

COVID Update 2  
8/18/20(TuesPM/WedAM)

DJB

New coronavirus cases and deaths continue to rise in Arkansas as nearly 500 residents are hospitalized with COVID-19. Arkansas recorded 410 new coronavirus cases today (Tues) for a total of 53,487, while 16 Arkansans died from COVID-19 for a death toll of 619. Speaking in his daily briefing at Arkansas Northeastern College in Blytheville today (Tues), Gov. Asa Hutchinson said a state legislative panel is recommending \$100 million dollars to strengthen access to broadband internet in anticipation of more online learning in the new school year.

COVID Update 2a

0:22

“...have other options.”

Arkansas schools are required to open for in-class instruction each weekday upon resuming classes next week, though students can still take virtual classes. The number of hospitalizations due to COVID-19 rose by six today (Tues) to 492. Sebastian County had the highest increase in new cases with 44 residents testing positive. Dr. Jennifer Dillaha, medical director for immunizations at the state Health Department, re-emphasized the need for people who display symptoms of COVID-19 not to come into contact with others.

COVID Update 2b

0:17

“...stop the spread.”

Today's (Tues) increase of 410 new coronavirus cases included 85 inmates of correctional facilities. As of today (Tues) the state has 5,898 active cases of COVID-19.