



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2021

Dallas County Reports 484 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 10 Deaths, Including 127 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm March 22, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 484 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 357 confirmed cases and 127 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 250,888 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 37,812 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 3,394 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 197,000 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 21, 38% 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 man in his 40's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He had been critically ill in an area hospital and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Farmers Branch. She had been critically ill in an area hospital and did not have high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Cedar Hill. She 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 Garland. She had been hospitalized and did not have 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 hospice and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of DeSoto. 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 Garland. 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 Addison. 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 Garland. He expired in hospice and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. She expired in hospice and had underlying high risk health conditions.

To date, a total of 14 cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 and one case of a B.1.526 variant 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 10 was **257**, which is a rate of **9.7** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. The

percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high, with **6.9%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 10 (week ending 3/13/21).

An outbreak of 41 cases of COVID-19 has been reported today among high school students who attended a dance and dinner on March 13th. An additional 9 COVID-19 cases among students and coaches have been reported associated with outbreaks in 2 high school basketball teams. During the past 30 days, there were 1,297 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 425 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County. There are currently 25 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,255 residents and 2,359 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 1,002 have been hospitalized and 656 have died. About 22% of all deaths reported to date have been associated with long-term care facilities. Thirteen 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 429 residents and 207 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 23, 2021.

“Today we report 484 new cases and 10 deaths from COVID-19. We reached the 200,000 shot threshold today slightly before 9am at Fair Park on our way to vaccinating around 7,000 people. Vaccination scenes like this are playing out all over North Texas and if we can get enough vaccine here, we can reach herd immunity in Dallas County in June.

In order for this to happen, we need everyone to register in as many places as they are willing to drive. If you were concerned about taking the vaccine in the beginning, look at all of your neighbors who have had the vaccine without reaction and are getting more freedom back in their lives. Register for the vaccine and get it as soon as you can.

Beyond that, we all need to continue making smart decisions with the emergence of more contagious and deadly strains making their way to Dallas County. These include continuing to wear your mask when in buildings outside your home, washing your hands frequently, maintaining six-foot distance, and avoiding unnecessary crowds. If we’ll all continue to make the small sacrifices of patriotism, including registering (though tedious) in as many places as you’re willing to drive for the vaccine and getting vaccinated as soon as you’re able, 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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