



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 8, 2021**

**Dallas County Reports 500 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 27 Deaths, Including 76 Probable Cases**

**DALLAS** -- As of 12:00 pm March 8, 2021 Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 500 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 424 confirmed cases and 76 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 247,974 confirmed cases (PCR test). There is a cumulative total of 36,536 probable cases (antigen test). A total of 3,149 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 126,000 total doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered at the Fair Park mega-vaccine clinic, which started operations on Monday, January 11. The Community Vaccination Center and second doses through DCHHS at Fair Park will continue this week.

The additional deaths being reported today include the following:

- A woman in her 20's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She was found deceased at home and did not have underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 30'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 Dallas. 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 Carrollton. He had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 50's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Mesquite. 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 Garland. 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 Grand Prairie. 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 expired in an area hospital ED and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Grand Prairie. He expired in hospice and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Garland. 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 expired at home 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 hospitalized.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Carrollton. 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 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 Duncanville. He had been hospitalized.
- A man in his 70’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 woman in her 70’s who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Balch Springs. She had been hospitalized and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70’s who was a resident of the City of Desoto. She 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 expired in a facility and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70’s who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Mesquite. 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 Richardson. She expired at home and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80’s who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Mesquite. She expired in an area hospital ED 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 Carrollton. He expired in an area hospital ED and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80’s who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Dallas. She expired in the facility 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 an area hospital ED and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 90’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 Garland. He had been critically ill in an area hospital and had underlying high risk health conditions.

Nine cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 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 8 was **452**, which is a rate of **17.2** daily new cases per 100,000 residents. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high, with **12.1%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 8 (week ending 2/27/21).

During the past 30 days, there were 2,668 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from 553 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. A total of 466 children in Dallas County under 18 years of age have been hospitalized since the beginning of the pandemic, including 37 patients diagnosed with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in children (MIS-C). Over 80% of reported MIS-C cases in Dallas have occurred in children who are Hispanic or Latino or Black.

There are currently 52 active long-term care facility outbreaks. A cumulative total of 4,221 residents and 2,331 healthcare workers in long-term facilities in Dallas have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of these, 967 have been hospitalized and 624 have died. About 22% 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 399 residents and 199 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 in determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. Due to weekend reporting, new data will be available on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

“Today, we report 500 new COVID-19 positive cases and 27 additional deaths. One notable death is a Dallas resident in her 20’s who had no underlying conditions and was found dead at home. This is a grim reminder of the importance of taking precaution against the spread of COVID-19. Please wear a mask, maintain social distance, wash hands frequently, avoid crowds and forego get-togethers. To the extent possible, if you can use safer alternatives like online shopping as well as outdoor exercise and dining, it is still very advisable.

We continue to vaccinate more people each day and today 5,400 people will receive their one and done Johnson & Johnson vaccine at Fair Park. Tomorrow at Fair Park, we will resume Pfizer first doses for somewhere between 5,000 and 5,500 people. Also, each day we give approximately 3,000 Moderna second doses to people who got their first shot at Fair Park. These activities are playing out on the smaller scale at many locations throughout the Metroplex as more and more people are vaccinated. If you have not yet been vaccinated, register in as many places as you are willing to drive. Even if you do not qualify under categories 1A and 1B, as more categories open up, you will already be registered and hopefully be one of the first people in your categories and be offered a vaccine.

It is up to all of us to do our part to defeat COVID-19. Your part is to register, get vaccinated when you are eligible, and keep adhering to the safety protocols that have helped protect us thus far,” 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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