



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 24, 2021

Dallas County Reports 789 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 25 Deaths, Including 282 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm February 24, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 789 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 507 confirmed cases and 282 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 243,847 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 34,647 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 2,899 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 45,643 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 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 man in his 50'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 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 man in his 60'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 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 Rowlett. 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 Rowlett. He expired in an area hospital ED 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 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 Mesquite. She 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 Dallas. She expired at home and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She expired in an area hospital ED 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 expired in the facility 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 man in his 80's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He had been hospitalized.

- A woman in her 80’s who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. She 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 Desoto. 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 Balch Springs. He expired in hospice 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 Irving. 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 Garland. He expired in a facility 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 an area hospital ED and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 90’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 90’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 90’s who was a resident of the City of Garland. She expired at home and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 90’s who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He expired in a facility 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 Irving. She expired in the facility 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 **657**, which is a rate of **24.9** 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).

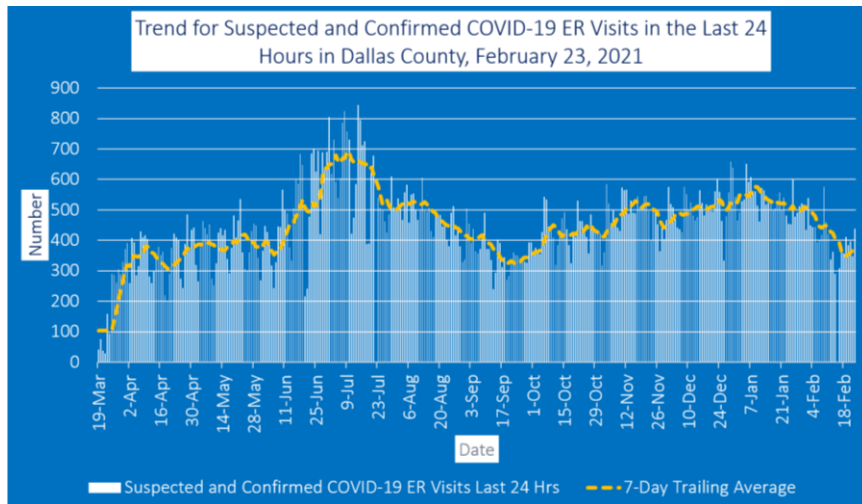
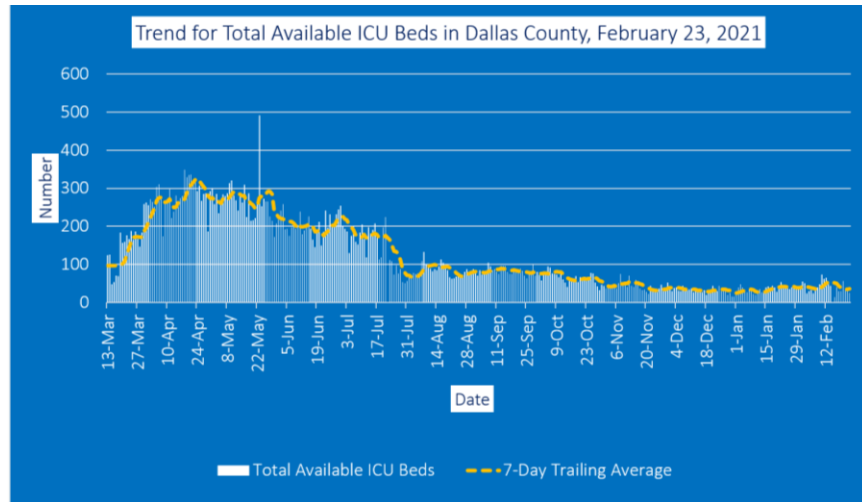
During the past 30 days, there were 3,894 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 628 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County. One death of a teacher in a Dallas County K-12 school from COVID-19 was confirmed this past week. A total of 466 children in Dallas County under 18 years 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.

