



A Photo Tribute Nineteen Years Ago Today



Remembering September 11, 2001

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Deaths 2,996
Injured More than 6,000



WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

09/10/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

We Are Challenging Convergence Media

Today the media world is facing a new challenge because of the disruptive technology. I remember almost thirty years ago a young man from San Francisco tried to show me how the new internet could create more business in the future. Today his version became reality and made him a billionaire.

Southern News Group has become a giant media complex group that started with a printing press and grew to a daily newspaper, radio, television, yellow pages and now uses new internet technology to serve our readers and audiences. We fully understand that if

we don't move to new technology, we will be eliminated.

Today, the 5G era is coming. We definitely would like to join hands with you and enter the CONVERGENCE MEDIA age together.

We will utilize all our resources to build a new App for scdaily.com that will send our signal to your smartphone and smart TV. We will upgrade our news reporting to live broadcasts direct from the studio. All our talk shows will be hosted by famous scholars and experts in their fields. With just one touch on your phone

you will get all the news and information updates instantly.

Shopping and online education will be a very important part of our program. Our viewers can shop and learn at any time and from anywhere they prefer.

us your support. We want to open a new chapter of our future.

Our Southern Convergence Media is coming. Please join our team and give



Southern News Group Chairman / CEO
Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center
Chairman of International District Houston Texas



Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Editor's Choice



Smoke rises from Beirut's port area, Lebanon. REUTERS/Alaa Kanaan



The Bay Bridge is seen under an orange sky darkened by the smoke from California wildfires in San Francisco, California. REUTERS/Stephen Lam



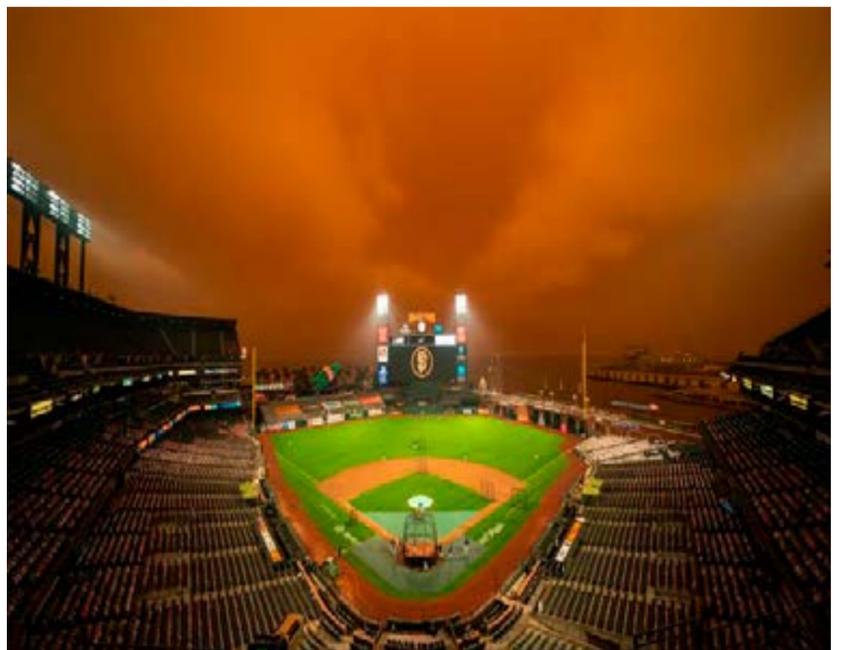
Refugees and migrants carrying their belongings flee a fire burning at the Moria camp on the island of Lesbos, Greece. REUTERS/Alkis Konstantinidis



A view shows a classroom at an elementary school in West Bloomfield Township, Michigan. REUTERS/Emily Elconin



Extinction Rebellion climate activists stage a protest during a "peaceful disruption" of UK parliament as lawmakers return from the summer recess, London. REUTERS/Tom Jacobs



A view of Oracle Park before the game between the San Francisco Giants and the Seattle Mariners in San Francisco, California. Kyle Terada-USA TODAY Sports

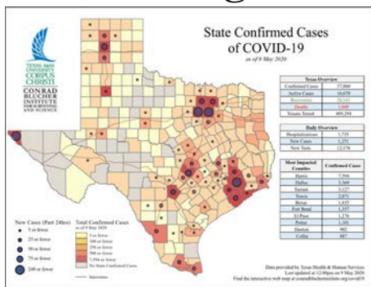


A rose is placed on one of the victims' names at the south reflecting pool of the National 9/11 Memorial in lower Manhattan, New York. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton



Jury President Cate Blanchett wearing a protective mask waves at the Venice Film Festival. REUTERS/Guglielmo Mangiapane

Scorecard: Texas Versus The Coronavirus
New Coronavirus Deaths In Texas Are On The Decline After Record Highs In August



OVERVIEW
3,701

Texans are in the hospital for the coronavirus as of Sept. 8 — 443 less than a week ago. They occupy 6.8% of hospital beds.

