



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2021

Dallas County Reports 72 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 10 Deaths, Including 15 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 2:00 pm May 18, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 72 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 57 confirmed cases and 15 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 259,714 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 42,276 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 3,997 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 469,000 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 resume on Wednesday with extended hours from 8am-8pm.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A woman in her 40's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. 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 Dallas. He was found deceased and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Garland. 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 was found deceased at home and did not have any underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Balch Springs. She had been in critical care 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 critically ill in an area hospital 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 Cedar Hill. 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 Dallas. He expired in hospice 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 DeSoto. She had been critically ill in an area hospital 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 a facility and had underlying high risk health conditions.

To date, a total of 81 cases with SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern have been identified in residents of Dallas County, including: 69 cases of variant B.1.1.7; seven B.1.429 variants; two B.1.526 variants; two P.1 variants; and one P.2 variant. 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

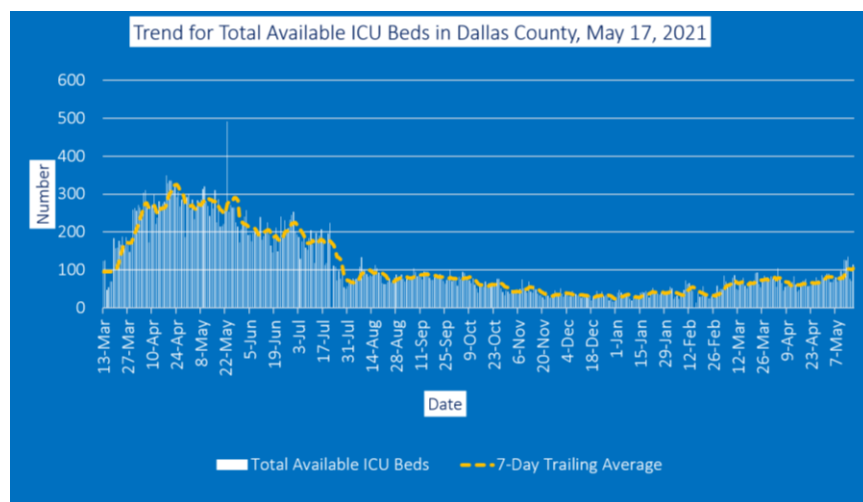
seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 18 was **178**, which is a rate of **6.8** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. Over the past 2 weeks, rates of new COVID-19 diagnoses in Cedar Hill, Coppell, and Seagoville have been more than 50% higher than county-wide case rates. Rates of new COVID-19 diagnoses in Balch Springs, DeSoto, Mesquite and Rowlett have been 30% higher than county-wide case rates. Of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals in week 18 (week ending 5/8/21), **7.9%** of respiratory specimens tested positive SARS-CoV-2.

