



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2021

Dallas County Reports 178 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 3 Deaths, Including 9 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm May 8, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 178 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 169 confirmed cases and 9 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 258,609 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 41,830 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 3,928 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 455,000 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 continue on Saturday.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

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

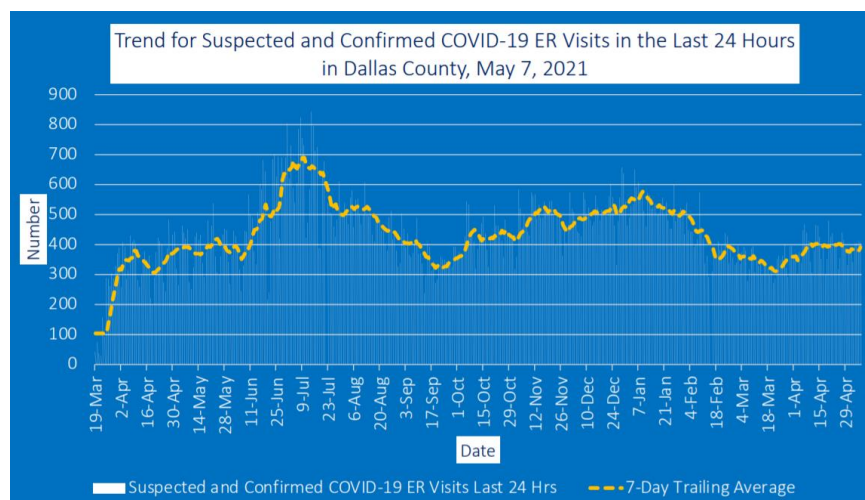
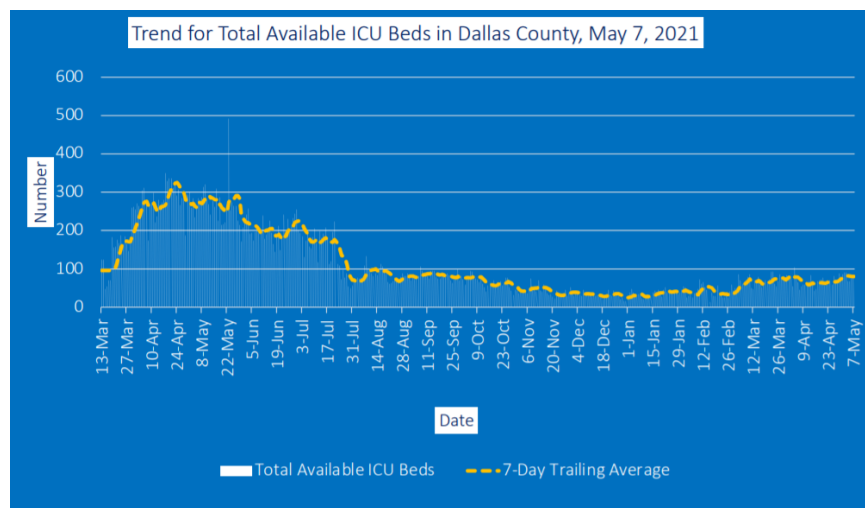
To date, a total of 61 cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7; six B.1.429 variants; two B.1.526 variants; one P.1 variant; and one P.2 variant have been identified in residents of Dallas County. Five have been hospitalized with 3 requiring intensive care unit admission, and one has died. Seven had 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 17 was **214**, which is a rate of **8.2** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. Of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals in week 17 (week ending 5/1/21), **10.8%** of respiratory specimens tested positive SARS-CoV-2.

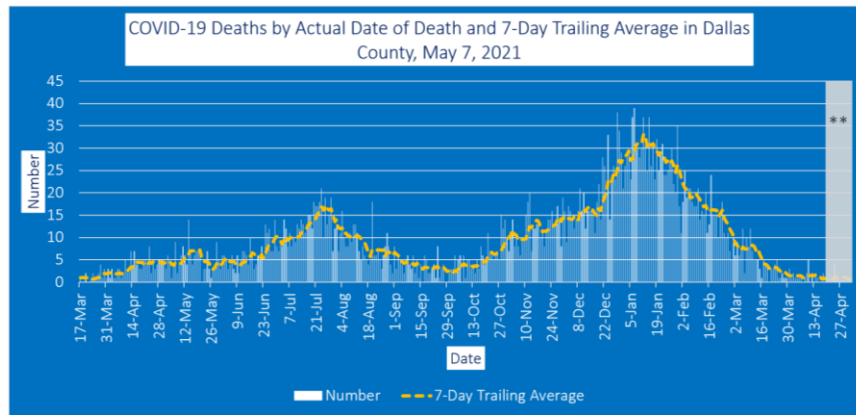
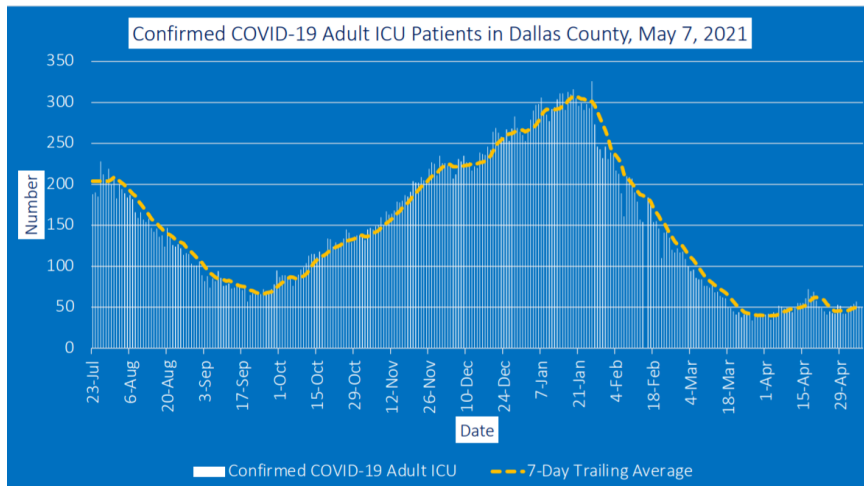
During the past 30 days, there were 1,064 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 390 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County. There are currently 31 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,368 residents and 2,460 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 1,086 have been hospitalized and 771 have died. About 20% 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 598 residents and 221 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 184 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on May 7. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 408 for the same time-period, which represents around 15 percent of all emergency department visits in the county. Vaccination is the best way to prevent illness and hospitalization from COVID. Protect yourself and your loved ones by getting vaccinated as soon as possible. Updated UTSW forecasting reflects a minor decrease within their model with hospitalizations between 140-220 and daily case counts of 210 by May 24th. If vaccination rates continue to increase, hospitalizations within the model remain low. With a slower pace of vaccination and reduced personal protective measures, the model shows growth. 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 - 17)

