

The total number of coronavirus cases in Arkansas has officially passed 30,000 as the state saw more than 500 new cases today (Wednesday).

According to numbers from the Arkansas Department of Health, there are 564 new cases of coronavirus in the state, bringing to the total number of cases to 30,297. The death toll also increased by 4, for a total of 335. The number of Arkansans hospitalized with COVID-19 increased by 13 to 458. There are now 94 Arkansans on a ventilator, an increase of 3.

Speaking during the Governor's daily briefing on the pandemic that took place in Conway today (Wednesday) Health Secretary Dr. Nate Smith said though the total number of cases in the state equals around 1% of the entire population of Arkansas, that is not a reason to not take the virus seriously.

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“...put it out”

“If you came into your living room and the curtains were on fire, you wouldn't say ‘Well that's less than 1%. I'm not going to worry about it now, let's wait until it gets up to 2 or 3%.’ No, you get after it and the fire is still burning here. We're making some good progress in central Arkansas, but the fire is still burning and we can't let up until we put it out,” Smith said.

Though the total number of cases increased, the state also announced 679 recovered cases today (Wednesday). Since the number recovered is greater than the new cases, the total number of active cases has decreased to 6,439.

Of those active cases, 955 are from correctional facilities, while 130 are from nursing homes.

Pulaski County again led the state in new cases with 78, while Sebastian and Washington County had the second and third highest number of new cases, with 52 and 46 respectively.