



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2021

Dallas County Reports 311 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 11 Deaths, Including 90 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 2:00 pm March 16, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 311 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 221 confirmed cases and 90 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 249,846 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 37,390 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 3,320 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 168,000 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 continue through Saturday.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A woman in her 30's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Balch Springs. She 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 had been critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
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- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Farmers Branch. She had been critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
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- A woman in her 70'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 man in his 80's who was a resident of the City of Carrollton. He 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 the City of Duncanville. He had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.

Two additional cases of SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 have been identified in residents of Dallas County. To date, a total of eleven cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 and one case of a B.1.526 variant have been

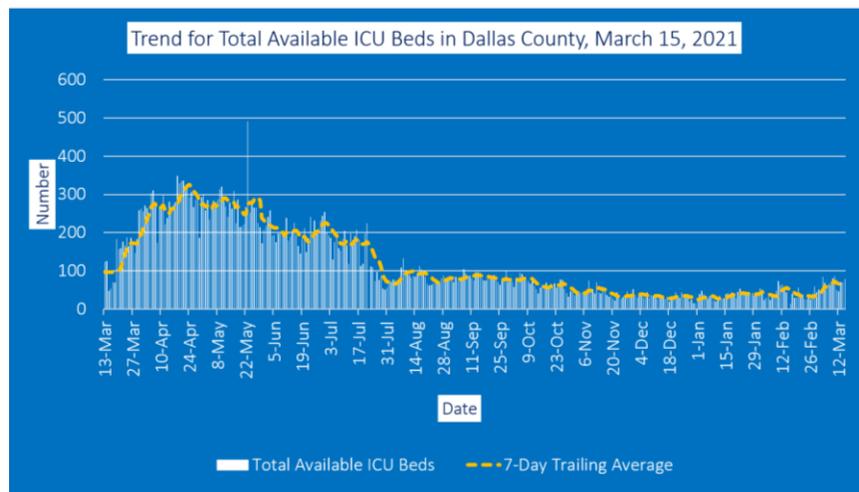
identified in residents of Dallas County. One was hospitalized and five had history of recent domestic travel outside of Texas.

