

Arkansas has seen its third-largest daily increase in new coronavirus cases as nearly 400 Arkansans have died and nearly 500 hospitalized with COVID-19. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced an increase of 990 new cases today (Fri) brought the state's total to 37,249, while eight additional COVID-19 deaths brought the death toll to 394. Speaking in his daily briefing, Hutchinson said he doesn't anticipate further delaying the school start date despite comments from President Trump indicating support for such an action in areas with high coronavirus activity.

News03

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"...for their family."

K-12 students in Arkansas are currently set to return to school between August 24th and 26th. The number of Arkansans hospitalized with COVID-19 rose by 17 today (Fri) to 497. The state had 7,028 active COVID-19 cases today (Fri) while Pulaski County saw an increase of 144 residents testing positive. Hutchinson underscored the need for \$7 million dollars in coronavirus relief funding for the state's Latinx and Marshallese communities; a request a panel of state lawmakers declined to consider today (Fri).

News04

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"...proceed with this."

The state Legislative Council today (Fri) declined to consider the state Health Department's request for permission to spend the additional funds to go toward enhancing testing and contact tracing in those minority communities. Today's third-highest daily increase in new cases comes the day after the state recorded its second-highest single-day spike of 1,013 Arkansans testing positive.