More than 300 Arkansans have died from COVID-19 as the state sees its highest single-day increase in hospitalizations due to the coronavirus. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced today (Tues) 259 people tested positive for the virus, while an additional nine deaths brought the state's death toll to 301. A total of 32 Arkansans were hospitalized with COVID-19 bringing to the total to 369. Speaking in his daily briefing, Hutchinson said today's (Tues) lower increase in new cases is due to less testing, with 3,366 tests completed from Monday to Tuesday.

News03 0:25 "...next few days indicate."

Today's (Tues) increase brought the state's total number of coronavirus cases to 24,512, with 5,486 considered active. Pulaski County saw 57 residents test positive Tuesday, with a combined increase of 40 new cases from Benton and Washington counties. Health Secretary Dr. Nate Smith said, while the number of new coronavirus infections seems to be flattening out in northwest Arkansas, cases are steadily rising in the central part of the state.

News04 0:24 "...get tested as well."

Tuesday's record increase in hospitalizations due to COVID-19 came exactly one week after 878 Arkansans tested positive for the coronavirus; the state's largest single-day increase in new cases. Commerce Secretary Mike Preston said both first-time and recurring claims for unemployment benefits appear to have leveled off after reaching peaks while businesses in the state were closed due to the pandemic. Preston said the state has also distributed roughly \$330 million dollars to self-employed Arkansans through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program.