

More than 2-thousand Arkansans have tested positive for the coronavirus since last Friday following a record-breaking uptick in new cases over the weekend. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced the state saw 572 new cases today (Mon) bringing the state's total to 28,939, while an increase of two COVID-19 deaths brought the state's death toll to 323. Speaking in his daily briefing on the pandemic, Hutchinson again resisted calls for a statewide order for Arkansans to wear face masks.

News01

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"...cases going up."

Today's (Mon) increase comes after the state experienced its highest-ever single-day increase in new coronavirus cases on Saturday with 1,061 Arkansans testing positive. Health Secretary Dr. Nate Smith said that record increase was due largely to an outbreak at the Ouachita River Unit state prison, and potentially due to the Fourth of July holiday.

News02

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"...was a contributor."

Smith said more than 500 inmates at the Ouachita River Unit tested positive for the coronavirus since late last week. Arkansas had 6,510 active COVID-19 cases as of today (Mon), with 19 additional hospitalizations for a total of 439. Pulaski County had the highest increase with 77 residents testing positive, with 53 new cases from Washington County and 40 from Sebastian County.