



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 21, 2020**

**Dallas County Reports 21 Additional Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 10:00 am March 21, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is reporting 21 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), bringing to the total case count in Dallas County to 95. Of the cases reported to date, over 40% now have no history of recent travel outside of Texas or no known close contact with a confirmed case, indicating community transmission locally. New cases will reported as a daily aggregate, with a more detailed summary report updated Tuesdays and Fridays.

Dallas County will not release further information to protect their privacy.

“Community spread is accelerating rapidly but not as fast as it would without the way this community is stepping up,” said Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins. “The responsible actions of the people of Dallas County are helping to slow the spread of the virus. That’s critical for the healthcare supply chain and vaccination work to catch up and for our healthcare system to not be overwhelmed with patients. #StayCalmStayHome #FlattenTheCurve.”

The case count at the following link will only include county residents:

<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/2019-novel-coronavirus.php>

Most employees who work within the City of Dallas have a right to paid sick leave. Employees of private businesses and nonprofits with six or more employees in Dallas can use their paid sick leave when they are sick or to care for sick family members.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends taking everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Stay home when you are sick, except to seek medical care
- Wash your hands 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 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.

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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