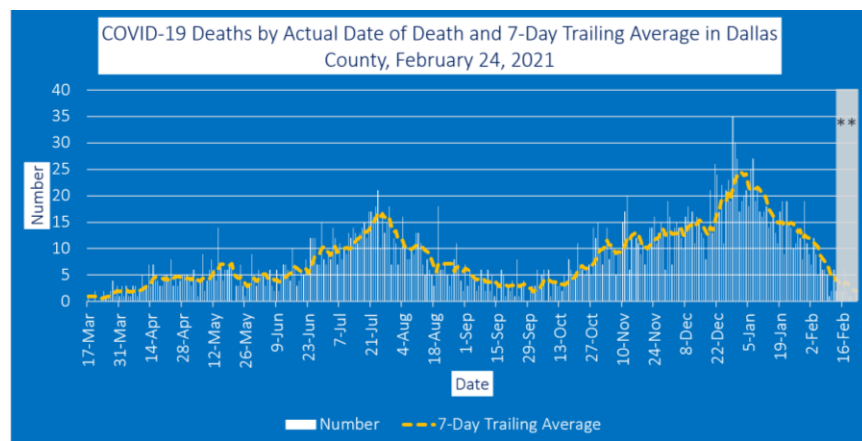
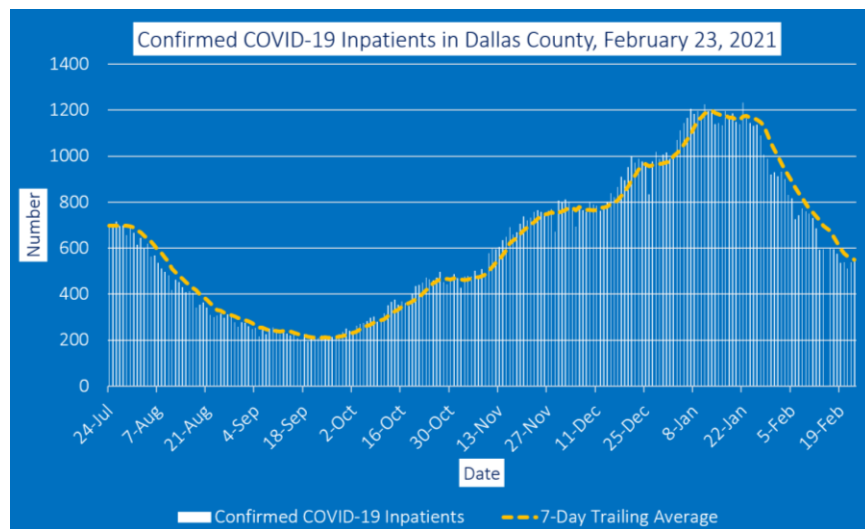
There are currently 85 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,170 residents and 2,325 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 932 have been hospitalized and 579 have died. About 22% of all deaths reported to date have been associated with long-term care facilities. Eleven 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 390 residents and 195 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 548 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending

on Tuesday, February 23. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 438 for the same time-period, which represents around 16 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. Updated UTSW forecasting indicates hospitalizations between 420-680 by February 26th and daily case counts of a 1,000. While we have seen a significant decline in hospitalizations, we've stayed mostly level the last few days. Please continue masking, distancing, and other protective measures, as these remain critically important even if you have received a COVID-19 vaccination. 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 25 deaths and 789 new positive cases of COVID-19. The numbers are hopefully returning to a more normal outlook on where we are as a community after several days of artificially low numbers from the lack of testing and reporting during last week’s winter storm.

Today we began our federal partnership with the Biden Administration, FEMA and the Department of Defense at Fair Park to vaccinate the most underserved populations in Dallas County. Tomorrow, we will continue giving second Moderna shots for anyone that was due for a second shot on or before February 17. If you are overdue for a second shot, please know that will get to you as soon as we can.

Getting these second doses administered, along with our goal of vaccinating 3000 persons per day using the Pfizer vaccine, will help us get closer to the overall goal of herd immunity. However, that can only happen if we remain diligent in doing the other things that reduce community spread: washing hands, wearing masks, social distancing, and avoiding crowds.

Every day we work to improve the customer experience for those receiving both second and first shots. Thank you for your patience as we work through the delays from the winter weather event. You have been a strong ally in the fight against COVID-19 and 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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