



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 15, 2021

Dallas County Reports 574 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 10 Deaths, Including 195 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm March 15, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 574 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 379 confirmed cases and 195 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 249,625 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 37,300 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 3,309 Dallas County residents have lost their lives due to COVID-19 illness.

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is providing initial vaccinations to those most at risk of exposure to COVID-19 and over 161,000 total doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered at the Fair Park mega-vaccine clinic, which started operations on Monday, January 11. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, as of March 14, 37% of individuals 65 and older are fully vaccinated in Dallas County. Vaccine operations for both first and second doses at Fair Park resumed today.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A woman in her 30'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 40'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 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 Garland. 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 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 Sachse. He expired in hospice 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 Grand Prairie. 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 Garland. 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 Garland. 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 Garland. He had been critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.

One case of a B.1.526 variant of SARS-CoV-2 has been reported in a resident of Dallas County; this individual did not have a history of travel outside of Dallas County. Nine cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 have been identified in residents of Dallas County. One was hospitalized and five had history of recent domestic

travel outside of Texas. The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 9 was **285**, which is a rate of **10.8** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high, with **9.9%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 9 (week ending 3/6/21).

During the past 30 days, there were 1,714 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 504 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County. An additional death of a teacher's assistant in a Dallas County K-12 school from COVID-19 was confirmed this past week. There are currently 30 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,236 residents and 2,335 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 988 have been hospitalized and 652 have died. About 22% of all deaths reported to date have been associated with long-term care facilities. Twelve 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 416 residents and 205 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. Due to weekend reporting, new data will be available on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

“Today we report an additional 10 deaths and 574 new cases of COVID-19. This week we will have less vaccine at Fair Park than we have in weeks. Today we will vaccinate approximately 8,000 people for first doses and only a few thousand for first doses for the rest of the week. It is our hope that the State will work with the federal government and restore the shots that they have diverted from Dallas and Tarrant counties over the last four weeks. This week the State diverted additional shots from Dallas and Tarrant counties, making it harder for our residents to make an appointment to get vaccinated.

We all have a role to play. It is so important at this time that we continue to do the things that we have done for the past year to keep ourselves safe when we are around people outside our homes. It's also important that you register in as many places as you're willing to drive to get vaccinated and get vaccinated as soon as it's your turn. Today is the first day of eligibility under 1C, which makes any person over the age of 50 without an underlying condition eligible to get vaccinated. So, if you have not registered for a vaccine because you're over the age of 50, and have no underlying condition, you should do so immediately because you are now eligible to get a vaccine.

If you're under the age of 50 with no underlying condition, it's also a great time to register for a vaccine. You're not yet eligible for a vaccine but you'll be at the top of the list when your group is reached. Everyone should register in as many places as they're willing to drive and take the vaccine as soon as it's available.

The best vaccine for you is the vaccine that is available. Don't think about which vaccine you want, think about why you want a vaccine in the first place, and that is to avoid hospitalization and death. All three of the vaccines are excellent at making this happen. So get registered, get vaccinated, and wear your mask,” 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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