



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2021

Dallas County Reports 364 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 18 Deaths, Including 198 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm March 31, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 364 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 166 confirmed cases and 198 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 252,041 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 39,221 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 3,527 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 263,000 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 this week.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A woman in her 50'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 50's who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. He expired in a facility and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 50'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 hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Mesquite. 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 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 Coppell. 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 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 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 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 Balch Springs. 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 Balch Springs. She had been critically ill in an area hospital 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 man in his 80’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 the City of Balch Springs. He had been critically ill in an area hospital 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.

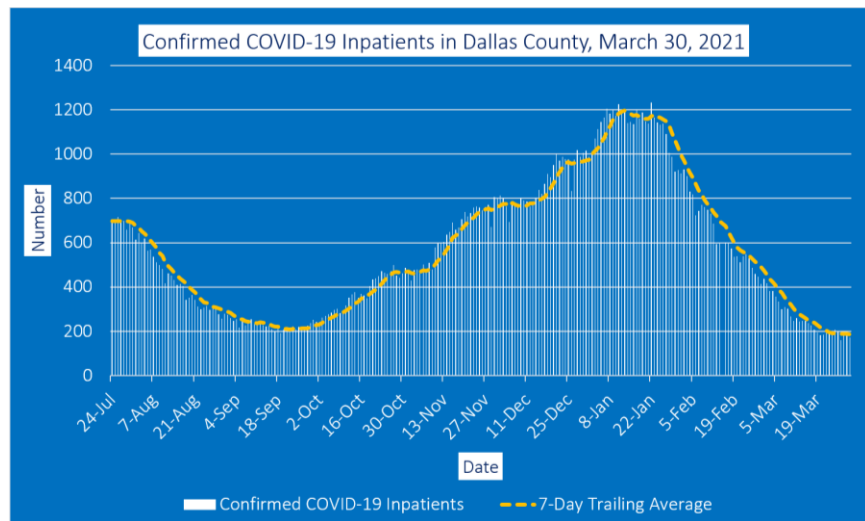
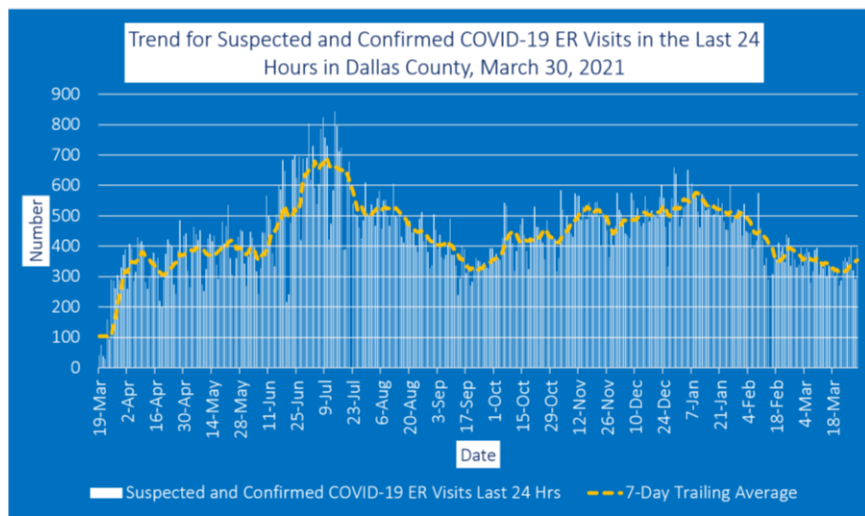
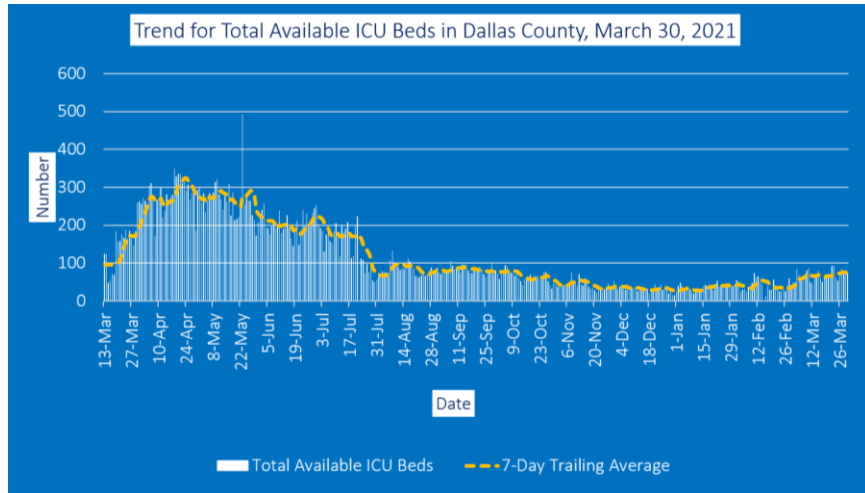
To date, a total of 19 cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7; two cases of B.1.429 variants; and one case of a B.1.526 variant have been identified in residents of Dallas County. Two have been hospitalized and five had history of recent domestic travel outside of Texas. One case of B.1.1.7 is a likely instance of reinfection with COVID-19, occurring over 6 months after an initial PCR-confirmed infection. The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 11 was **204**, which is a rate of **7.7** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high, and with **7.8%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 11 (week ending 3/20/21).

