



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2021

Dallas County Reports 228 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 19 Deaths, Including 77 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm March 23, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 228 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 151 confirmed cases and 77 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 251,039 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 37,889 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 3,413 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 almost 205,000 total doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered at the Fair Park mega-vaccine clinic, which started operations on Monday, January 11. Vaccine operations for both first and second doses at Fair Park will continue through Friday.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A man in his 50's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He expired in an area hospital ED 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 Seagoville. 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 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 woman in her 60's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Desoto. 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 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 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 Mesquite. 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 Lancaster. 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 a long-term care facility in the City of Irving. He 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 Dallas. He had been critically ill in an area hospital and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.

- A woman in her 80's who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. 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 Addison. She expired in hospice 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 Dallas. He expired in the facility 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 90's who was a resident of the City of Seagoville. He expired in a facility 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 Mesquite. She expired in the facility and had underlying high risk health conditions.

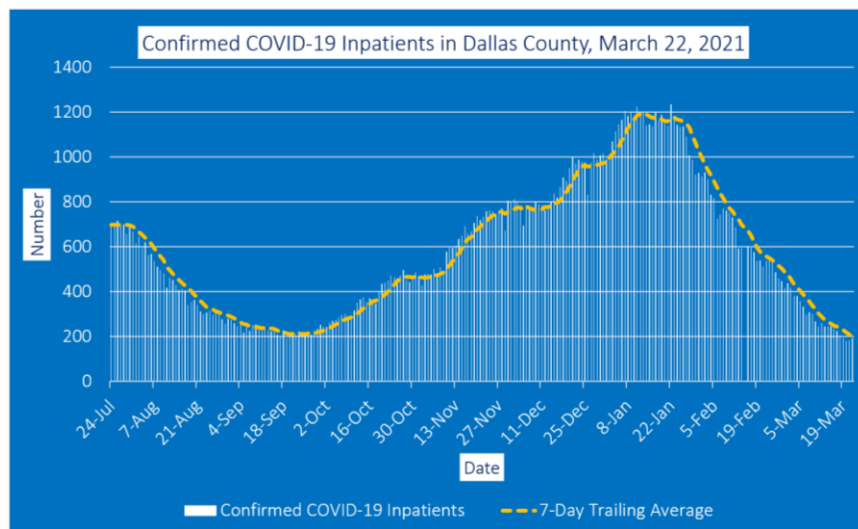
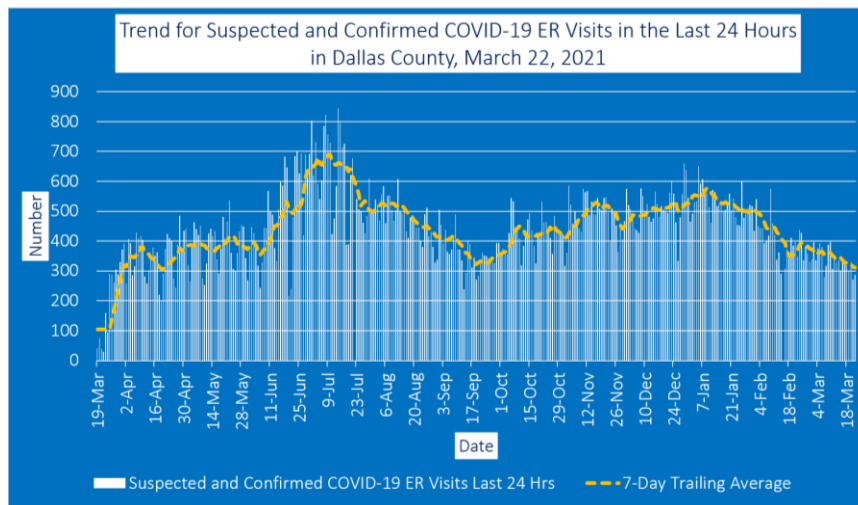
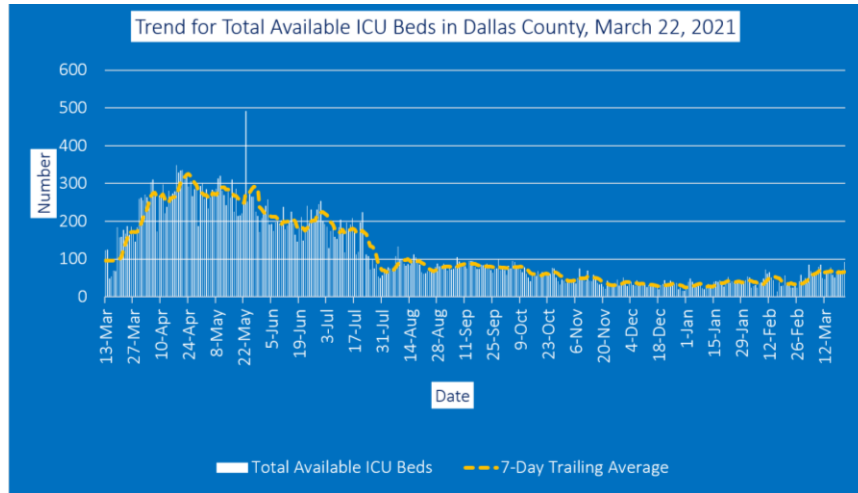
Two cases of SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.429 have been newly reported in residents of Dallas County; this variant was first described to emerge in California. To date, a total of 14 cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 and one case of a B.1.526 variant have been identified in residents of Dallas County. 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).

