



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 20, 2021

Dallas County Reports 333 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 25 Deaths, Including 78 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm February 20, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 333 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 255 confirmed cases and 78 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 242,541 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 34,131 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 2,816 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 30'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 40's who was a resident of the City of Desoto. 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 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 woman in her 50's who was a resident of the City of Irving. 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 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 Garland. He expired in a hospital Emergency Department 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 woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She had been hospitalized 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 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 a long-term care facility in the City of Richardson. 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 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 Addison. 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 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 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 Duncanville. 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 Dallas. He expired at home 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 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 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 hospice 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 had been hospitalized 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 hospice 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 a hospital Emergency Department and had underlying high risk health conditions.

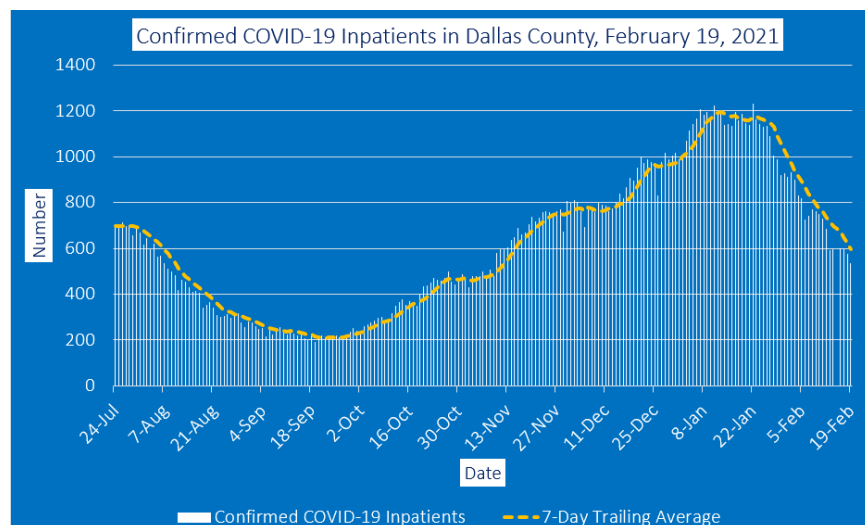
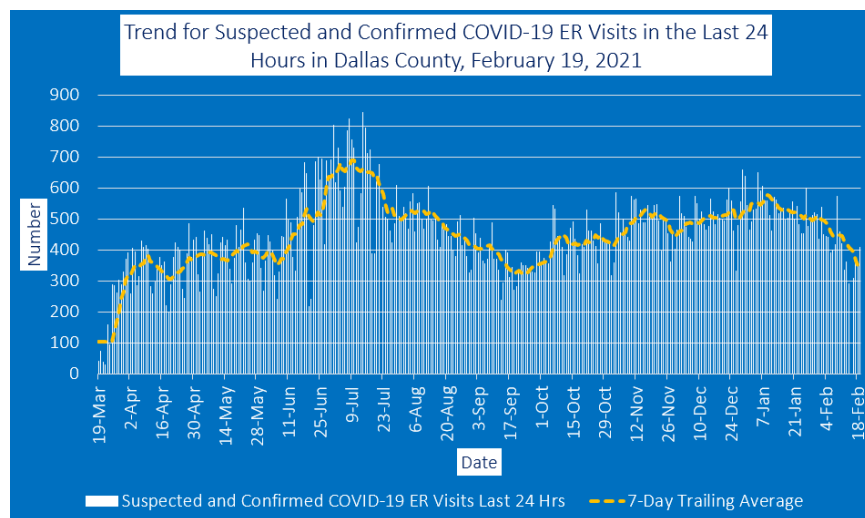
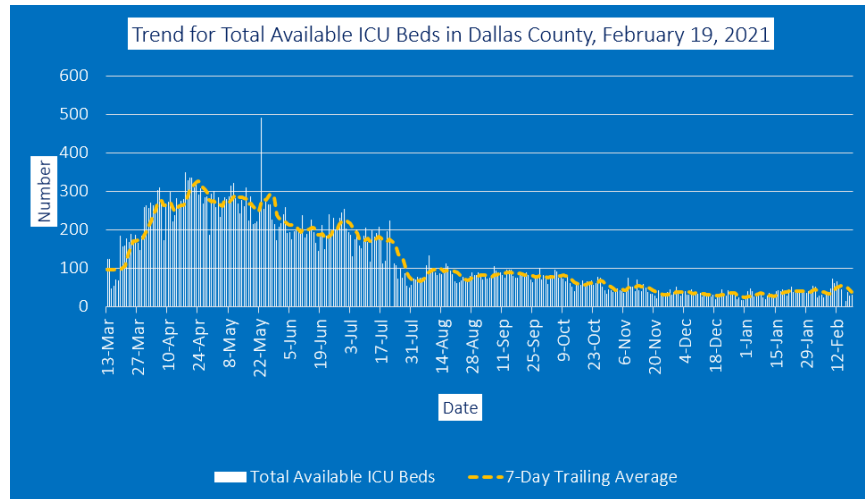
Four cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 have been identified in residents of Dallas County who did not have recent travel outside of the US. The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 6 was **636**, which is a rate of **24.1** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high, with **19.7%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 6 (week ending 2/13/21).

