



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 2, 2021**

**Dallas County Reports 526 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 25 Deaths, Including 162 Probable Cases**

*Reaches Grim Milestone of over 3,000 Total COVID-19 Deaths*

**DALLAS** -- As of 2:00 pm March 2, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 526 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 364 confirmed cases and 162 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 246,310 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 35,371 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 3,018 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 92,445 total 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 but has received an allotment of first doses for distribution this week.

- The additional deaths being reported today include the following:
  - A man in his 50's who was a resident of the City of Carrollton. 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 Cedar Hill. 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 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 in an area 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 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 was found deceased outside 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 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 hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
  - A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. 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 expired at home and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. He had been hospitalized.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the city of Dallas. He expired in hospice care and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. She had been hospitalized 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 hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Carrollton. He had been hospitalized.
- 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 Mesquite. 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 expired in an area hospital Emergency Department 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 care 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 hospice care 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 man in his 90's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Coppell. He expired in hospice care 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 7 was **226**, which is a rate of **8.6** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. Case reporting for this week ending 2/20/21 was likely significantly impacted by reduced testing due to the severe weather conditions in Texas. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high, with **16.0%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 7 (week ending 2/20/21).

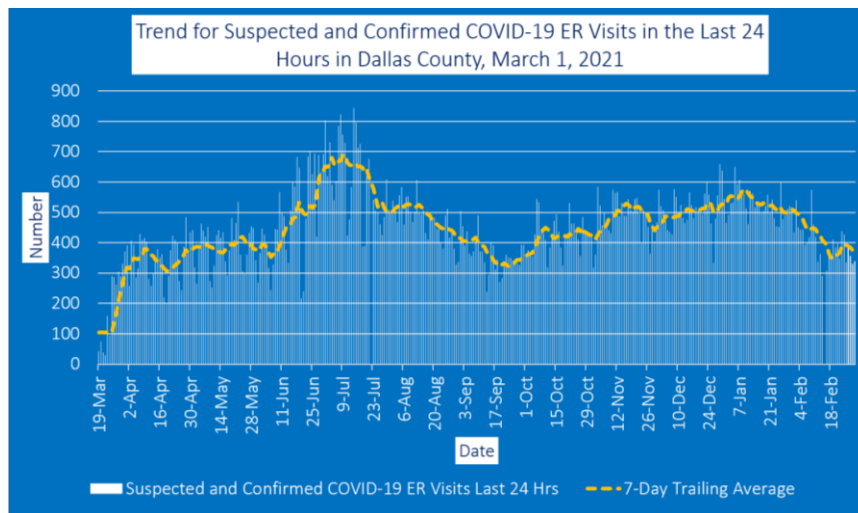
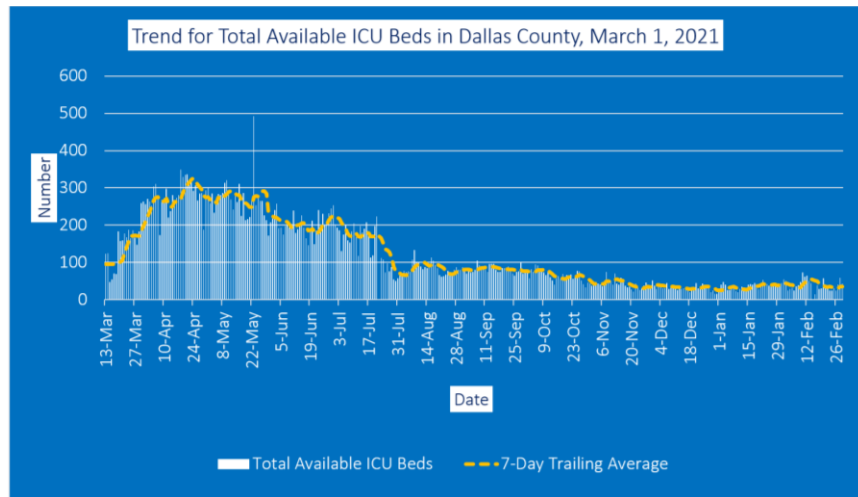
During the past 30 days, there were 4,098 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 650 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County. An additional death of a teacher in a Dallas County K-12 school from COVID-19 was confirmed this past week. A total of 466 children in Dallas County under 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.

