

Arkansas has seen its second highest count of new coronavirus cases as the total number of COVID-19 cases in the state passes 36,000.

The state added 1,013 new cases today (Thursday). While this is the second largest total of new cases to date, it's also the highest number of new cases recorded in the non-incarcerated population. The total number of COVID-19 cases in Arkansas is now 36,259.

Hospitalizations and deaths from the coronavirus both increased by six, for a total of 480 hospitalizations and 386 deaths.

Pulaski County again led the state in new cases with 113. Washington and Benton counties had 76 and 73 new cases respectively. Sebastian County recorded 65.

Of the total active cases, 869 are in correctional facilities, including jails. Dexter Payne, director of the Division of Corrections, said eight of the state's correctional facilities have recorded COVID-19 cases.

When asked whether there are any plans to lift current restrictions on visitation or volunteer services, Gov. Asa Hutchinson, speaking during his daily briefing on the coronavirus today (Thursday), said there are not.

NEWS08**:18****"...at this time"**

"It's such a fragile environment in terms of how easy it is to bring the virus in. We have risk enough with staff going into the community and back in. We cannot expand that into visitation at this time," Hutchinson said.

Also during the briefing, Hutchinson appointed Solomon Graves as Secretary of the Department of Corrections, after the resignation of previous secretary Wendy Kelley.