1,416

new cases were reported on Sept. 8. The latest positivity rate — the percentage of positive cases to molecular tests conducted over seven days — is 8.4%.

13,553

Texans have died as of Sept. 8 — 61 more deaths reported than the day before and 872 more than a week ago.

By The Texas Tribune Staff

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Data from the Texas Department of State Health Services is used to track how many people have tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Texas each day. The state data comes from 57 city and county health departments, about 600 hospitals and 340 laboratories and the state vital records registration. It may not represent all cases of the disease given limited testing. In order to publish data quickly, the state has to bypass what is normally a months-long process of reviewing the COVID-19 data and performing quality checks before publishing. That's why all of these numbers and information are provisional and subject to change. Under Gov. Greg Abbott's plan to revive the economy, businesses started reopening in May. But he paused further reopening plans and scaled back others in June, telling one TV station he regretted reopening bars too quickly. As hospitalizations increased dramatically in June and July, Abbott issued a statewide mandate requiring most Texans to wear a mask in public spaces, which experts say may have led to a plateauing of cases and hospitalization levels. Recently, the numbers have dropped to levels not seen since June, but school reopenings pose new risks. Texas schools currently have no plan for widespread testing.

What you should know: Today we're seeing: Hospitalizations and new COVID-19 cases have been on the decline after record highs in July but are still higher than levels in early June. Following the hospitalizations dip, new daily deaths also began decreasing in late August. But testing backlogs have affected the reliability of the positivity rate in recent weeks. Several labs have submitted large backlogs of tests to the state, which could not have been added until coding errors were fixed and a system update was complete. This backlog of tests has identified thousands of previously unreported cases in Dallas, Fort Bend, Montgomery and Nueces counties. They are now reflected in the totals for those counties but were not added to their daily new case counts.



And: Starting in September, the state will publish

COVID-19 cases among students, teachers or staff in Texas school districts.

Where are most of the cases in Texas? On March 4, DSHS reported Texas' first positive case of the coronavirus, in Fort Bend County. The patient had recently traveled abroad. A month later on April 4, there were 6,110 cases in 151 counties. As of Sept. 8, there are 641,791 cases in 254 counties. The Tribune is measuring both the number of cases in each county and the rate of cases per 1,000 residents. **Number of cases** Harris and Dallas counties, the two largest in the state, have reported the most cases and deaths. The rate of cases per 1,000 residents is especially high in the Panhandle's Moore County, where infections were tied to a meatpacking plant, and in counties with state prisons such as Walker and Jones. Newer hotspots emerged in South Texas and the Coastal Bend — Nueces County, home to Corpus Christi, had one of the fastest growing outbreaks in July.

Harris	111,525	24.23	2,342
Dallas	73,961	28.59	1,011
Tarrant	40,222	19.91	639
Bexar	38,849	20.17	1,167
Hidalgo	28,732	33.83	1,269
Travis	27,038	22.47	383
Cameron	21,563	51.13	819
El Paso	21,187	25.29	464
Nueces	15,284	42.40	301
Fort Bend	15,144	20.48	249

SEE ALL COUNTIES (254) **Statewide 641,791 22.36 13,553**

How many people are in the hospital? On April 6, the state started reporting the number of patients with positive tests who are hospitalized. It was 1,153 that day and 3,701 on Sept. 8. This data does not account for people who are hospitalized but have not gotten a positive test. Experts say there's a lag before changes in people's behaviors, like more social interaction, are reflected in coronavirus case data. It takes about nine to 16 days to see increased infections and generally another five to seven days to see changes in the numbers of people hospitalized, said Rebecca Fischer, an infectious disease epidemiologist at the Texas A&M University School of Public Health. (Some individuals are only diagnosed once they make it to the hospital.)

Total current hospitalizations The state says roughly 2% to 6% of Texas hospitals do not report hospitalization data each day. The average number of hospitalizations reported over the past seven days shows how the situation has changed over time by deemphasizing daily swings. From July 23 to July 28, between 9% and 18% of hospitals reported incomplete hospitalization numbers due to changes in reporting to meet federal requirements.

