

Arkansas's governor says he remains committed to opening schools in late August as the coronavirus continues to spread in the state. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced today (Tues) an additional 728 Arkansans tested positive for the virus, bringing the state's total to 34,655. The state's COVID-19 death toll rose by 11 to 374. Speaking in his daily briefing, Hutchinson said K-12 students will still return to in-class instruction in just over a month.

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"...of August 24th."

The governor's comments come as the Arkansas chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics released a statement advising against a statewide return to school, recommending county-by-county school openings and requiring students and teachers to wear face masks. Today's (Tues) increase brought the state's total number of active COVID-19 cases to 6,998, including 921 inmates of correctional facilities and 138 nursing home residents. Acting Health Secretary Dr. Jose Romero agreed with Hutchinson's decision on returning to school, saying recommendations and conditions could change before Arkansas students return to class.

News02

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"...to be flexible."

Pulaski County saw 110 residents test positive for COVID-19, with 62 new cases from Washington County and 46 from Crawford County. The number of Arkansans hospitalized with COVID-19 rose by 17 to its highest-ever point of 488, with 110 patients on a ventilator.