Arkansas has seen another triple-digit uptick in new coronavirus cases just days after a record-setting increase of over 1-thousand people testing positive. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced today (Mon) 572 Arkansans tested positive for the virus, bringing the state's total to 28,939. Two more Arkansans died from COVID-19 for a death toll of 323. Speaking in his daily briefing, Hutchinson said he remains committed to opening schools for in-class instruction in a little over a month.

News03 0:21 "...when it does happen."

Today's (Mon) increase comes after Saturday's record uptick of 1,061 Arkansans testing positive for the coronavirus. Health Secretary Dr. Nate Smith said that resulted largely from an outbreak among inmates at a state prison in Malvern, and potentially because of activities over the July 4th holiday weekend. Smith underscored the importance of wearing face masks, not as a protective measure against COVID-19, but to prevent spreading it unknowingly.

News04 0:25 "...puts us all at risk."

Arkansas has 6,510 active COVID-19 cases as of today (Mon), including 127 nursing home residents and 958 inmates of the state's correctional facilities. The number of Arkansans hospitalized with the disease rose by 19 today (Mon) for a total of 439, with 89 patients on a ventilator.