

While Arkansas has reported a decline in active COVID-19 cases, a decrease in testing could be one reason why.

As of today, Wednesday, Arkansas recorded 591 new coronavirus cases, bringing the state's total to 35,246. Of those cases, 6,876 are considered active.

The state reported new 3,933 tests given, with the results of those tests to be added to Arkansas's statistics at a later time.

Hospitalizations, after reaching its highest total yet on Tuesday, decreased by 14 for a total of 474 hospitalizations. The number of deaths increased by 6 for a death toll of 380.

Speaking during his daily briefing on the coronavirus, Gov. Asa Hutchinson said a higher positivity rate of cases, could be a result of not enough testing happening in a specific area.

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“The more you test then in an ideal circumstance, that positivity rate will be lower because you're testing more that might be asymptomatic and not just demonstrating some symptoms. So that's one of the reasons that we would like to have testing at a higher level. We've set those goals, we're trying to accomplish that. But we've got a challenge. Even though we're testing at a good level, it's not as high as we'd like to see,” Hutchinson said.

Of the new cases announced today (Wednesday) Pulaski County saw the highest number with 80 new cases. Benton and Washington counties had the second and third highest amount, with 46 and 38 cases respectively.