

Data on the coronavirus in Arkansas will soon be available to view on school district level, according to an announcement from the state.

This comes as the state added 383 cases today (Tuesday), its smallest number of new cases in more than a month, bringing the state's total number of COVID-19 cases to 50,411. 11 Arkansans died from COVID-19 bringing the total to 566.

Of the total cases, 6,847 are considered active. Pulaski county had the highest number of new cases with 63. Sebastian county added 31 new cases, while Carroll county had 20. No other counties had more than 20 new cases today (Tuesday).

The lower number of new cases comes as schools are preparing to open in two weeks. According to Education Secretary Johnny Key, the state is expanding its partnership with the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement to provide COVID-19 data by school district.

The data points, according to Key, will include the cumulative COVID-19 cases per school district population, the number of active coronavirus cases per school district population and the rates of testing by county.

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**“...of education”**

“They will need this data to help them with the response levels. So as we see the cases occur that are connected with the school district. They can take this data, look at what's going on in their district, look at what's going on in their broader community and make decisions under the guise of the responsible documents in conjunction with the health department and the department of education,” Key said.

While district-wide data will become available, it will only be the total number of cases in the district as opposed to a more specific number of students and personnel with COVID-19.

This conference comes one day after the Arkansas Education Association released a statement calling for a virtual start to the school year as opposed to an in-person approach.