



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2021

### **Dallas County Reports 303 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 8 Deaths, Including 36 Probable Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 12:00 pm April 24, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 303 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 267 confirmed cases and 36 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 256,342 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 40,973 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 3,845 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 402,700 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 resume on Monday.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

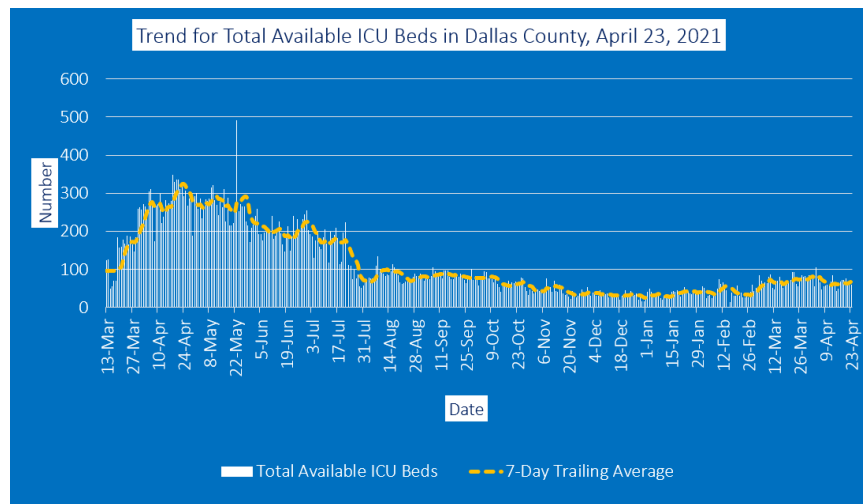
- A man in his 40's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He had been critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He was found deceased and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Irving. He expired in an area ED 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 a long-term care facility in the City of Lancaster. He 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 Mesquite. She expired in an area ED 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 woman in her 80'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.

