

The number of hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19 in Arkansas have both reached new peaks, as the total number of coronavirus cases in the state surpasses 40,000.

According to numbers from the Arkansas Department of Health, the state added 734 new cases, bringing the total to 40,181. Because the number of new cases is less than the 823 newly recovered patients, the number of active cases did decrease.

However, the state saw its highest total number of hospitalizations today (Tuesday), increasing by 12 for a total of 501. Additionally, the state saw its largest single-day increase in deaths, 20, for a total death toll of 428.

As far as testing, the state logged 5,428 tests in the past 24 hours. With days left to reach the state's goal of 200,000, Gov. Asa Hutchinson spoke on the state's progress with testing during his daily briefing on the pandemic today (Tuesday).

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“...this month”

“We're at 170,000. We're going to easily achieve the 180,000 mark, which is 6% of our population and so our testing is in pretty good shape compared to the nation and compared to the goals that we have set. We obviously wanted to get to 200,000. We'll see if we get there, but we should make the 6% of our population this month,” Hutchinson said.

11 counties in the state had 20 or more new cases. Pulaski County had the highest number of new cases with 55. Benton and Mississippi counties had the second and third highest number of new cases with 50 and 48 cases respectively.