

The rate of hospitalizations due to COVID-19 continues to see an increase as the state added over daily 480 cases today (Tuesday).

According to numbers from Arkansas Department of Health, the state saw an additional 486 cases, bringing the cumulative total to 74,772. Of those cases, 6,188 are considered active.

The number of Arkansans hospitalized with COVID-19 has increased by 12 for a total of 459. 12 more people have died from the coronavirus, bringing the state death toll to 1,060.

The state added 6,810 PCR testing results in the past 24 hour period, along with 651 antigen tests. The total number of PCR tests for the month of September is now 163,704, which is 16,296 short of the state's testing goal of 180,000 by the end of the month. Arkansas has already surpassed its monthly antigen testing goal of 10,000, recording a cumulative 13,863 tests today (Tuesday) for September.

During his weekly briefing on the coronavirus pandemic, Gov. Asa Hutchinson spoke on the increase in antigen testing results, an increase he says he predicted would happen.

## **NEWS06**

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**“...helpful tool”**

“With the new antigen machines in, that we're gonna see more people take advantage of that. It's a quick response and it's gaining, growing in acceptance across the country and here in Arkansas. This we're putting out there. We've invested in for people to take advantage of, and they are. In particular, with our education system moving and continuing, that's a helpful tool,” Hutchinson said.

According to Education Secretary Johnny Key, a total of 106 schools in Arkansas have modified how they teach students due to the pandemic, though Key says 83 of them have returned to their previous operations. 22 schools currently are under a modified plan due to the coronavirus.

Pulaski County had the highest number of new COVID-19 cases with 80. Benton County added 55, while Craighead County added 30.