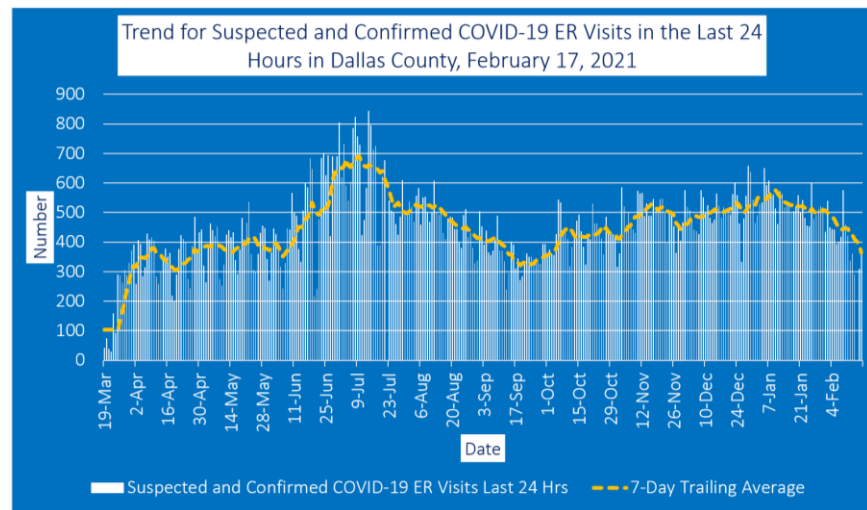
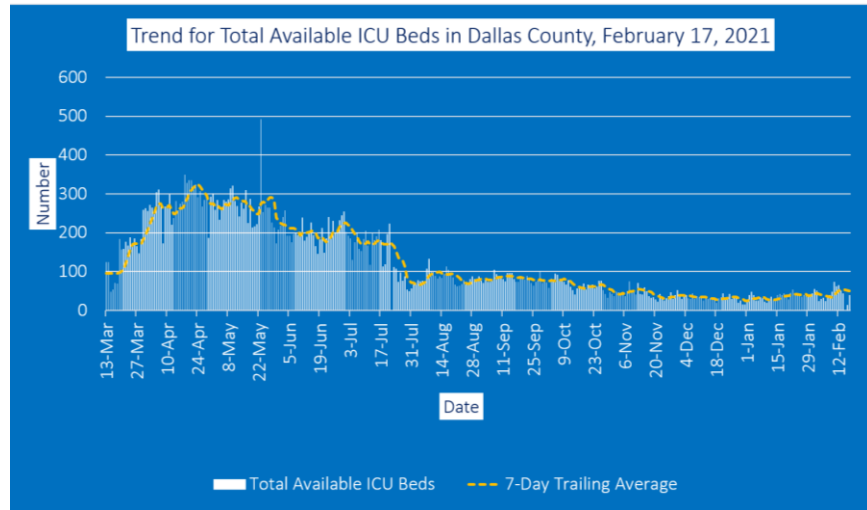
Four cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 have been identified in residents of Dallas County who did not have recent travel outside of the US. The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 5 was **990**, which is a rate of **37.6**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

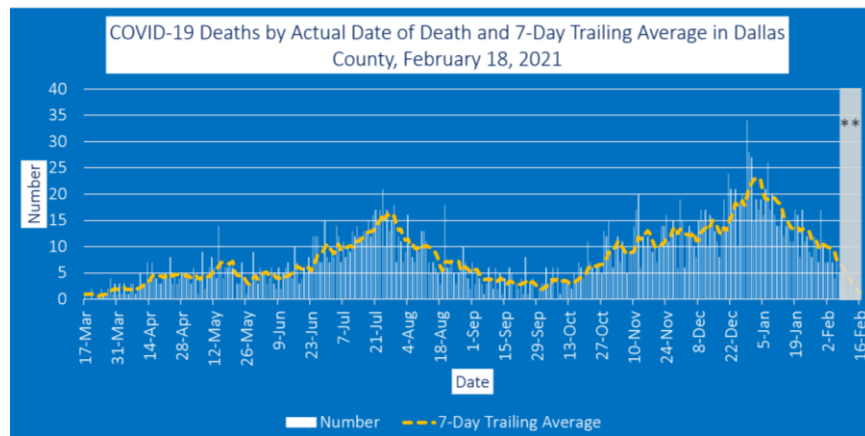
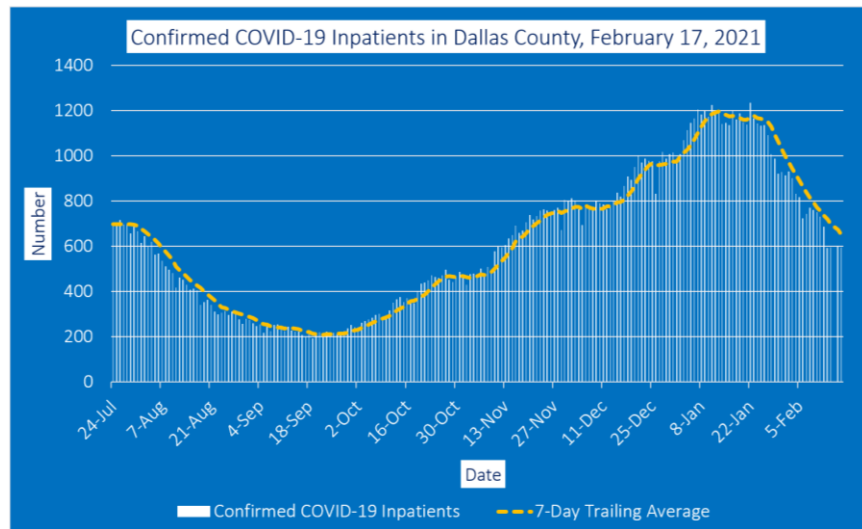
During the past 30 days, there were 7,012 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 713 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County. There are currently 90 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,155 residents and 2,315 healthcare workers in long-term facilities 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. There were 596 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending

on Wednesday, February 17. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 373 for the same time-period, which represents around 20 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 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’re 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](#).





“Today, we announce 266 new cases and 50 new deaths from COVID-19, tying our record for our deadliest day thus far in this pandemic. Included in the deaths are two men in their 20’s and a man in his 30’s.

At times like these, it can seem that there is no good news. We have seen a decline in the amount of new COVID-19 infections and most of our people do have their power on again. As the warmer weather increases and pipes thaw, we will see plumbing emergencies in many of our homes. You should work with a plumber and your insurance company now to prepare if you have frozen pipes that are already known in your home. Most of these problems will be covered by insurance. Additionally, the White House is working to open an individual assistance program through FEMA.

These last few days have been about survival and I know many of us have been forced to be in close quarters with people that we are not normally around. The rules still apply to protect yourself from COVID-19: wear a mask, maintain distance, avoid crowds and forgo get-togethers. Vaccine operations will resume on Sunday with us only seeing the people who need a second shot who have waited the longest for their second shot. We will catch up on second shots throughout this next week. You need not worry. If you are due a second shot, you will receive one. We will resume first shots when the throughput for second shots is sufficient to ensure the second shots are given timely.

Stay strong. Help one another. Focus on the good things. There are blessings around us even in the toughest of times. Gratitude for your blessings will help see you through these difficult times. I am very proud of the way the people of North Texas have come together during this crisis and I am pleased that the Governor has said that he will authorize the weatherization of the generation system and the fixing of the antiquated gas pipeline. We must now all rise together and ensure that the legislature and the Governor follow through on this promise so the weather-related outages that we have just experienced never happen again. God bless you and stay safe,” 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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