In just two days, Arkansas has seen its first and second-highest increases in the number of new coronavirus cases among non-incarcerated people. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced today (Fri) the state saw 990 new coronavirus cases, one day after the state saw an increase of 1,013 new cases. Today's (Fri) increase brought the state's total number of cases to 37,249, while an additional eight deaths due to COVID-19 brought the death toll to 394. Speaking in his daily briefing, Hutchinson said coronavirus infections continue to be spread across a wide swath of the state.

News01 0:26 "...we're catching it."

Pulaski County again saw the highest increase with 144 residents testing positive, with Washington County adding 82 new cases and 55 residents of both Benton and Newton counties testing positive. Acting Health Secretary Dr. Jose Romero said the state will hopefully begin to see infections trending downward as a result of the governor's statewide mask mandate.

News02 0:21 "...things in mind."

Gov. Hutchinson's statewide requirement for Arkansans to wear face masks in public, with some exceptions, went into effect Monday. Arkansas had 7,028 active COVID-19 cases as of today (Fri) while an increase of 17 Arkansans hospitalized brought the state's total to 497.