



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 22, 2021

Dallas County Reports 348 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 18 Deaths, Including 78 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm February 22, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 348 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 270 confirmed cases and 78 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 243,040 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 34,253 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 2,856 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 is currently administering second doses; however, those operations have been temporarily suspended until we receive our next shipment.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- 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 50's who was a resident of the City of Carrollton. He had been hospitalized and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- 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 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 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 man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Cedar Hill. He had been hospitalized and had underlying 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 a long-term care facility in the City of Dallas. He expired in the facility 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 80's who was a resident of the City of Garland. He had been hospitalized and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of the City of Rowlett. He had been hospitalized and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80's who was a resident of the City of Garland. She expired in hospice and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80's who was a resident of the City of Irving. 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 Richardson. He had been hospitalized and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80'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 90's who was a resident of the City of Desoto. 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 expired in a facility and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 90's who was a resident of the City of Richardson. She had been hospitalized 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).

A total of 466 children in Dallas County under 18 years of age have been hospitalized since the beginning of the pandemic, including 37 patients diagnosed with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in children (MIS-C). Over 80% of reported MIS-C cases in Dallas have occurred in children who are Hispanic or Latino or Black. One death of a teacher in a K-12 school from COVID-19 was confirmed this past week.

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 weekend reporting, new data will be available on Tuesday, February 23, 2021.

“Today we report another 348 new COVID-19 cases and 18 deaths. Our new case count is still low from the lack of reporting due to the weather but should return to accurate numbers soon.

We are completely out of vaccine at Fair Park and will not be able to operate until we receive more. We've been told by the Department of State Health Services that we will not receive a shipment today but I am hopeful we will receive one early enough tomorrow for us to operate then. We will determine how many people due for their second dosage we can vaccinate this week after we see how many vaccines will be in this next shipment. As soon as we know something, we will share through social media, text messages, or email to those still needing their second shot. I know today was frustrating as some of you got in line but were not able to get a shot. Unfortunately, we ran out of shots quickly due to demand.

We're on pace to start our partnership with the federal government for the 17 most underserved zip codes in Dallas County and are hopeful that the state will reverse its decision to pull 42,000 vaccines from Dallas and

Tarrant County and ship them to other places in the state. These vaccines would help the other zip codes in North Texas. The state's decision leaves North Texans, who patiently waited on the list, without a likely opportunity to get a shot for several weeks.

Be wary of repair scams and check references in hiring people to fix your broken pipes and remember that if you have insurance, this should be your first call. For your uninsured and underinsured loss, you are eligible to submit a claim with FEMA for individual assistance at 800-621-3362 or [disasterassistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/assistance).

Finally, make sure to check on your electricity rates and plans. Once your plan expires, electric companies will move you to the high profit plan for them but not necessarily the best plan for you. To get the best plan for you, visit [powertochoose.org](https://www.powertochoose.org) to view the available companies and offerings. As we've learned with the massive bills sent by Griddy and other companies, it's important to read the fine print and understand the exposure. We will get through this together, but it takes all of us working together. Keep your spirits up, North Texas," 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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