

Some educators and pediatricians in the state oppose a statewide reopening of schools next month. The Arkansas Education Association and the Arkansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics held a virtual townhall last night (Monday) to talk about safety measures. Yesterday (Monday) the state’s Commissioner of Education Johnny Key announced a review of school preparations.

NEWS20 0:21 “...district reentry plan.”

Carol Fleming, president of the Arkansas Education Association, says it’s unlikely the state will be able to respond to the survey in time for every school to open safely.

NEWS21 0:15 “...successfully implement it.”

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics has proposed using county data regarding COVID-19 testing and positivity rates to decide on a district-by-district basis whether or not schools should reopen.

Governor Asa Hutchinson plans to reopen all schools in the state next month. The Arkansas Education Association hosted a virtual townhall last night (Monday) to address concerns and precautions. Patrick Bruce, a career and technical education teacher in the North Little Rock School District, says he hopes smaller, rural districts will follow safety guidelines.

NEWS22 0:18 “...school boards immediately.”

The AEA and the Arkansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics emphasized the importance of mask wearing and social distancing in schools. Both organizations also support a district-by-district approach rather than a statewide reopening.