

More than 21-hundred Arkansans have tested positive for the coronavirus in the past three days as a statewide face mask requirement goes into effect today (Mon). Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced today (Mon) the state saw 699 new cases, bringing the state's total to 33,927. An additional six Arkansans died from COVID-19 bringing the death toll to 363. Speaking in his daily briefing, Hutchinson said he believes the statewide mask mandate will be effective despite some law enforcement agencies in the state saying they won't enforce it.

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"...by the response."

After a slight decline in recent days, the number of Arkansans hospitalized with COVID-19 rose by 18 to 471, with 111 patients on a ventilator. Today's (Mon) increase brought the state's total number of active COVID-19 cases to 7,167, including 1,093 inmates of the state's correctional facilities. Mitchell Simpson, director of the Arkansas Energy Office, said the state will use just over \$8 million dollars in CARES Act funding to help Arkansans with energy expenses.

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"...the crisis program."

Simpson said applicants can receive as much as \$15-hundred dollars through the program. Applications for the program can be submitted beginning July 27<sup>th</sup>.