



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2021

Dallas County Reports 290 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 40 Deaths, Including 98 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 2:00 pm February 19, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 290 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 192 confirmed cases and 98 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 242,286 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 34,053 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 2,791 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 40'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 50's who was a resident of the City of Balch Springs. 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 a long-term care facility in the City of Dallas. He expired in a hospital ED and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 50'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 50's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. She had been hospitalized.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Garland. 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 expired in a 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 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 underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60'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 60'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 60's who was a resident of the City of Farmers Branch. He had been hospitalized 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 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 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 Mesquite. He had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. 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 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 Coppell. 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 Mesquite. 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 Garland. 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 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 had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Garland. He had been hospitalized.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Irving. He expired in the facility and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Duncanville. 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 Duncanville. 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 Dallas. She 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 Dallas. She had been hospitalized.
- 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 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 Richardson. He had been 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 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 Sunnyvale. 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 Mesquite. She expired in the facility and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80's who was a resident of the City of Rowlett. 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 expired at home 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 Garland. He expired in the facility and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.

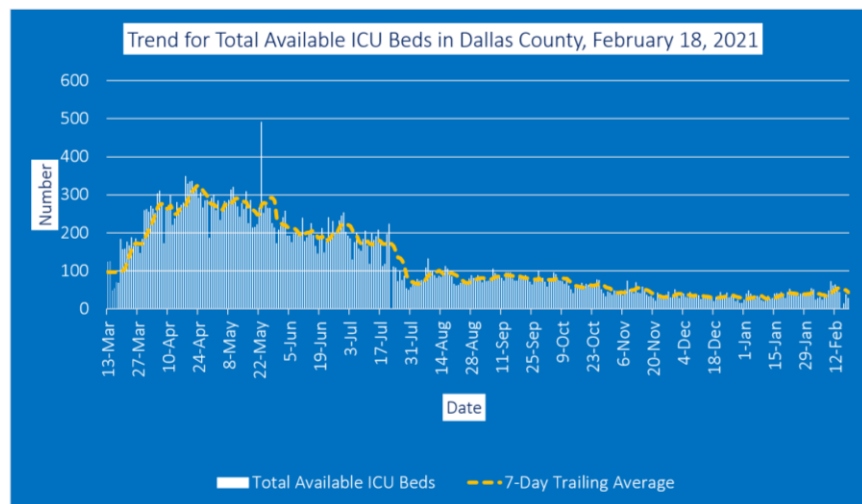
- A woman in her 90's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Mesquite. She had been hospitalized and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.

