



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 15, 2021

Dallas County Reports a Three-Day Total of 415 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 16 Deaths, Including 129 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm December 15, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 415 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 286 confirmed cases and 129 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 353,675 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 65,680 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 5,387 Dallas County residents have lost their lives due to COVID-19 illness.

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) provided more than 500,000 total doses of COVID-19 vaccine at the Fair Park mega-vaccine clinic, which operated January 11 through July 17. A vaccination clinic is open at the Dallas College Eastfield Campus Location on Tuesdays – Saturdays from 9am-6pm. A weekly pop-up vaccination clinic will take place at Fair Park on Sundays, from 10am – 4pm, starting November 21st, 2021.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A man in his 20'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 woman in her 40'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 Wilmer. She had been critically ill in an area hospital and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 50's who was a resident of the City of Farmers Branch. He 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 Irving. 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 Grand Prairie. She expired in hospice and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 50's who was a resident of the City of Irving. He expired in an area hospital ED and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Garland. She expired in hospice and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He expired in hospice and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Irving. He expired in an area hospital ED and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Irving. He 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 the City of Dallas. He 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 man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Garland. He expired in hospice and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80's who was a resident of the City of Irving. She had been hospitalized 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 a facility and had underlying high risk health conditions.

To date, a total of 419 cases with SARS-CoV-2 variants have been identified in residents of Dallas County, including: 138 cases of B.1.1.7 (Alpha); 3 cases of B.1.351 (Beta); 237 cases of B.1.617.2 (Delta); 10 cases of B.1.427 (Epsilon); 19 cases of P.1 (Gamma); 9 cases of B.1.526 (Iota); 1 case of C.37 (Lambda); 1 case of B.1.621 (Mu); and 1 case of P.2 (Zeta). Eighty-six cases have been hospitalized and 8 have died. Seven COVID-19 variant cases were reinfections. Eight-five people were considered fully vaccinated before infection with a COVID-19 variant. As of 12/10/2021, a total of **2,165** confirmed and probable cases were reported in CDC week 48 (week ending 12/4/21), which is a weekly rate of **82.1** new cases per 100,000 residents.

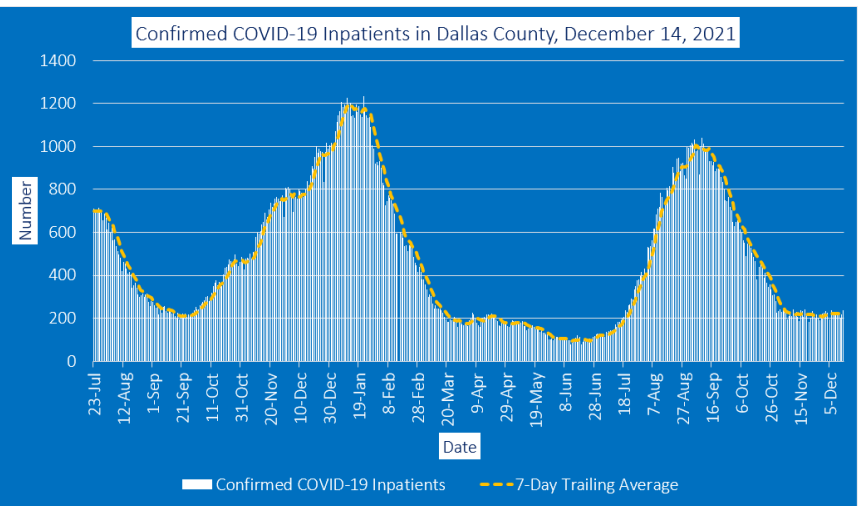
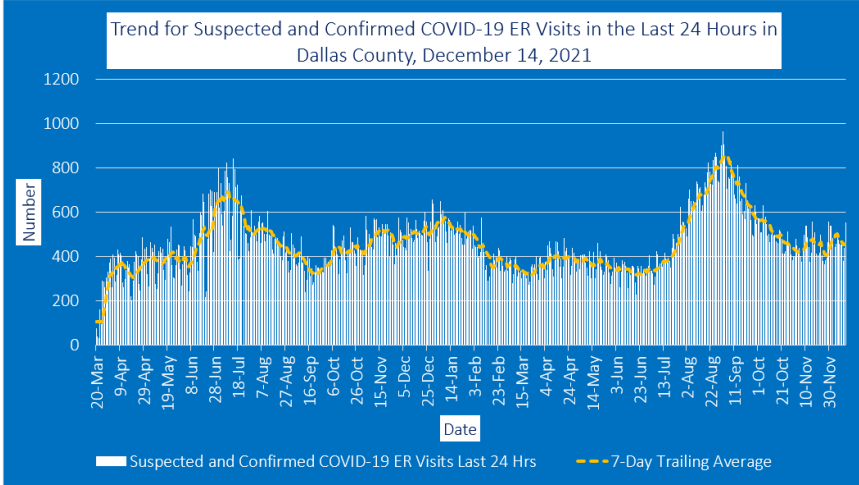
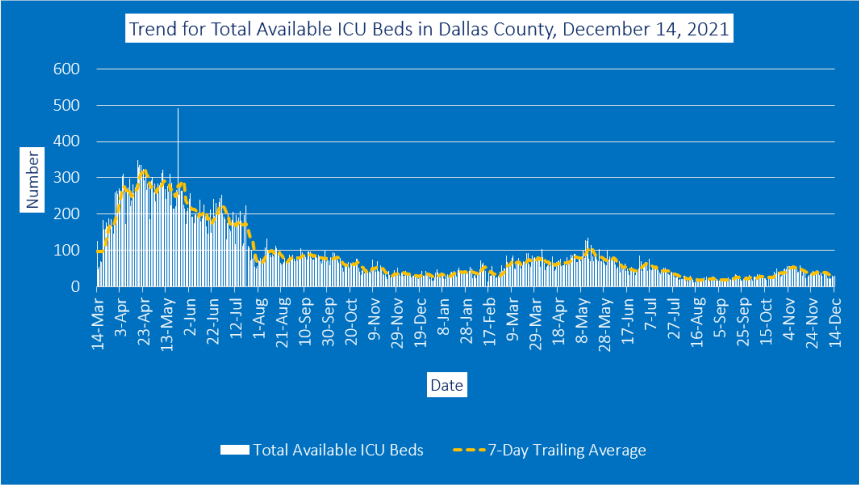
As of the week ending 12/4/2021, about 76% of Dallas County residents age 12 years and older have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, including: 95% of residents age 65 years and older; 81% of residents between 40-64 years of age; 72% of residents 25-39 years of age; 61% of residents 18-24 years of age; and 57% of residents 12-17 years of age. In the cities of Addison, Coppell, Highland Park, Irving, and Sunnyvale, greater than 90% of residents 18 years of age and older have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. In the cities of Desoto, Farmers Branch, and Garland, greater than 80% of residents 18 years of age and older have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. (See below).