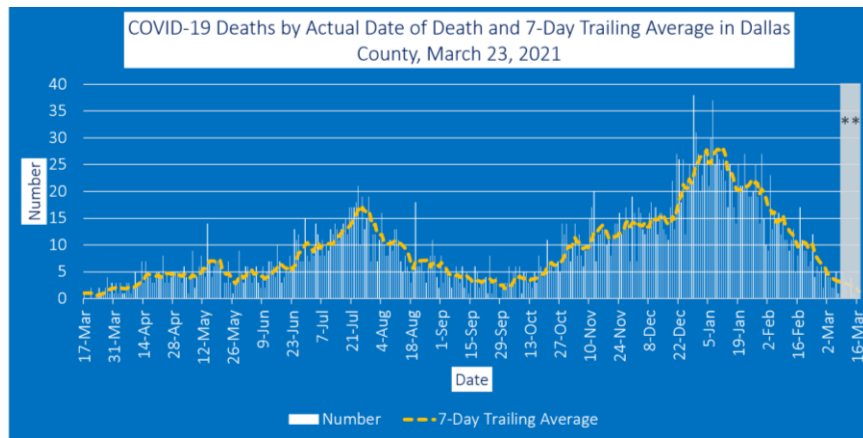
An outbreak of 41 cases of COVID-19 has been reported today among high school students who attended a dance and dinner on March 13th. An additional 9 COVID-19 cases among students and coaches have been reported associated with outbreaks in 2 high school basketball teams. During the past 30 days, there 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 as part of determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. There were 193 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on March 22. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 287 for the same time-period, which represents around 13 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. Please be mindful of following CDC travel guidance(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>) if you've recently returned from a trip. We remain concerned for additional waves due to a potential rise in variants and because community spread remains high creating an environment for cases to reignite, especially if compliance with personal actions such as masking and distancing decline. We encourage everyone to follow public health guidance, continue masking and avoid crowded and non-essential indoor settings. Updated UTSW forecasting reflects a leveling within their model with hospitalizations between 140-270 and daily case counts of 480 by April 8. Modeling indicates if there are major changes to personal

behaviors, such as not masking or social distancing, that we could reach or surpass previous surges in the next few months. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).





“Today, we report an additional 228 COVID-19 cases and 19 deaths. With the state’s announcement today that any adult can be vaccinated beginning March 29, it is more important than ever that everyone register for the vaccine in as many places as you are willing to drive. It is expected that next week's allocation to the State of Texas will increase dramatically and this should mean a dramatic increase for North Texas as well.

As we strive to vaccinate as many North Texans as quickly as possible and to win the war against COVID-19 by reaching herd immunity before the virus can mutate into strains that are vaccine resistant, it is important that we remember the underlying health and safety measures that have protected us thus far. Please continue to wear your mask, wash your hands, avoid unnecessary indoor crowds, and maintain a six-foot distance, as these are keys in the battle against COVID-19. Also, take advantage of the patio and outdoor activities while the weather is pleasant as it is much harder to spread illness in an outdoor setting than an indoor one.

I am proud of the spirit of North Texas and the work that our volunteers have done thus far, and I am hopeful that as the possibility of a vaccination becomes available to everyone in the community, that we will still see people signing up to help their fellow Texans work their way through the vaccine process. It has been a tough year, but we are winning. Let us focus on all the things for which we have to be grateful and together we will defeat COVID-19,” 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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