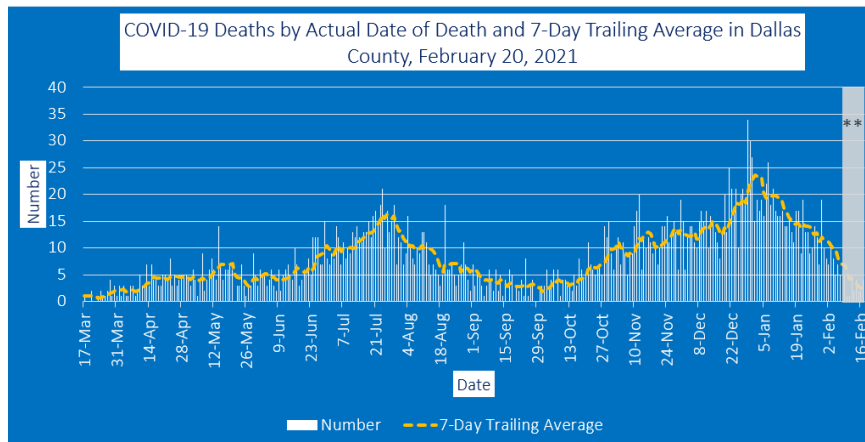
There are currently 90 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,155 residents and 2,315 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 921 have been hospitalized and 555 have died. About 22% of all deaths reported to date have 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 537 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Friday, February 19. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 411 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. Please continue masking, distancing, and other protective measures, as these remain critically important even if you have received COVID-19 vaccination. As the severe weather subsides and it may be easier to move around, please refrain from attending any indoor gatherings, including bars and restaurants for indoor dining. Outdoor events, which are well ventilated and allow for better distancing, remain better options. While numbers have fallen substantially, we remain concerned about the risk of variants and upcoming spring holidays that last year led to substantial spread. Until we have achieved herd immunity, we remain at risk for additional waves. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).





Summary of weekly COVID-19 confirmed and probable cases, deaths, and percentage positive laboratory tests, Dallas County (CDC Weeks 25 - 6)

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	5,818	471	831	5	26.9%
26	6/27/2020	8,545	642	1,221	9	30.5%
27	7/4/2020	8,883	695	1,269	10	30.0%
28	7/11/2020	9,140	861	1,306	10	26.6%
29	7/18/2020	6,550	687	936	13	21.7%
30	7/25/2020	4,523	493	646	15	19.3%
31	8/1/2020	3,358	422	480	13	15.9%
32	8/8/2020	2,841	323	406	10	14.0%
33	8/15/2020	2,160	183	309	9	13.2%
34	8/22/2020	1,764	188	252	7	11.2%
35	8/29/2020	2,203	186	315	6	10.8%
36	9/5/2020	2,082	162	297	4	10.5%
37	9/12/2020	1,879	200	268	3	9.7%
38	9/19/2020	2,246	238	321	3	11.4%
39	9/26/2020	2,491	262	356	3	10.7%
40	10/3/2020	2,706	306	387	3	10.0%
41	10/10/2020	3,647	458	521	3	11.5%
42	10/17/2020	4,476	553	639	4	14.3%
43	10/24/2020	5,338	697	763	6	15.1%
44	10/31/2020	5,418	616	774	10	15.0%
45	11/7/2020	7,723	942	1,103	9	15.3%
46	11/14/2020	10,073	1,304	1,439	12	20.3%
47	11/21/2020	10,095	1,225	1,442	11	21.2%
48	11/28/2020	8,620	910	1,231	14	21.4%
49	12/5/2020	12,234	1,708	1,748	13	25.0%
50	12/12/2020	12,415	1,686	1,774	13	23.4%
51	12/19/2020	13,173	1,662	1,882	14	26.6%
52	12/26/2020	12,226	1,347	1,747	18	27.7%
53	1/2/2021	16,131	1,890	2,304	25	31.3%
1	1/9/2021	18,786	2,507	2,684	20	31.5%
2	1/16/2021	13,630	1,903	1,947	15	27.5%
3	1/23/2021	11,534	1,640	1,648	14	25.7%
4	1/30/2021	9,758	1,435	1,394	12	24.7%
5	2/6/2021	7,197	1,061	1,028	8	21.1%
6	2/13/2021	4,449	544	636	3	19.7%

* 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

“Today we report 333 cases and 25 new deaths. Again, the numbers are artificially low for new cases due to power outages and disruption in the reporting system. This brings our death total to 204 deaths this week, the third deadliest week on record. We do believe the case numbers are declining and we are seeing the lowest numbers in our hospitals since early November. It's important that we all continue to focus on wearing our masks, maintaining physical distance, washing our hands, avoiding crowds, and foregoing get-togethers for a little longer. We will resume vaccinations tomorrow, Sunday, at Fair Park, for those in need of a second shot whose 28th day was February 12th or earlier. These are incredibly tough times with the grid collapse, the damage to our water system, broken pipes, and now electric companies who were not properly regulated poised to charge thousands and thousands of dollars to hurting Texas families. My team and I will continue to do all that we can to help with both COVID and the latest crisis. I encourage you all to continue helping one another and focusing on the good. Don't let this get you down. We will get through this together,” 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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