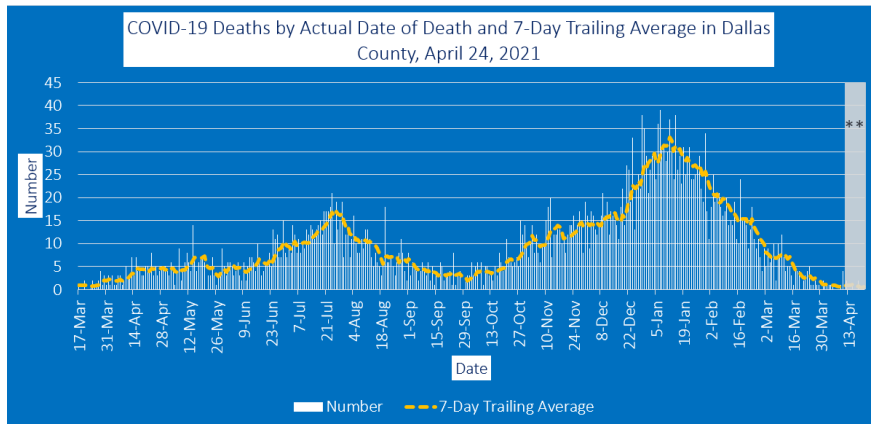
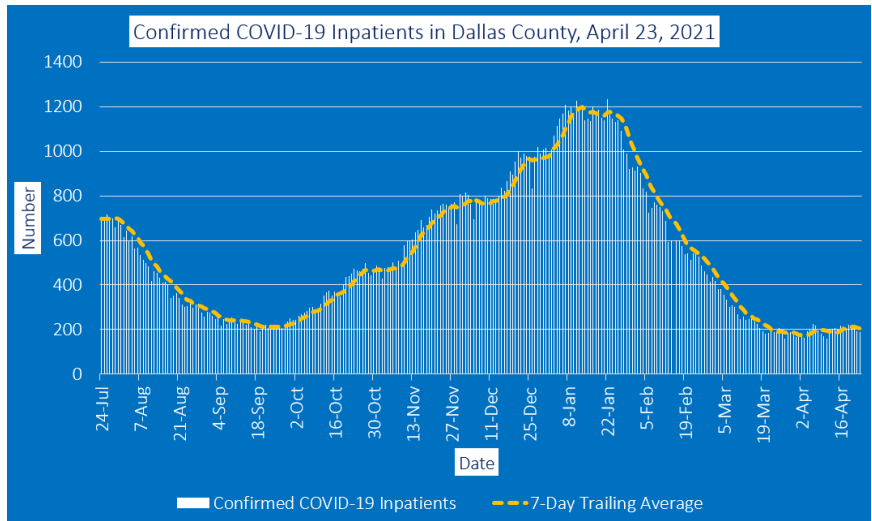
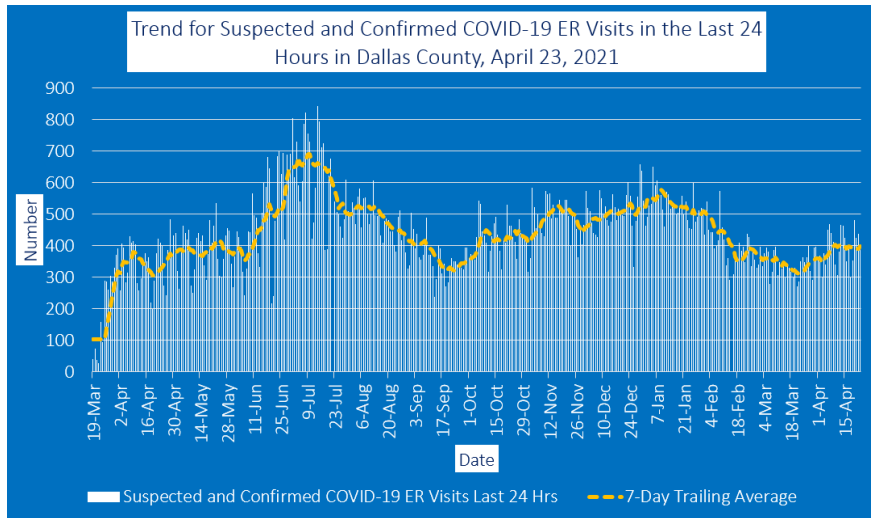
To date, a total of 57 cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7; six cases of B.1.429 variants; and one case of a B.1.526 variant have been identified in residents of Dallas County. Four have been hospitalized with 2 requiring intensive care unit admission. Seven had history of recent domestic travel 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 15 was **205**, which is a rate of **7.8** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. Of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals in week 15 (week ending 4/17/21), **10.8%** of respiratory specimens tested positive SARS-CoV-2.

During the past 30 days, there were 1,065 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 381 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County. Of the cases reported over the past month, 93 have been associated with youth sports. There are currently 26 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,340 residents and 2,448 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 1,071 have been hospitalized and 755 have died. About 20% of all deaths reported to date have been associated with long-term care facilities. Nine 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 571 residents and 219 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, 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 188 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on April 23. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 403 for the same time period, which represents around 15 percent of all emergency department visits in the county. Please continue to do your part to reduce spread. Masking, social distancing and avoiding gatherings, as well as getting your vaccination. Removal of some restrictions by the CDC is still very limited for those who are vaccinated, and medium and large gatherings especially indoors should still be avoided by all individuals regardless of vaccination status. Updated UTSW forecasting reflects an increase within their model with hospitalizations between 150-190 and daily case counts of 260 by May 10th. Modeling indicates if there are major changes to personal behaviors, such as not masking or social distancing, or a drop off in the rate of vaccination, that we could see a substantial surge. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).





