

For the third time since the pandemic began, Arkansas has added more than 1-thousand new coronavirus cases in a single day. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced the state saw 1,011 new cases today (Fri) for a total of 48,039, while an additional six COVID-19 deaths brought the death toll to 521. Speaking in his daily briefing, Hutchinson said the state is still considering which factors to weigh when deciding if schools should move to remote learning to avoid spreading COVID-19.

News03 0:22 "...in the community."

Education Secretary Johnny Key also clarified the state's mandate that schools should be open five days per week upon reopening for in-class instruction the week of August 24th.

News04 0:24 "...to them on campus."

Key also announced that, pending legislative approval, \$20 million dollars will go to providing two weeks of paid leave for school employees who contract COVID-19. An additional nine Arkansans were hospitalized with COVID-19 as of today (Fri) for a total of 523, while the state currently has 7,158 active COVID-19 cases. Pulaski County saw the highest increase in new cases today (Fri) with 182 residents testing positive, including 100 inmates of the Wrightsville Unit state prison.