On Sept. 8, the state reported 13,469 available staffed hospital beds, including 1,414 available staffed ICU beds statewide. COVID-19 patients currently occupy 6.8% of total hospital beds. In late April, Abbott ordered hospitals to

reserve 15% of beds for COVID-19 patients.

According to DSHS, these numbers do not include beds at psychiatric hospitals or other psychiatric facilities. They do include psychiatric and pediatric beds at general hospitals, and pediatric beds at children's hospitals.

How have the number of cases increased each day? The state only tracks confirmed cases of the coronavirus, not probable cases, based on criteria published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, DSHS may still accidentally include probable cases for certain counties. When found, they are removed. Because the state does not include probable cases, these numbers don't include the results from tens of thousands of rapid-result antigen tests, which suggests the state is vastly underreporting the number of Texans who have tested positive for the virus. Antigen tests are taken by nasal or throat swab like other viral tests, but results are much faster.

How many people have been tested? As of Sept. 8, Texas has administered 5,787,473 tests for the coronavirus since March. We do not know the number of Texans who have gotten a test because some people are tested more than once. Tests from private labs, which make up the majority of reported tests, are not deduplicated. The state's tally also does not include pending tests. Antibody tests were included in the new total tests counts for each day before May 14. The state broke out the number of new daily antibody and viral tests after that date. See notes about the data. The DSHS data also might not include all of the tests that have been run in Texas. The state has said it is not getting test data from every private lab, and as of mid-May only 3% of tests were coming from public labs. The state has since stopped differentiating between tests reported by public and private labs.

Hospital beds in use each day The percentage of hospital beds in use shows the strain the coronavirus can put on Texas hospitals. Total beds reported count beds that are staffed and ready for care, including ICU beds. From July 23 to July 28, between 9% and 18% of hospitals reported incomplete hospitalization numbers due to changes in reporting to meet federal requirements.



ICU beds available On April 9, the state started reporting the number of intensive care unit, or ICU, beds available in Texas hospitals. These specialized beds cater to patients with the most life-threatening conditions and include equipment such as ventilators and heart rate monitors. ICU units

also have staff who are trained to care for the critically ill. DSHS does not release the total number of ICU beds in the state as part of their daily update, making percentages difficult to calculate. Some hospitals have had to add ICU beds because of the influx of new patients, which can be expensive. From July 23 to July 28, between 9% and 18% of hospitals reported incomplete hospitalization numbers due to changes in reporting to meet federal requirements. Regional differences exist in the availability of beds. In the Rio Grande Valley, the increase in cases in July stretched hospital staff, while in Houston some hospitals had to turn away patients because of overcrowded emergency rooms.

How many people have died? The first death linked to the coronavirus in Texas occurred March 16 in Matagorda County. As of Sept. 8, 13,553 people who tested positive for the virus have died. The rate of deaths in Texas has been accelerating. It took 53 days to get from the first death to 1,000 deaths and 39 days to get from 1,000 to 2,000 deaths. On July 10, the state surpassed 3,000 deaths — 24 days after 2,000 deaths were reported. It took only 10 more days for Texas to reach 4,000 deaths and only 6 days after that to reach 5,000. More than 4,000 new deaths have been reported just in the month of August, surpassing 10,000 total deaths mid-month. On July 27, DSHS began reporting deaths based on death certificates that state the cause of death as COVID-19, instead of relying on counts released by local and regional health departments. On that date, the state added more than 400 previously unreported deaths to the cumulative total. This does not include the deaths of people with COVID-19 who died of an unrelated cause. Death certificates are required by law to be filed within 10 days. Because of this change, it's impossible to compare the rate of deaths before and after July 27. But since then, the number of deaths has regularly been more than 1,000 a week. Experts say the official state death toll is likely an undercount.

These numbers come from the Texas Department of State Health Services, which updates statewide case counts by 4 p.m. each day. The data is from the same morning, and it may lag behind other local news reports. The state's data includes cases from federal immigration detention centers, federal prisons and starting in mid-May, some state prisons. It does not include cases reported at military bases. From March 13 through March 24, the Tribune added cases from Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, where hundreds of American evacuees from China and cruise ships were quarantined. Those case counts came from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For additional information, go to: <https://apps.texastribune.org/features/2020/texas-coronavirus-cases-map/> (Courtesy <https://apps.texastribune.org/>)

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