More than 500 Arkansans have died from COVID-19 since the pandemic began as the state records its fourth-highest daily increase in new coronavirus cases. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced an additional 912 cases today (Wed) brought the state's total to 46,293, while an additional 18 deaths brought the death toll to 508. Speaking in his daily briefing, Hutchinson said he's authorized additional National Guard personnel to assist with coronavirus testing at the state's correctional facilities.

News01 0:25 "...end of this month."

Chicot County saw the highest increase in cases today (Wed) with 149 residents testing positive, largely due to an outbreak at the Delta Regional Unit state prison in Dermott. Pulaski County added 79 new cases, with 51 cases from Sebastian County and 42 from Washington County. With the state still committed to opening schools for in-class instruction in just over two weeks, Education Secretary Johnny Key announced a new resource for parents and teachers with concerns related to COVID-19.

News02 0:26 "...six-zero-five-zero." (2nd time)

The number of Arkansans hospitalized with COVID-19 decreased by 10 today (Wed) to 516, while the state has a total of 6,937 active cases. Hutchinson also announced that Dr. Jose Romero, who currently serves as acting Health Secretary, will be appointed to serve in that role permanently.