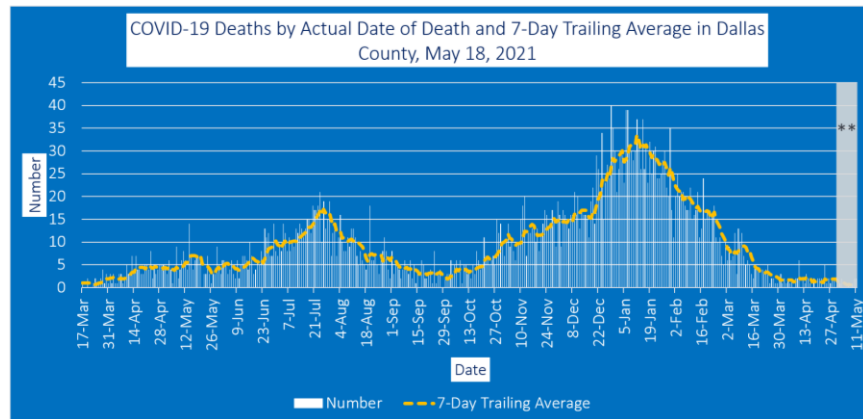
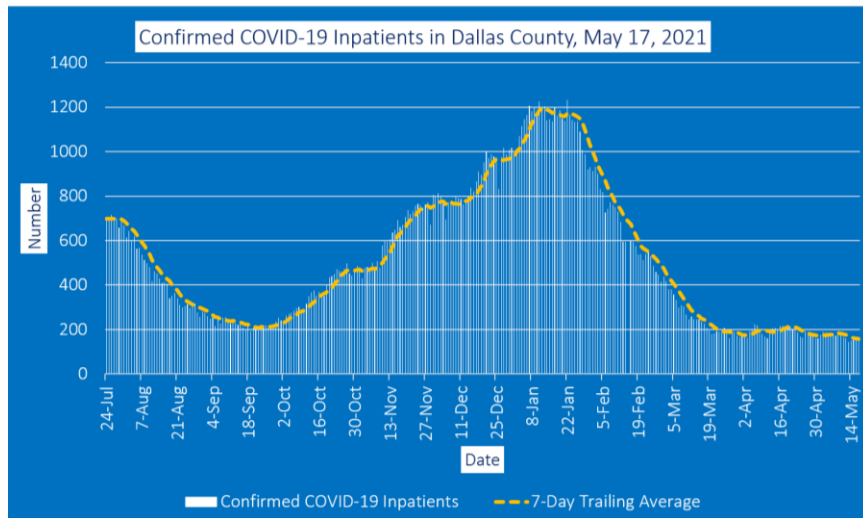
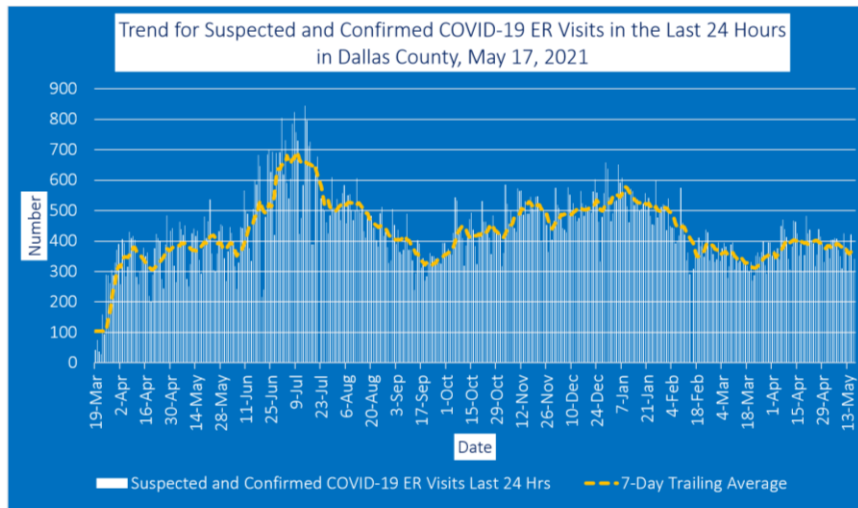
During the past 30 days, there were 1,106 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 417 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County. During the months of April and May, 20% of all COVID-19 cases diagnosed in Dallas County were in children under the age of 18 years—the highest proportion in this age group since the beginning of the pandemic. To date, 67 children have been hospitalized with diagnoses of multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C), a rare but serious complication associated with COVID-19 infection. In Dallas County, 506 cases of COVID-19 breakthrough COVID-19 infections in fully vaccinated individuals have been confirmed to date, of which 82 were hospitalized, and 7 have died.

There are currently 31 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,372 residents and 2,462 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 1,090 have been hospitalized and 777 have died. About 20% of all deaths reported to date have been associated with long-term care facilities. Ten 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 621 residents and 223 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. The most recent COVID-19 hospitalization data for Dallas County, as reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council, can be found at www.dallascounty.org/covid-19 under “Monitoring Data,” and is updated regularly. This data includes information on the total available ICU beds, suspected and confirmed COVID-19 ER visits in the last 24 hours, confirmed COVID-19 inpatients, and COVID-19 deaths by actual date of death. The most recent forecasting from UTSW can be found [here](#).





“Today we report 72 new cases of COVID-19 and 10 deaths. For the date of death in each case, you can look at the chart above. Today also, the Governor issued GA-36 prohibiting local governments from requiring unvaccinated people to wear a mask in government buildings. This is particularly unfortunate in that the Governor’s order deviates from CDC recommendations that unvaccinated individuals continue to mask in indoor public settings. Private businesses are free to set reasonable guidelines to keep their employees and customers safe, but local government and school districts, under the Governor’s order, are not.

In a public health emergency, leaders do well when they follow the science and poorly when they bend to politics. Today, Dallas County was to consider an order that would have maintained our requirement to wear a mask in public buildings unless a person opted to show that they are fully vaccinated or had a doctor’s note explaining why they could not wear a mask. As has happened throughout the pandemic, the Governor

determines what is legal but you should listen to doctors if you want to know what is safe. If you are unvaccinated, continue to wear a mask to protect yourself and others when you are in indoor public settings and get the vaccine as soon as possible. It's particularly important for you to continue to wear the mask in schools because children under 12 and their parents don't have the option of being vaccinated yet. We need to do all that we can to keep our youngest residents safe and allow them the opportunity to feel comfortable going to school, being around their classmates, and getting the benefits of an in-person education.

If you have not yet been vaccinated, this is yet another reason to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Please get your vaccination advice from medical experts and not others, and recognize what the experts are saying. The short-term and long-term effects of COVID are serious and the vaccine is safe and effective. If you take your advice from the medical experts, it's an easy call. Get vaccinated as soon as possible and get back to living life to the fullest," 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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