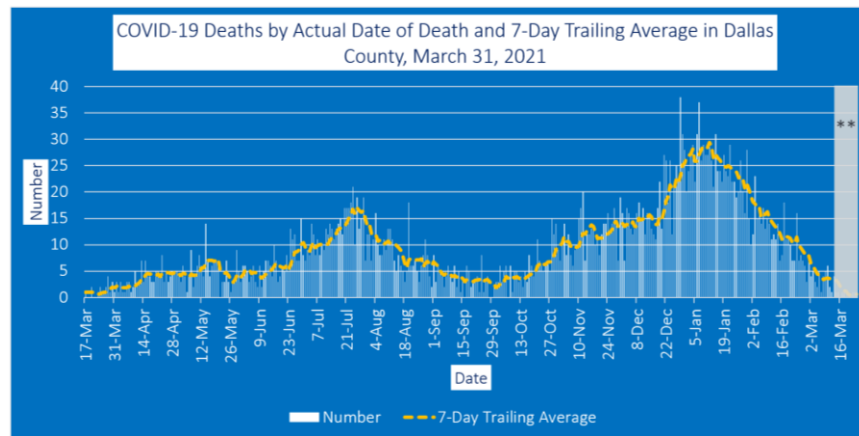
An outbreak of over 70 cases of COVID-19 has been reported associated with attendees at a high school dance and dinner on March 13th, including subsequent spread into their household members. During the past 30 days, there were 1,511 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 452 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County. There are currently 25 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,284 residents and 2,394 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 1,022 have been hospitalized and 679 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 434 residents and 208 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 173 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on March 30. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 395 for the same time-period, which represents around 14 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. 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 don’t yet know the implications of Spring Break and other travel, and encourage everyone to continue taking all personal precautions recommended by the CDC and local public health experts, especially avoiding indoor gatherings. CDC “Holiday Tips” recommends avoiding in-person religious gatherings and remaining only with your household members for meals and other activities, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/winter.html>. UTSW forecasting reflects a leveling within their model with hospitalizations between 100-160 and daily case counts of 350 by April 15th.

Modeling indicates if there are major changes to personal behaviors, such as not masking or social distancing, that we could see substantial surge. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).





“Today we report 364 new COVID-19 cases and 18 additional deaths. We are seeing an increase in our R-naught number to above one. This means that for every one COVID case, it’ll be replaced by slightly more than one additional person. In order to keep our numbers going lower, we need to renew our efforts to do those things that doctors have asked for the last year: wear a mask, wash our hands frequently, avoid crowds, maintain six-foot distance, as well as register to get vaccinated in at least the four big counties (Dallas, Collin, Tarrant and Denton) and get vaccinated as soon as it’s your turn. If you’ve already been vaccinated, encourage your friends to get vaccinated. It’s up to all of us to defeat COVID, and together, we will succeed,” 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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