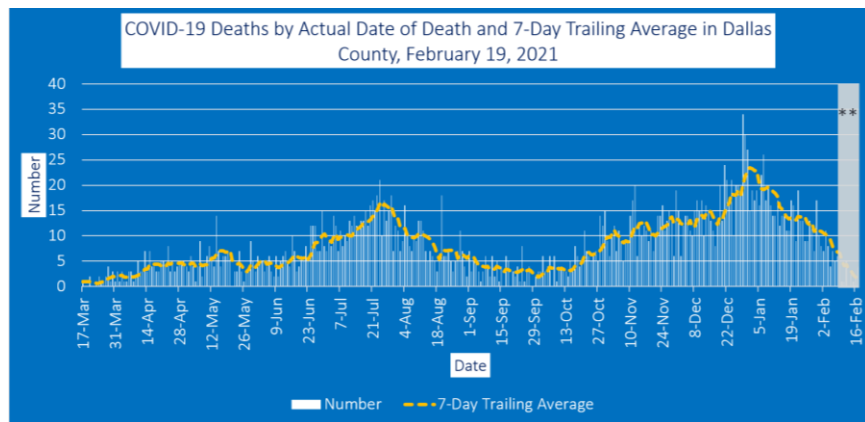
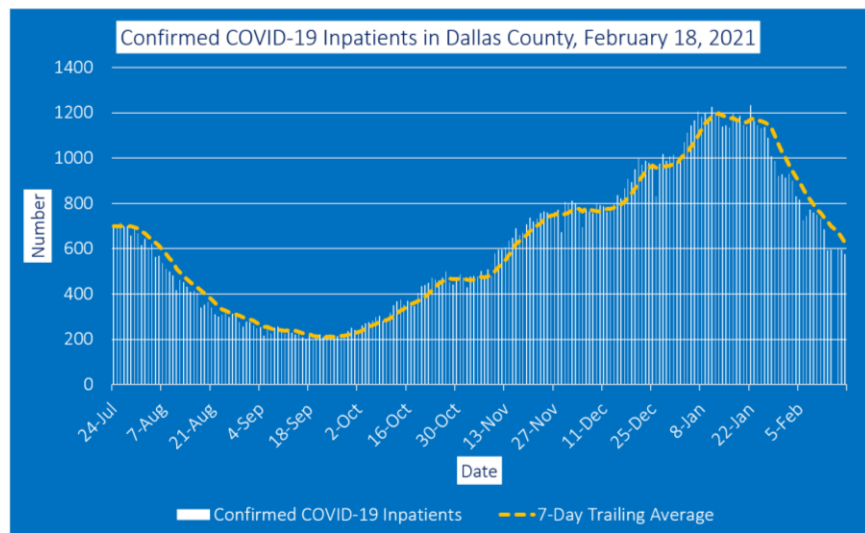
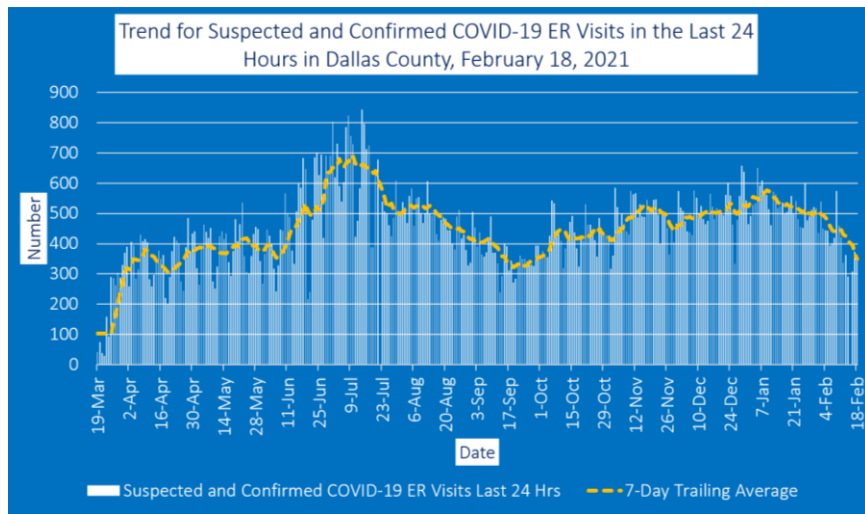
Four cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 have been identified in residents of Dallas County who did not have recent travel outside of the US. The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 5 was **990**, which is a rate of **37.6** 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. There were 575 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Thursday, February 18. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 358 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 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 report 40 new deaths from COVID-19 and only 290 new COVID cases. The new COVID case numbers are artificial due to a lack of reporting and the lack of testing during the extreme winter weather. Next week reporting should return to normal and we can see what the true numbers are. The trends we were seeing before the ice storms were encouraging and I'm hopeful that we are beginning to turn the corner in the fight against COVID.

To win the fight, you'll need to register for the vaccine in as many places as you're willing to drive and to take the vaccine as soon as you are eligible. We must also continue to wear our masks, maintain our distance, wash our hands regularly, avoid crowds and forgo get-togethers at this time.

With the winter weather having set back vaccinations, the Metroplex is close to 200,000 shots behind. At Fair Park alone, we are 22,000 shots behind. We will begin vaccinating again Sunday with anyone whose second dose was due on or before February 12 and work on second doses until we are caught up and then catch up on our first dose allotments. As the weather warms up and pipes thaw, we will find more broken pipes. If your pipes are frozen, please consider shutting off your water before they thaw as there's a chance of high-pressure water shooting into your home.

The Biden Administration has declared a national disaster and soon we will be able to open individual assistance for uninsured and underinsured loss. There is a lot of stress on each of you right now and I recognize that. I am proud of the way North Texas came together to help one another when our government failed us last week. We will get through this by staying calm and helping one another," 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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