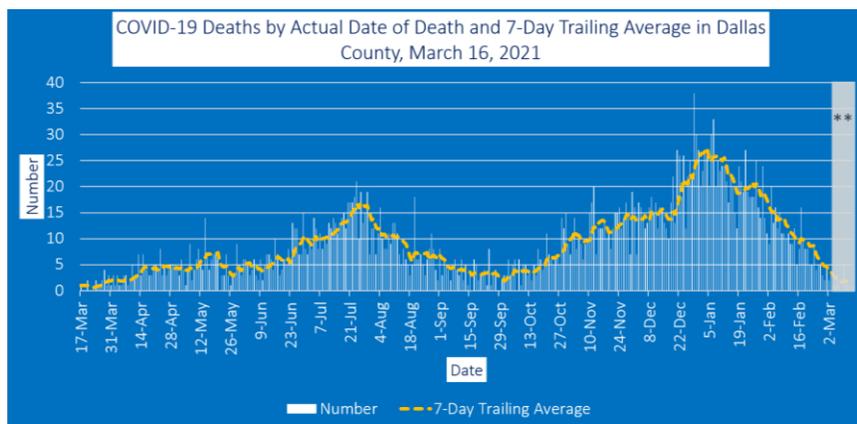
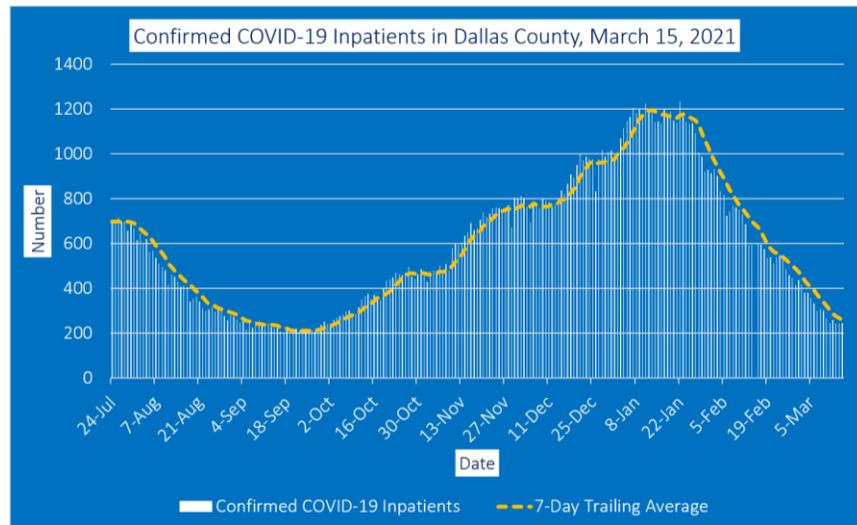
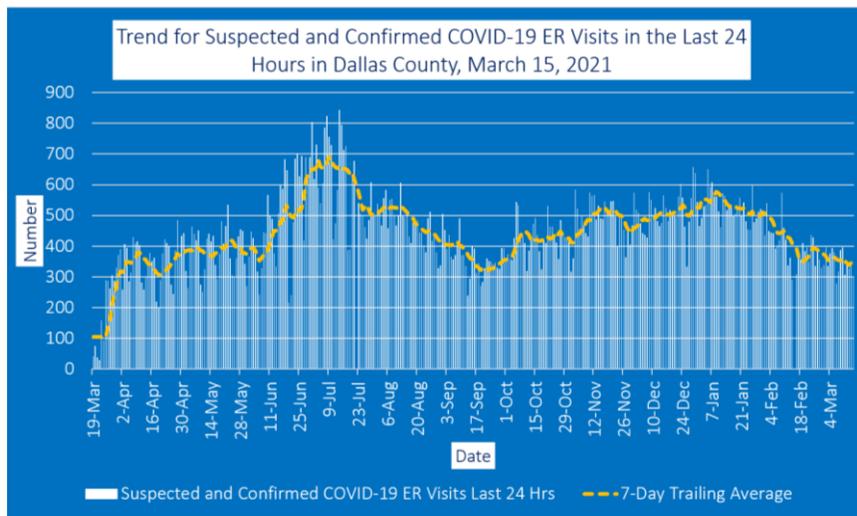
The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 9 was **285**, which is a rate of **10.8** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high, with **9.9%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 9 (week ending 3/6/21).

During the past 30 days, there were 1,714 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 504 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County. An additional death of a teacher's assistant in a Dallas County K-12 school from COVID-19 was confirmed this past week. There are currently 30 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,236 residents and 2,335 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 988 have been hospitalized and 652 have died. About 22% 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 416 residents and 205 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 are 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 246 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Monday, March 15. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 30 for the same time-period, which represents around 15 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. Please be mindful of following CDC travel guidance over spring break and spring holidays. We remain concerned for additional waves due to a potential rise in variants and because community spread remains high creating an environment for cases to reignite. We encourage everyone to follow public health guidance, continue masking and avoid crowded and non-essential indoor settings. Updated UTSW forecasting indicates hospitalizations between 90-300 and daily case counts of 300 by March 29. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).





“Today we report an additional 11 deaths from COVID and 311 more positive cases. Among those positive cases are two B.1.1.7 variants, the more contagious strain that began in the United Kingdom. The emergence of new more contagious strains is a strong reason to wear a mask, wash your hands, avoid crowds, and maintain safe distance. More and more people are getting vaccinated every day but we are not yet at herd immunity and now is not the time to lose our resolve for the small sacrifices that patriotism and public health require. Together we will beat COVID and we will do it quickly but it requires all of us maintaining a strong resolve to do the things that have been proven to be effective to protect us and our community from COVID,” 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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