



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 18, 2021**

**Dallas County Reports 190 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 20 Deaths, Including 69 Probable Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 2:00 pm March 18, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 190 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 121 confirmed cases and 69 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 250,149 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 37,492 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 3,350 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 180,000 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 Friday. Second doses only will be administered on Saturday.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A man in his 40's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. 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 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 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 Dallas. He 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 was found deceased at home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60'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 60's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60'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 woman in her 60'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 70's who was a resident of the City of Balch Springs. She expired in hospice care and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- 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 did not have underlying high risk health conditions.

- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Garland. She had been critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- 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 woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Richardson. She had been critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80'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 Desoto. 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 Dallas. 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 Dallas. He had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.

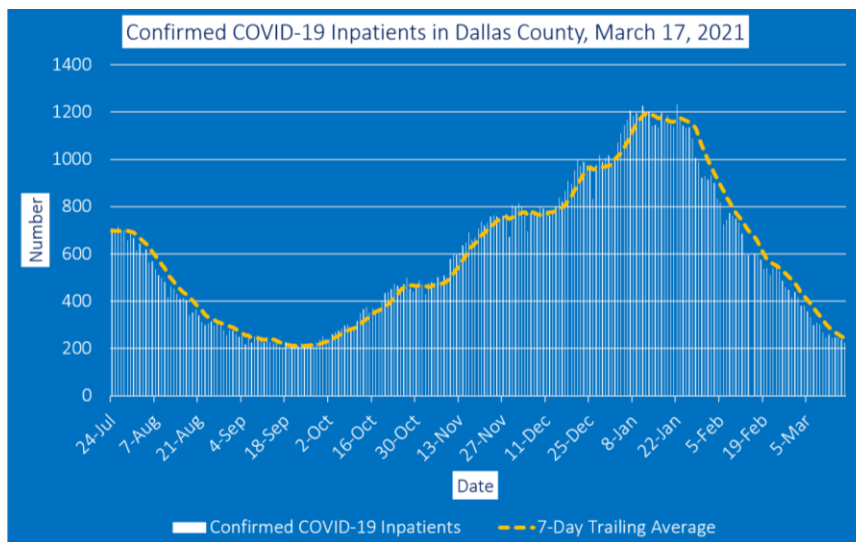
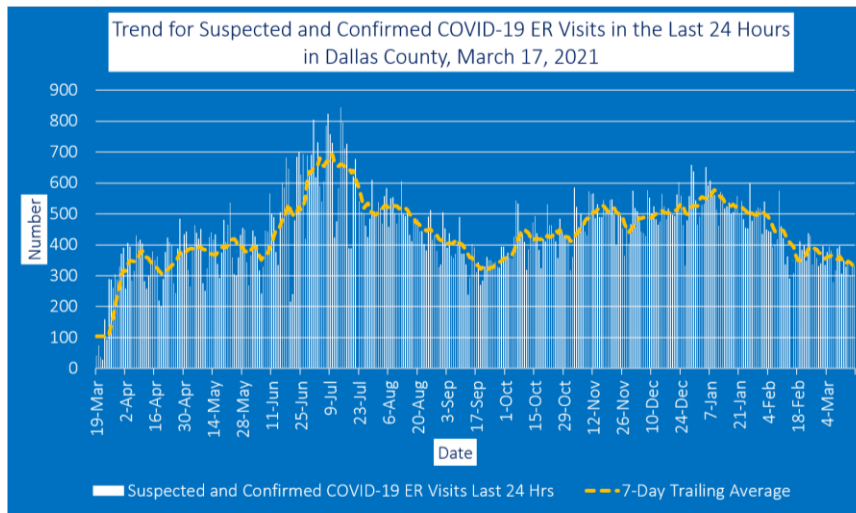
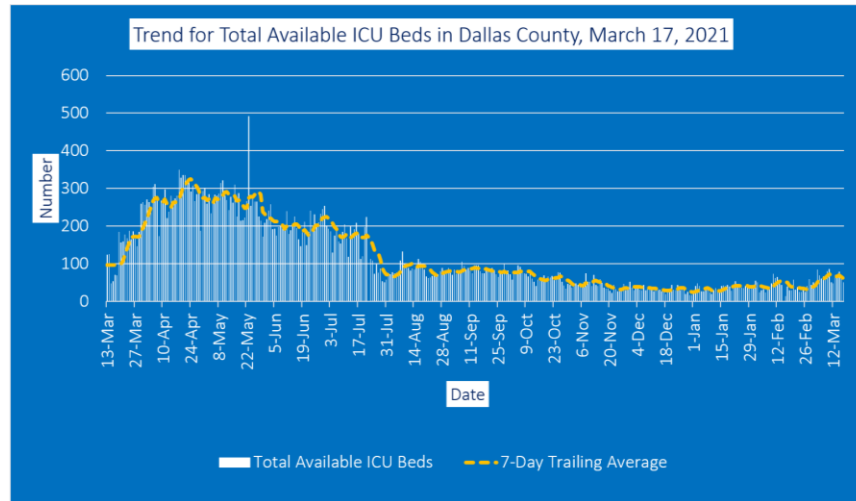
Three additional cases of SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 have been identified in residents of Dallas County. To date, a total of 14 cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 and one case of a B.1.526 variant have been identified in residents of Dallas County. One was hospitalized and five had history of recent 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 **291**, which is a rate of **11.0** 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).

