

9-15 COVID 1A & 1B

MEH

9/15 (Tues PM & Wed AM)

Arkansas has crossed the one thousand mark for deaths from COVID-19. The Department of Health reported today (Tues) 17 additional deaths, bringing the total since the pandemic began to 1,003. Chief Epidemiologist Mike Cima (see-muh) said because of an order from federal authorities, the state now will begin tracking a new category of deaths.

News15 0:21 “...to our website.”

Over the previous 24 hours, the department said 676 additional people have tested positive for the virus, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to more than 70-thousand. During his weekly briefing on the pandemic, Governor Asa Hutchinson said the state will be able to expand testing. New antigen machines had been bought, but didn't have the needed supplies to conduct testing until now.

News16 0:21 “...capacity in Arkansas.”

Meanwhile the Department of Education reports 22 school districts are being impacted by cases. The Pocahontas High School in northeast Arkansas is shifting to virtual classes through Thursday to allow an extensive cleaning of the facility.

9-15 COVID 2

MEH

9/15 (Tues PM & WedAM)

With 17 additional deaths reported today (Tues), the Arkansas death toll from COVID-19 has reached 1,003. The Department of Health also says 676 more people have tested positive for the virus, with the total confirmed cases now over 70-thousand. During his weekly media briefing on the pandemic, Governor Asa Hutchinson said the state will also now begin now begin posting the number of deaths in which COVID 19 was listed as a contributing factor on death certificates.

News17 “...transparent about it.”

Meanwhile, Hutchinson says the state will be able to further expand antigen testing, thanks to the department receiving enough supplies for two months. The machines had already been purchased by the state, but were awaiting the needed supplies.