Arkansas has added almost 25-hundred new cases and nearly 60 deaths from COVID-19 since last Friday as the state's death toll approaches 800. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced an uptick of 368 new cases brought the state's total to 61,224, while another 13 deaths brought the death toll to 797. Speaking in his daily briefing on the pandemic, Hutchinson spoke against criticism from state lawmakers who argue the governor should not have the power to issue statewide public health orders, such as the recently-imposed mask-wearing requirement.

News01 0:23 "...a legislative process."

Members of the legislature's Joint Insurance and Commerce Committee today (Mon) disparaged the governor's response to the pandemic, and heard testimony from physicians critical of mask mandates and supportive of the controversial COVID-19 treatment known as hydroxychloroquine. Hutchinson also responded to criticism from lawmakers over coronavirus-related restrictions on businesses and daily life still in effect in Arkansas.

News02 0:20 "...all use individually."

The number of Arkansans hospitalized with COVID-19 rose by 29 to 420 today (Mon) with 87 patients on a ventilator. Pulaski County saw 50 residents test positive, with 41 new cases from Pope County and 30 from Benton County. As of today (Mon) Arkansas had 5,466 active cases of COVID-19. The state received a total of 4,542 coronavirus test results over the past 24 hours.