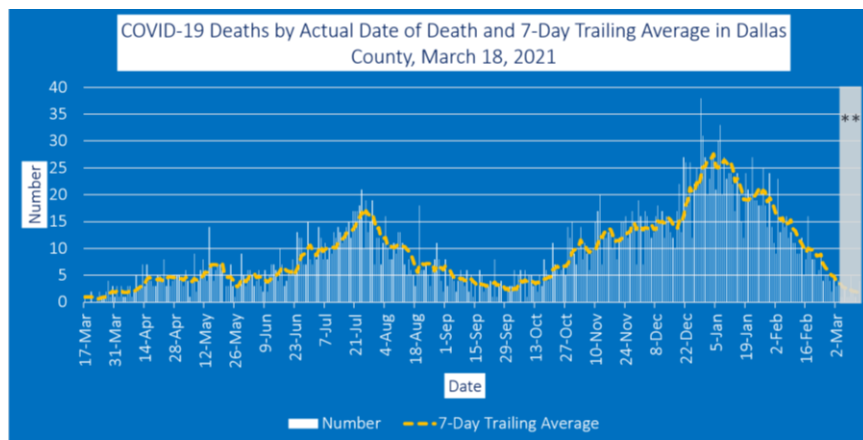
During the past 30 days, there were 1,297 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 425 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County. There are currently 25 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,255 residents and 2,359 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 1,002 have been hospitalized and 656 have died. About 22% of all deaths reported to date have been associated with long-term care facilities. Thirteen 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 429 residents and 207 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 226 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Wednesday, March 17. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 331 for the same time-period, which represents around 13 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 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>) 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, especially if compliance with personal actions such as masking and distancing decline. We encourage everyone to follow public health guidance, continue masking and avoid crowded and

non-essential indoor settings. Updated UTSW forecasting indicates hospitalizations between 150-250 and daily case counts of 460 by April 1. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).





“Today we report an additional 190 cases of COVID including three of the B.1.1.7 more contagious variant and 20 additional deaths. The B.1.1.7 variant is emerging here in North Texas and is up to 70% more contagious than the variant we’ve been battling, a strong reason to keep the mask on when in indoor crowds outside your home, to wash your hands frequently, and avoid those unnecessary crowds. It’s also important as new variants are emerging, that we get as many people vaccinated as possible, so register everywhere you are willing to drive. Depending on your individual situation, and the amount of shots available at each provider, your wait time for an appointment will vary widely between the providers that you choose. There’s no way to know exactly which provider will get you the vaccine the fastest, so signing up in multiple places (though tedious) is your best move. Get your shot as soon as you’re eligible. Together we will defeat COVID before the new variants have a chance to defeat the vaccine,” 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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