## Summary of weekly COVID-19 confirmed and probable cases, deaths, and percentage positive laboratory tests, Dallas County (CDC Weeks 25 - 15)

CDC Week	Week Ending	Total Confirmed and Probable Cases	Total School-Aged Cases (5 to 17 years)	Daily Average New Confirmed and Probable Cases*	Daily Average New Confirmed and Probable Deaths**	Percentage of Tests Positive for SARS-CoV-2***
25	6/20/2020	5,891	481	842	6	26.9%
26	6/27/2020	8,622	648	1,232	9	30.5%
27	7/4/2020	8,975	706	1,282	10	30.0%
28	7/11/2020	9,154	856	1,308	10	26.6%
29	7/18/2020	6,548	686	935	13	21.7%
30	7/25/2020	4,530	496	647	16	19.3%
31	8/1/2020	3,341	422	477	14	15.9%
32	8/8/2020	2,854	323	408	10	14.0%
33	8/15/2020	2,163	184	309	9	13.2%
34	8/22/2020	1,761	190	252	7	11.2%
35	8/29/2020	2,202	185	315	7	10.8%
36	9/5/2020	2,083	162	298	5	10.5%
37	9/12/2020	1,890	204	270	4	9.7%
38	9/19/2020	2,244	239	321	4	11.4%
39	9/26/2020	2,467	263	352	3	10.7%
40	10/3/2020	2,675	317	382	3	10.0%
41	10/10/2020	3,695	477	528	4	11.5%
42	10/17/2020	4,505	566	644	4	14.3%
43	10/24/2020	5,316	698	759	6	15.1%
44	10/31/2020	5,281	610	754	10	15.0%
45	11/7/2020	7,995	999	1,142	9	15.3%
46	11/14/2020	10,185	1,377	1,455	13	20.3%
47	11/21/2020	10,236	1,269	1,462	12	21.2%
48	11/28/2020	8,778	944	1,254	15	21.4%
49	12/5/2020	12,354	1,760	1,765	14	25.0%
50	12/12/2020	12,515	1,728	1,788	16	23.4%
51	12/19/2020	13,369	1,687	1,910	16	26.6%
52	12/26/2020	12,557	1,370	1,794	22	27.7%
53	1/2/2021	16,377	1,932	2,340	29	31.3%
1	1/9/2021	19,186	2,568	2,741	31	31.5%
2	1/16/2021	13,940	1,961	1,991	31	27.6%
3	1/23/2021	11,901	1,706	1,700	28	25.6%
4	1/30/2021	10,252	1,518	1,465	26	24.2%
5	2/6/2021	7,730	1,178	1,104	19	20.2%
6	2/13/2021	4,928	611	704	16	19.6%
7	2/20/2021	1,759	125	251	15	15.5%
8	2/27/2021	3,329	468	476	11	12.1%
9	3/6/2021	2,144	277	306	7	9.7%
10	3/13/2021	1,946	259	278	7	7.1%
11	3/20/2021	1,492	210	213	3	7.8%
12	3/27/2021	1,557	221	222	2	7.6%
13	4/3/2021	1,471	237	210	1	8.3%
14	4/10/2021	1,769	285	253	1	9.0%
15	4/17/2021	1,434	235	205	<1	10.8%

\* For 7-day time period for respective CDC week by date of test collection

\*\* For 7-day time period for respective CDC week by date of death

\*\*\* Percentage positive PCR tests in symptomatic patients presenting to area hospital emergency department reporting surveillance data

“Today we report an additional 303 cases of COVID and 8 new deaths. COVID continues to be a serious health risk in our community and a drag on our economy. In order to defeat COVID, as many people need to get the shot as soon as possible. We are in a race against the virus to reach herd immunity and deny the virus enough additional hosts for it to mutate into variants that are vaccine resistant. There are many locations throughout Dallas County to get the vaccine, including several within the county. You can go on [DallasCounty.org](https://www.dallascounty.org), register for the vaccine, and find a site that is available to give you the shot on the same day. On Monday, Ellis Davis, Eastfield, and Fair Park will be open for no appointment, no pre-registration first shots. Don’t delay, get your shot as soon as possible,” 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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