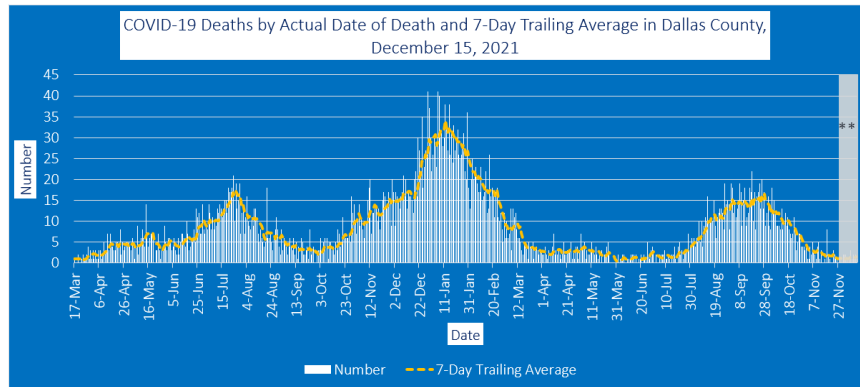
About 71.6% of COVID-19 cases diagnosed in Week 48 were Dallas County residents who were not fully vaccinated. In Dallas County, 20,552 cases of COVID-19 breakthrough COVID-19 infections in fully vaccinated individuals have been confirmed to date, of which 747 (3.6%) were hospitalized and 187 have died due to COVID-19. Of all Dallas County residents tested for COVID-19 by PCR during the week ending 12/4/2021 (CDC week 48), **6.6%** of respiratory specimens tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. For week 48, area hospital labs have continued to report elevated numbers and proportions of respiratory specimens that are positive for other respiratory viruses by molecular tests: parainfluenza (7.0%), rhinovirus/enterovirus (27.0%) and RSV (5.0%).

There are currently 22 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,878 residents and 2,891 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 1,198 have been hospitalized and 848 have died. About 16% of all deaths reported to date have been associated with long-term care facilities.

There have been 4 outbreaks of COVID-19 in a congregate-living facility (e.g. homeless shelters, group homes, and halfway homes) reported within the past 30 days. A cumulative total of 756 residents and 259 staff members in congregate-living facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. New cases are being reported as a daily aggregate, with more detailed data dashboards and summary reports updated on 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](#).





