



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 26, 2021**

### **Dallas County Reports 726 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 18 Deaths, Including 199 Probable Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 12:00 pm February 26, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 726 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 527 confirmed cases and 199 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 244,862 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 34,972 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 2,941 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 Coppell. He expired in hospice.
- A woman in her 50's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She expired in an area hospital Emergency Department and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Cedar Hill. 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 Garland. 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 expired in hospice 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 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 70's who was a resident of the City of Richardson. She expired at home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70'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 70's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. 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 expired at home.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He expired in hospice and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70'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 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 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 Grand Prairie. 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 Desoto. 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 Irving. 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 **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).

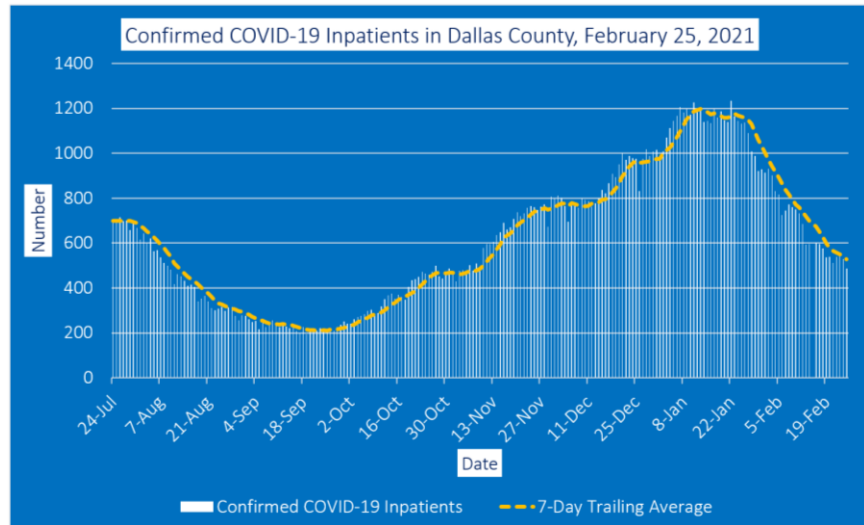
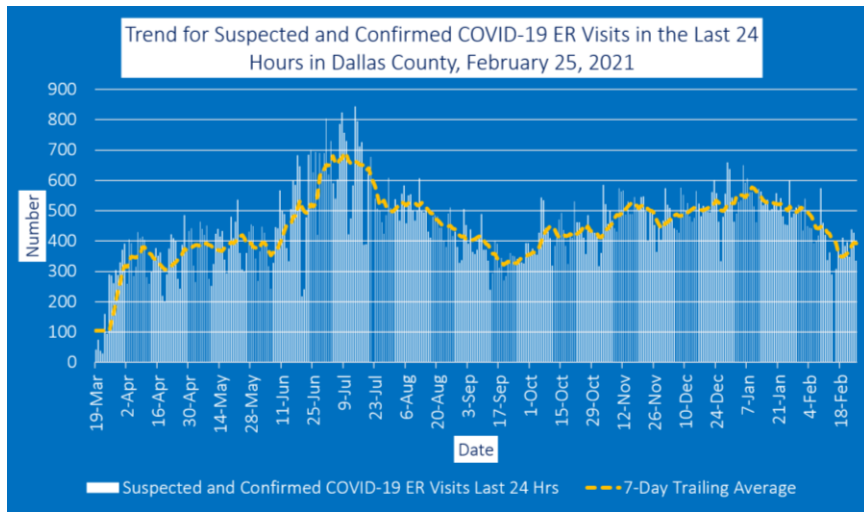
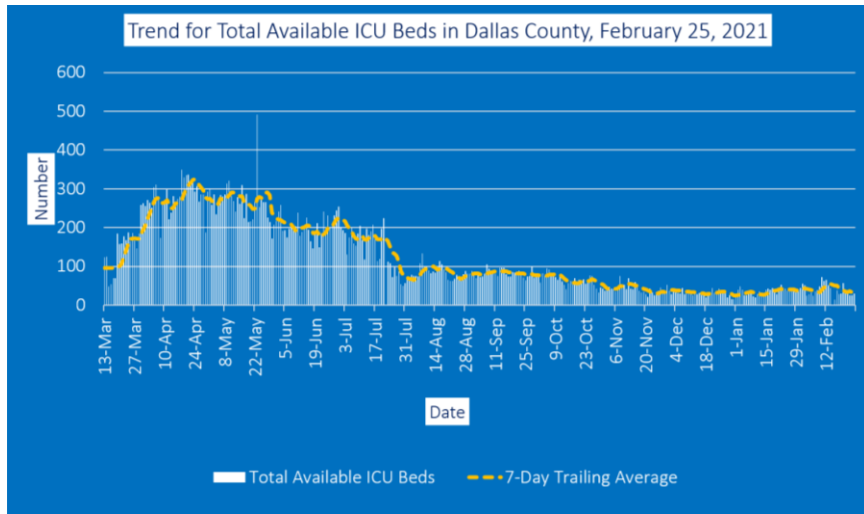
During the past 30 days, there were 3,894 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 628 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County. One death of a teacher in a Dallas County K-12 school from COVID-19 was confirmed this past week. A total of 466 children in Dallas County under 18 years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

