



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 8, 2020**

### **Dallas County Reports 540 Additional Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases**

**DALLAS --** As of 11:00am August 8, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 540 additional confirmed cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), bringing the total confirmed case count in Dallas County to 53,831, including 751 confirmed deaths. An additional 43 probable cases of COVID-19 have been reported since yesterday, bringing the total probable case count in Dallas to 2,072, including 6 probable deaths from COVID-19.

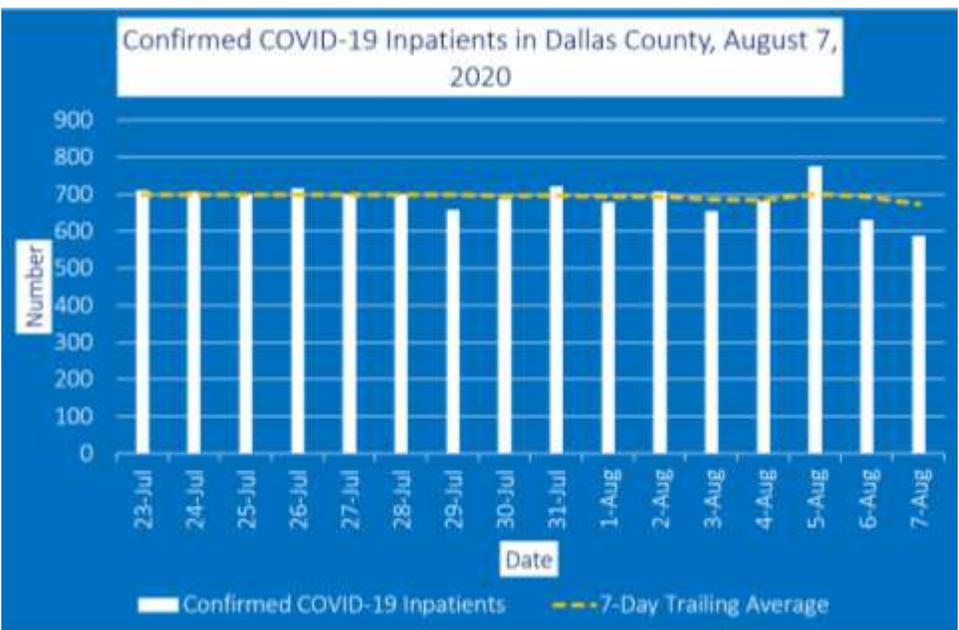
The additional 5 confirmed deaths being reported today include:

- A man in his 50's who was a resident of the City of Garland. He had been critically ill in an area hospital.
- 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 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 a long-term care facility in the City of Lancaster. 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 Garland. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.

Over 2,514 children under 18 years of age have been diagnosed with confirmed COVID-19 since July 1<sup>st</sup>, including 61 children who have been hospitalized for 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.

The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 remains high, with about 15.9% of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 30. Of the total confirmed deaths reported to date, about 28% have been associated with long-term care facilities. New cases are being reported as a daily aggregate, with a more detailed summary report updated Tuesdays and Fridays.

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. We continue to see elevated numbers of COVID-19 patients in Dallas County with 588 people in acute care for the period ending Friday, August 7. Additionally, the number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 551 in the 24 hour period ending Friday, August 7, which represents around 24 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. While patients in acute care have declined slightly from record highs, the number remains plateaued and high ED visits may drive future admissions. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).





“It’s important to note that today’s probable death count includes probable deaths to date, for a total of six probable deaths. That is a total number thus far. Also today are five confirmed deaths from COVID-19 bring the confirmed death total up to 751. We’re continuing to see a positive trend from mask wearing, maintaining six foot distancing, using good hand hygiene and avoiding unnecessary trips where you are around other people. Please avoid any activity where you are around people outside your home unmasked and please enjoy your weekend.

I hope we, as a North Texas community, are finding a more successful way of dealing with COVID-19 until a vaccine can be had but we must not lessen our resolve or go back to putting selfishness over community sacrifice. Staying the course by continuing to wear your mask and avoiding unnecessary dangers is the best way to keep people safe, keep more businesses open and get our children back to school,” 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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