

For the first time since the pandemic began, Arkansas is releasing the number of students, teachers and staff members who have tested positive for the coronavirus. This comes as the state adds another 722 new coronavirus cases and seven COVID-19 deaths. Speaking in his daily briefing, Gov. Asa Hutchinson said the new data will help the state determine whether to put restrictions on in-class instruction at schools.

News03

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“...should be taken.”

The numbers show 222 students and employees of schools and colleges in Arkansas currently have COVID-19, while a total of 652 have ever tested positive. Hutchinson said the state will only release data from school districts that have more than five positive cases, citing privacy concerns. Education Secretary Johnny Key said he wasn't shocked to learn the extent of COVID-19's spread in schools.

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“...not that surprising.”

The data will be updated twice-weekly on the Arkansas Department of Health website. The number of Arkansans hospitalized with COVID-19 fell by two today (Thurs) to 433, with 99 patients on a ventilator. Pulaski County saw 64 residents test positive, with Benton and Sebastian counties each adding 37 new cases. As of today (Thurs) Arkansas had 5,341 active cases of COVID-19.