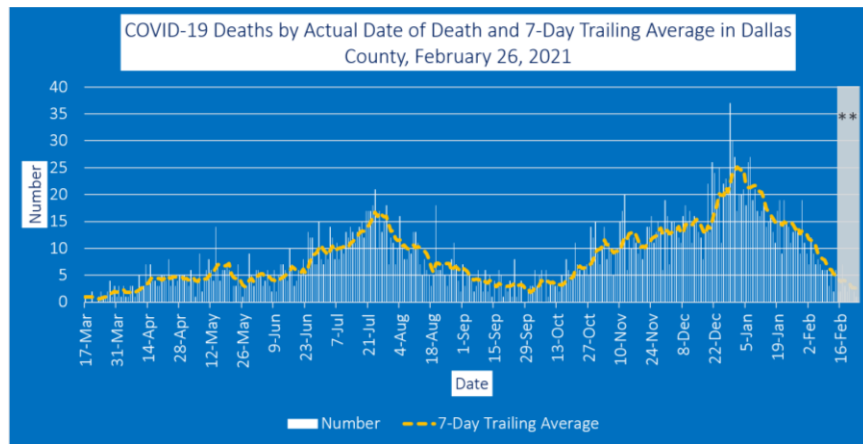
There are currently 85 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,170 residents and 2,325 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 932 have been hospitalized and 579 have died. About 22% of all deaths reported to date have 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 486 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Thursday, February 25. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 336 for the same time-period, which represents around 14 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. One of the facilities that normally reports was not reflected in the numbers today, therefore the numbers may be lower than the actual census and visits. We expect tomorrow's numbers to be complete.

Updated UTSW forecasting indicates hospitalizations between 320-530 by March 9th and daily case counts of around 700. They also predict an increasing number of patients in the ICU illustrating the ongoing severity of this disease. Please continue masking, distancing, and other protective measures, as these remain critically important even if you have received COVID-19 vaccination. With high community spread, uncertainty regarding the variant strains, and upcoming spring holidays, we remain at risk for additional waves. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).





“Today we report another 18 deaths and 726 new COVID-19 cases. We should continue to see the number of reported deaths decline as we come down from the record high case numbers reported in mid-January. And while I know the number of daily cases has decreased over the last few weeks, we should know the true number of daily cases soon following the delays in testing and reporting from the winter weather event.

The State has continued to shortchange Dallas County for COVID vaccine first doses. If you take into account the reduced allocations to hubs for last week and the upcoming week, as well as the proportionate share of the new vaccine coming to Texas from our federal partners that should go to Dallas County based on our population, we are short about 60,000 doses that could go to our residents. I will continue to strongly advocate for our share back and do all I can to get more vaccine for our residents,” 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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