



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2021

Dallas County Reports 718 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 26 Deaths, Including 401 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm March 3, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 718 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 317 confirmed cases and 401 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 246,627 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 35,772 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 3,044 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 100,346 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 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 Garland. 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 Irving. 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 Irving. 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 Irving. 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 a long-term care facility in the City of Desoto. 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 Garland. 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 Dallas. She expired in a hospital ED 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 woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Irving. 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 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 Dallas. 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 Dallas. She had been hospitalized 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 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 Grand Prairie. He had been hospitalized and had 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 woman in her 80’s who was a resident of the City of Garland. He had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80’s who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. 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 Grand Prairie. He had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 90’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 90’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 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 90’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 woman in her 90’s who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Garland. She expired in hospice and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 90’s who was a resident of the City of Garland. He had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.

Nine cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 have been identified in residents of Dallas County. Of the five newly reported cases today, 2 are residents of the City of Dallas, 2 are residents of the City of Garland and 1 is a resident of the City of Sachse. The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 7 was **230**, which is a rate of **8.7** 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 2,668 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 553 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.

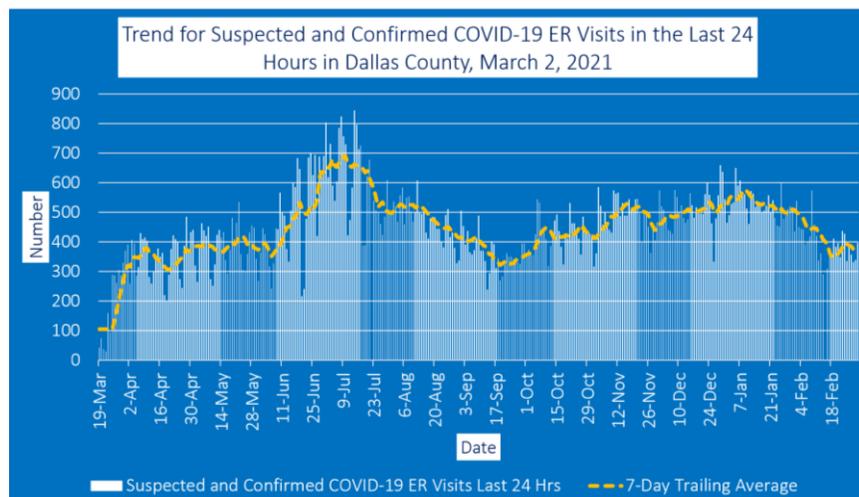
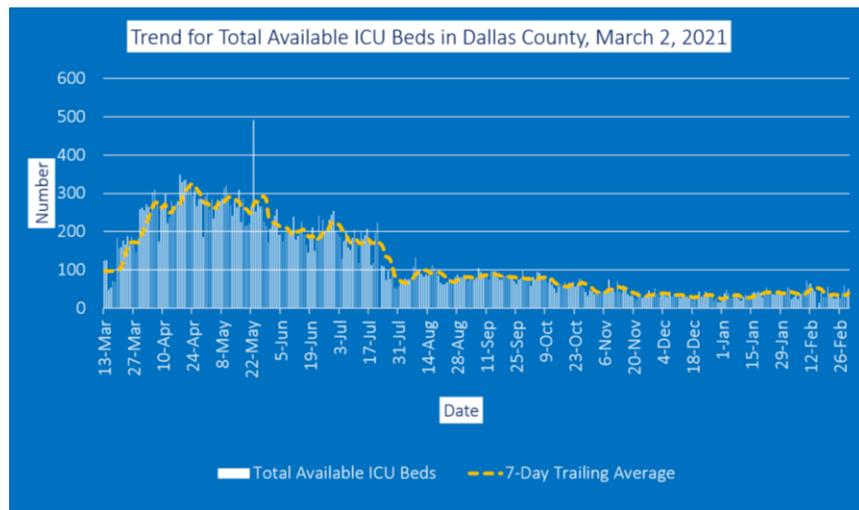
There are currently 65 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,216 residents and 2,330 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 961 have been hospitalized and 616 have died. About 22% of all deaths reported to date have 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 397 residents and 198 staff members in congregate-living facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

