



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 23, 2021

Dallas County Reports 412 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 18 Deaths, Including 112 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm February 23, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 412 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 300 confirmed cases and 112 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 243,340 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 34,365 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 2,874 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.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A woman in her 30's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. 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 Garland. He had been hospitalized.
- 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 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 had been hospitalized.
- 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 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 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 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 hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 80'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 80'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 80's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Desoto. She expired in the facility 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 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 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 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 90'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 90'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.

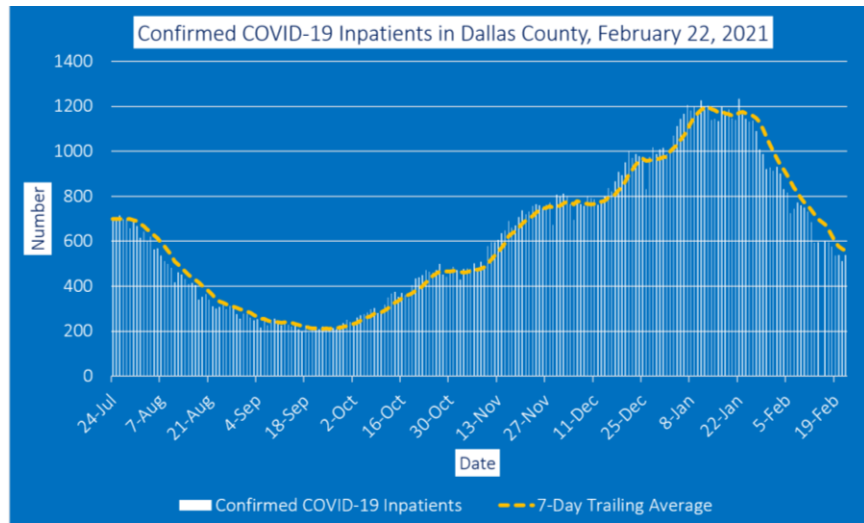
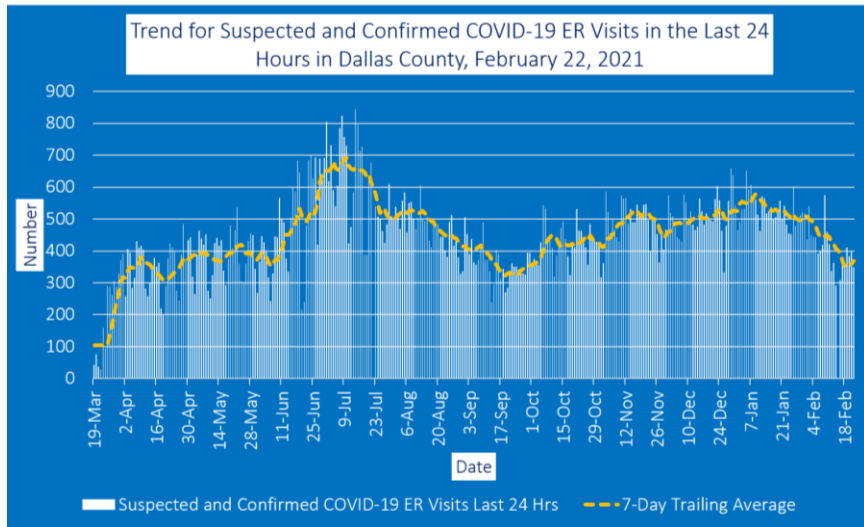
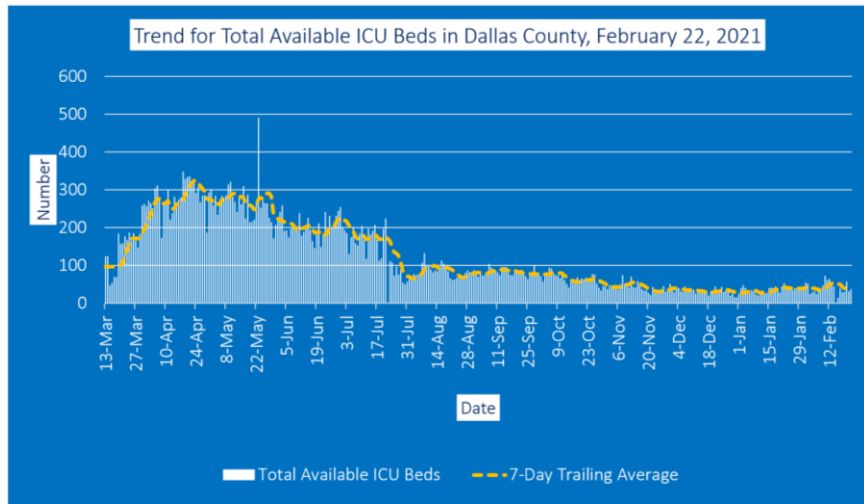
Four cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 have been identified in residents of Dallas County who did not have recent travel outside of the US. The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 6 was **636**, which is a rate of **24.1** 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).

