

**Covid-19 cases in Arkansas increased by 642 on Sunday, according to the state Department of Health, a decline from the approximately 1,000 new cases the state saw on two consecutive days late last week. But Arkansas surpassed another grim milestone after two additional deaths related to covid-19 pushed the total number of reported victims to 401.**

**The two latest victims resided in Benton and Chicot counties.**

**Active cases statewide increased by 101, from 6,499 to 6,600 on Sunday.**

**The cumulative number of documented covid-19 infections in Arkansas since the beginning of the outbreak had reached 38,623 as of Sunday. The Health Department listed 31,622 people as having recovered from the virus.**

**Of the new cases reported on Sunday, 16 were in correctional facilities and 626 in the community, according to Health Department spokeswoman Meg Mirivel.**

**Patients hospitalized because of covid-19 increased by one for a total of 480 as of Sunday, Mirivel said, and the number of individuals on a ventilator declined by two to 103.**

**The number of individuals in the hospital with the virus hit a record high for Arkansas on Friday, with 497 people receiving treatment in a medical facility.**

**As the end of the month approaches, Arkansas is unlikely to meet a goal of 200,000 covid-19 tests in July. The total number of tests conducted so far this month is 157,284, according to Mirivel, with less than a week remaining to meet the 200,000 benchmark.**

**" state epidemiologist Dr. Jennifer Dillaha said in a phone interview Sunday described seeking a balance between managing the direct and collateral effects of the covid-19 outbreak.**