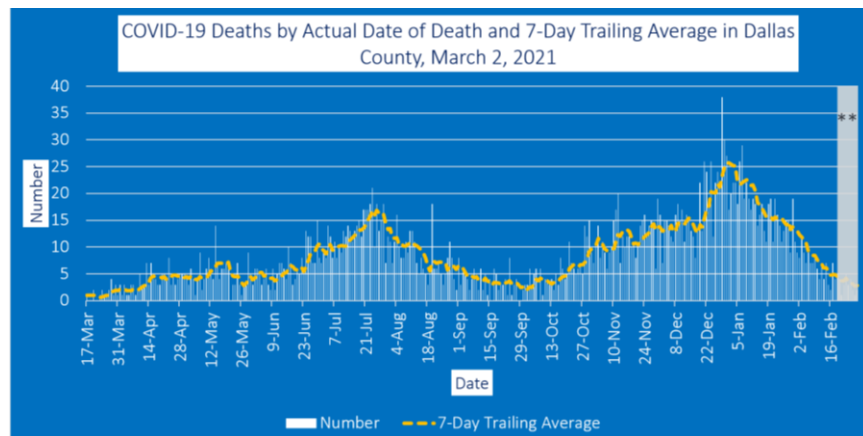
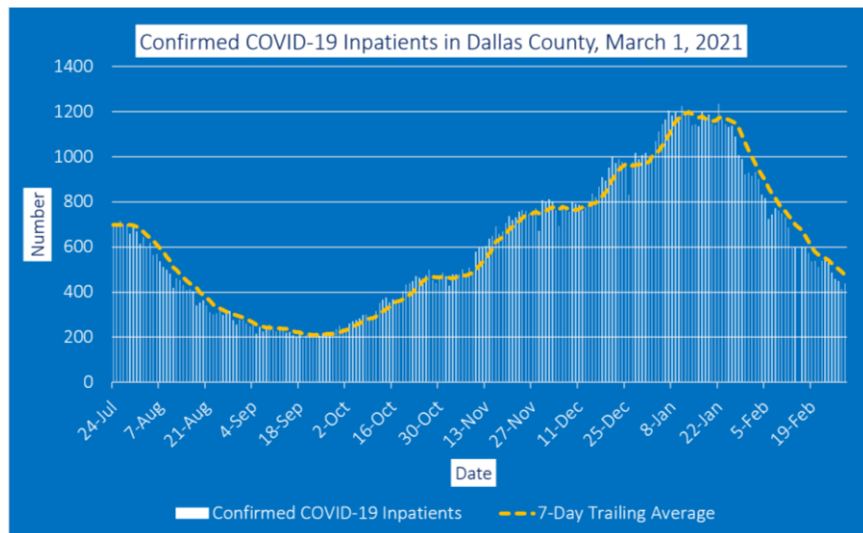
There are currently 68 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,189 residents and 2,324 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 950 have been hospitalized and 608 have died. About 22% of all deaths reported to date have been associated with long-term care facilities. Ten 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 394 residents and 196 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 438 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Monday, March 1. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 340 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. While these numbers have declined since peak highs after the winter holidays, these are still much higher than the lows we experienced over the summer and represent a substantial and ongoing impact on our hospitals.

Updated UTSW forecasting indicates hospitalizations between 270-480 by March 12th and daily case counts of around 500. 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, on the day that we report 25 additional deaths pushing our death toll here in Dallas County above 3000 in less than a year from our first Covid-19 case, Governor Abbott held a press conference to say that he will remove the state orders he previously enacted, including the mandatory mask mandate, to protect you and those you care about from Covid-19.

I strongly urge everyone to focus on what doctors, facts and science say will keep you safe from Covid-19. Your first line of defense is to mask up, wash your hands frequently, maintain at least six foot distance from people outside your home, avoid crowds, and forego get-togethers. Secondly, everyone who is eligible for a vaccine should register in as many places as they're willing to drive and get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Now is not the time to lose our resolve in the battle against COVID. The Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation estimates that we can reach herd immunity by June if, as a community, we can continue the same level of compliance for safety measures, including masking, and if the state stops diverting shots from Dallas and Tarrant counties so that we can average giving out 66,000 shots per week, starting last week, in Dallas County.

If we fail to do those things it will take longer and the cost of that will be both sickness and death in people and billions in lost productivity for our economy. Don't lose your resolve to continue the small sacrifices of patriotism to keep our community and our country strong. Together, we will defeat COVID,” 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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