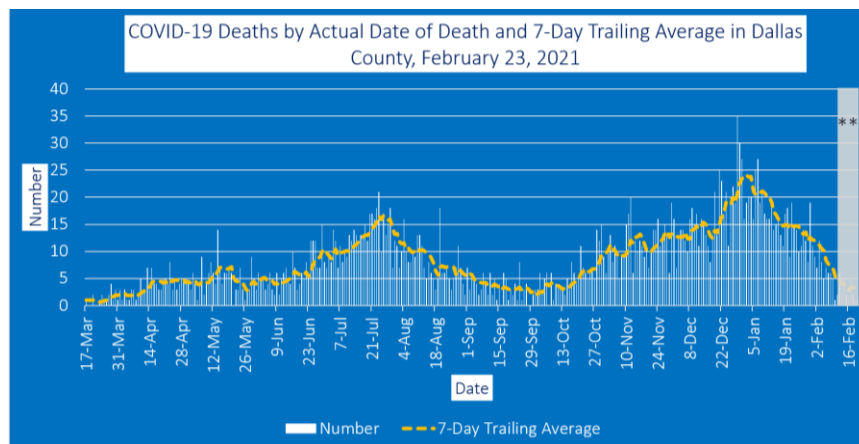
A total of 466 children in Dallas County under 18 years of age have been hospitalized since the beginning of the pandemic, including 37 patients diagnosed with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in children (MIS-C). Over 80% of reported MIS-C cases in Dallas have occurred in children who are Hispanic or Latino or Black. One death of a teacher in a Dallas County 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 as part of determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. There were 540 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Monday, February 22. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 349 for the same time-period, which represents around 15 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, these remain critically important even if you have received COVID-19 vaccination. 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](#).





“Today we announce another 18 deaths including a woman in her 30s with no underlying conditions. We are also reporting 412 new positive cases of Covid-19. We believe this number is down because of the lack of testing during the power outages, but we also believe the numbers are trending in our favor. In the coming days, we will have a more accurate daily count as things return to normal.

We have received our allotment of the Moderna vaccine and now have 15,000 doses to catch up on second shots. We will be open for second doses that were due to be given on or before Tuesday, February 16 on Wednesday, February 24. On Thursday, February 25, we will give second doses for anyone needing a second shot on or before February 17. Follow @JudgeClayJ on Twitter for the latest information.

Tomorrow, we will also began our federal partnership with the Biden Administration, FEMA and the Department of Defense to vaccinate the most underserved populations in Dallas County. We will vaccinate approximately 3000 persons per day in that partnership using Pfizer vaccine. The County’s second shots are for Moderna vaccine. When the federal troops finish with the 3000 Pfizer first doses for underserved populations, they will then move to helping us with Moderna second doses.

Once we know on any given day when that will happen, we will announce it on Twitter and possibly open up more days for people to come and get shots. I know this is frustrating and not an ideal way to keep you informed. However, our initial first shots were done under an operating system that had to be replaced and we do not have contact information for many of you in need of second shots. In less than ten days, all second shots will be under the new operating system and we’ll be able to get appointments for people and greatly improve the customer experience of both second and first shots. Please bear with us as we catch everyone up on their shots,” 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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