Dallas County Residents Vaccinated for COVID-19 by City: as of Week Ending 12/04/21 (MMWR Week: 48)							
City	Population of City ≥ 18 years of age ²	Cumulative Residents 12-17 Years who Received ≥ 1 Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine ¹	Cumulative Residents ≥ 18 Years who Received ≥ 1 Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine ¹	Percent of Residents ≥ 18 Years Vaccinated with at Least 1 Dose ³	Cumulative Residents 12-17 Years Fully Vaccinated ⁴	Cumulative Residents ≥ 18 Years Fully Vaccinated ⁴	Percent of Residents ≥ 18 Years Fully Vaccinated ^{3,4}
Addison	13,061	514	12,799	98%	328	9,837	75%
Baich Springs	16,590	1,462	12,129	73%	1,082	9,427	57%
Carrollton	105,102	2,323	31,229	N/A	1,735	24,614	N/A
Cedar Hill	34,268	2,682	26,198	77%	2,105	21,206	62%
Cockrell Hill	2,995	195	1,916	64%	148	1,550	52%
Coppell	30,387	3,777	30,637	< 99%	2,895	24,889	82%
Dallas	997,547	56,286	717,681	72%	42,740	560,390	56%
Desoto	38,930	2,501	30,965	80%	1,981	24,782	64%
Duncanville	28,841	1,933	21,476	75%	1,506	16,882	59%
Farmers Branch	30,624	1,480	25,630	84%	1,079	20,182	66%
Garland	173,595	12,863	141,790	82%	9,871	112,918	65%
Glenn Heights	8,975	32	599	N/A	13	420	N/A
Grand Prairie	138,103	7,015	67,537	N/A	5,380	52,169	N/A
Highland Park	6,789	515	6,089	90%	385	5,053	74%
Hutchins	4,423	219	2,676	61%	167	2,087	47%
Irving	175,226	14,049	158,260	90%	10,660	122,254	70%
Lancaster	26,977	2,253	20,824	77%	1,815	16,558	61%
Mesquite	101,641	7,526	74,588	73%	5,659	58,722	58%
Richardson	90,645	3,732	50,471	N/A	2,819	40,280	N/A
Rowlett	47,915	2,781	33,214	69%	2,241	27,015	56%
Sachse	19,007	1,124	10,494	N/A	885	8,517	N/A
Seagoville	11,828	877	8,783	74%	708	7,030	59%
Sunnyvale	4,699	532	4,911	< 99%	437	4,074	87%
University Park	18,073	1,946	14,319	79%	1,390	11,618	64%
Wilmer	3,178	234	2,238	70%	186	1,689	53%
Countywide Total⁵	1,940,671	128,906	1,508,023	78%	98,253	1,184,609	61%

¹Does not include vaccinated persons who reside in portions of these cities which are not within Dallas County.

²U.S. Census 2019 estimates of populations of city residents 18 years and older, inclusive of portions of cities located outside of Dallas County.

³Not Available (N/A): vaccine coverage not calculated for cities in which >20% of the city population resides outside of Dallas County.

⁴Fully vaccinated = persons who have received 2 doses of mRNA vaccines or 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

⁵Includes only residents with Dallas County--does not include persons who reside in portions of these cities which are not within Dallas County.

“Although it is not in today's epidemiological data for Dallas County due to ongoing investigation, Dallas labs have sequenced our first Omicron case. And this adds to the Omicron cases we already have here in north Texas. Our case count has been up in the last week and we are showing signs that our number of new cases will continue to grow in the coming days. With the fast replication of Omicron in areas where it has already become established, it is imperative that those who are unvaccinated get vaccinated and those who are vaccinated get boosted. We must also renew our resolve to mask in public indoor settings outside our own home. And when you have others over to your home or go to Christmas or holiday parties and events and others' homes, wear a mask. Scientists tell us it is very helpful to open up windows to get a cross draft ventilation through close indoor space when visiting with people outside your home. The pleasant weather lately makes this a very simple thing to do to increase your safety. It's also important that we maintain six foot distance, wash our hands

frequently, and make good choices about where we choose to go. If you can shop online, please do so. Many retailers still are offering to get purchases delivered to your home well before Christmas Eve, but the time for that is rapidly closing. Avoid high concentrations of people as omicron begins to spread. I do encourage everyone to enjoy the holiday season, but to do so safely so that your family, our community, and our economy can come out of this busy holiday season in as healthy and strong of a state as is 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:

- If you’re unvaccinated, avoid close contact outside your home and 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.
- CDC recommends that anyone with any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 get tested, regardless of vaccination status or prior infection.
- If you get tested because you have symptoms or were potentially exposed to the virus, you should stay away from others pending test results and follow the advice of your health care provider or a public health professional.

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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