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	5,893	481	842	6	26.9%
26	6/27/2020	8,627	649	1,232	9	30.5%
27	7/4/2020	8,978	707	1,283	10	30.0%
28	7/11/2020	9,158	854	1,308	10	26.6%
29	7/18/2020	6,548	686	935	13	21.7%
30	7/25/2020	4,536	496	648	16	19.3%
31	8/1/2020	3,341	422	477	14	15.9%
32	8/8/2020	2,864	323	409	10	14.0%
33	8/15/2020	2,163	184	309	9	13.2%
34	8/22/2020	1,760	190	251	7	11.2%
35	8/29/2020	2,199	185	314	7	10.8%
36	9/5/2020	2,084	162	298	4	10.5%
37	9/12/2020	1,891	204	270	4	9.7%
38	9/19/2020	2,246	240	321	4	11.4%
39	9/26/2020	2,482	267	355	3	10.7%
40	10/3/2020	2,739	324	391	3	10.0%
41	10/10/2020	3,702	477	529	4	11.5%
42	10/17/2020	4,517	567	645	4	14.3%
43	10/24/2020	5,388	706	770	6	15.1%
44	10/31/2020	5,412	622	773	10	15.0%
45	11/7/2020	8,088	1,008	1,155	9	15.3%
46	11/14/2020	10,190	1,379	1,456	13	20.3%
47	11/21/2020	10,246	1,269	1,464	12	21.2%
48	11/28/2020	8,794	945	1,256	15	21.4%
49	12/5/2020	12,369	1,761	1,767	14	25.0%
50	12/12/2020	12,551	1,729	1,793	16	23.4%
51	12/19/2020	13,400	1,690	1,914	17	26.6%
52	12/26/2020	12,609	1,375	1,801	23	27.7%
53	1/2/2021	16,407	1,936	2,344	30	31.3%
1	1/9/2021	19,203	2,572	2,743	32	31.5%
2	1/16/2021	13,956	1,965	1,994	31	27.6%
3	1/23/2021	11,937	1,708	1,705	28	25.6%
4	1/30/2021	10,333	1,522	1,476	26	24.2%
5	2/6/2021	7,775	1,180	1,111	19	20.2%
6	2/13/2021	4,969	612	710	17	19.6%
7	2/20/2021	1,792	125	256	16	15.5%
8	2/27/2021	3,337	471	477	12	12.1%
9	3/6/2021	2,144	277	306	8	9.7%
10	3/13/2021	1,947	258	278	7	7.1%
11	3/20/2021	1,491	208	213	3	7.8%
12	3/27/2021	1,560	222	223	3	7.6%
13	4/3/2021	1,480	238	211	2	8.3%
14	4/10/2021	1,776	289	254	2	9.0%
15	4/17/2021	1,589	253	227	<1	9.8%
16	4/24/2021	1,460	239	209	1	9.5%
17	5/1/2021	1,496	221	214	<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 178 cases and 3 deaths. We now have more than 50% of Dallas County residents with at least one shot. If you haven’t had a shot of the Coronavirus vaccine, it’s not too late. We have a shot waiting for you at many locations, including Fair Park, without needing an appointment or even pre-registration. You can simply go to Fair Park, Monday, Wednesday, Friday or next Saturday and claim your two-shot, or one-and-done shot, by simply driving up or taking the DART to Fair Park. There are many other locations to serve you as well. I was walking blocks this morning and had the opportunity to visit with several people who had not been vaccinated but would greatly benefit from vaccination. They are going to get vaccinated today and Monday, but it’s impossible for us to talk one-on-one with everyone. So, please do all that you can to encourage your friends who are unvaccinated to get vaccinated just as soon as possible. For the week, we grieve the loss of 28 people, making this our least deadly week this year. We have seen a decrease the last four weeks in the number of deaths. This is largely due to the vaccine and particularly older people getting it. We are now seeing more and more young people having serious cases of COVID. For the week we are averaging 247 daily cases. This is a decrease from last week, which had an average of 273 cases, and a decrease from the last 3 weeks. We hope this trend will continue as we continue to get vaccinated. We all have a role to play in the battle against the Coronavirus. Our American economy and public health depend on us doing our part. Your patriotic part is to get vaccinated and make those smart choices that the CDC recommends, like frequent hand washing, avoiding large crowds and wearing your mask around indoor crowds. Together we will defeat COVID and take advantage of our strong position to grow our economy and quality of life here in North Texas,” 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>

CONTACT:

Clay Lewis Jenkins, Dallas County Judge

Clay.Jenkins@dallascounty.org

[214-653-7949](tel:214-653-7949)

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