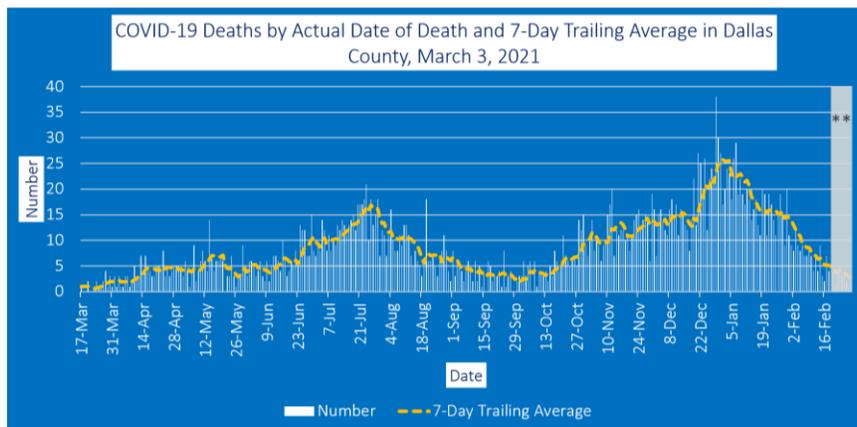
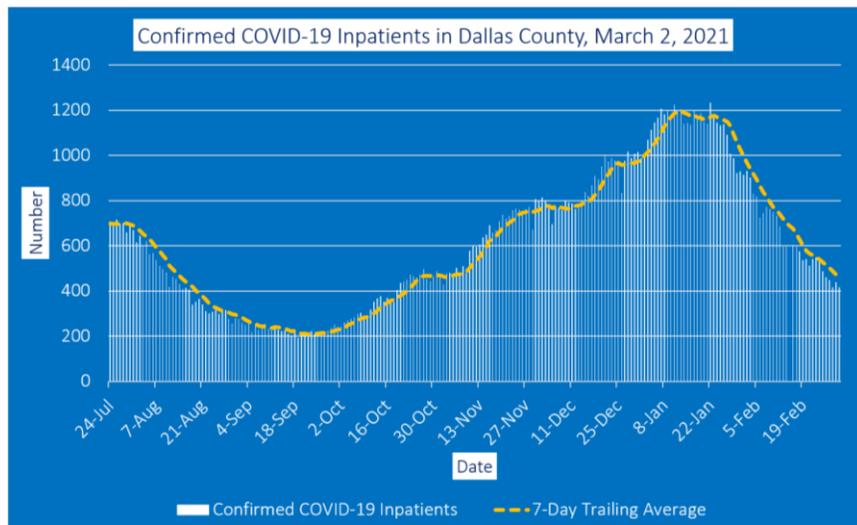
Of all confirmed cases requiring hospitalization to date, more than two-thirds have been under 65 years of age. Diabetes has been an underlying high-risk health condition reported in about a third of all hospitalized patients

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 417 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Tuesday, March 2. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 396 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. 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 we report an additional 26 deaths from COVID-19 and 718 cases, five of which are the B.1.1.7 variant, the 70 percent more contagious strain that originated from the United Kingdom.

Today, we began vaccinations with 2,000 of our first doses that the State sent to Dallas County this week at The Theatre at Grand Prairie. This is a collaboration with the City of Irving and the City of Grand Prairie. Those shots are going to people from the Dallas County Health and Human Services registration list who are outside of the zip codes targeted by the FEMA/White House/Pfizer program. Unfortunately, the state has diverted roughly 59,000 shots that would go to communities outside of those 17 Dallas County zip codes over the last two weeks, and until this changes, there are just not enough shots to get coverage for all on our list.

You should continue to register with Dallas County and also register anywhere you're willing to drive. We are seeing a great disparity between Dallas and Tarrant County and many other areas of the state. For instance in Dallas County and Tarrant County, only 14 percent of our population has received the first shot, but nearly 25 percent of the Lubbock County population has received a first shot. I will continue to ask the state to allot vaccine to Dallas County, hospitals, providers, and municipalities for an amount that is representative of our 9.1 percent population of the state of Texas.

The Governor’s announcement from Lubbock County yesterday, made on Texas Independence Day, should not distract us from the mounting bills we will all be receiving from the power grid collapse. We all have to hold the Governor and the Legislature responsible to their promises to weatherize and modernize our power grid and make whole those Texans who have seen exorbitant costs.

The Governor made an announcement yesterday to do away with the statewide mask mandate. This announcement is not in keeping with what local doctors and hospitals recommend to keep us safe and get our community to herd immunity as quickly as possible. Most businesses will continue to require masks in their

establishments and residents should listen to doctors, the facts, and the science regarding masking, distancing, hand-washing and avoiding crowds to give them themselves, their family, their community, and our country our best chance of staying strong until the vaccine can be given in sufficient numbers for us to reach herd immunity. We're all in this together and we will defeat COVID-19 this year, but it requires all of us making smart decisions and looking out for one another,” 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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