

An additional 787 Arkansans have tested positive for the coronavirus as the total number of Arkansans who have ever tested positive nears 45-thousand. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced today's (Mon) increase brought the state's total to 44,597, while 11 more deaths from COVID-19 brought the death toll to 475. Speaking in his daily briefing, Hutchinson said he still stands behind his decision for schools across the state to open for in-person classes the week of August 24th.

News03

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"...find ourselves in."

Hutchinson said the state has received half of its order for 200 antigen testing machines, though the materials needed to complete tests have not yet arrived. He said those machines will be sent to the Health Department's Public Health Units across the state, and that K-12 students and educators will be given top priority for testing. With the start of flu season just months away, Acting Health Secretary Dr. Jose Romero urged Arkansans to get vaccinated to avoid adding to the stress on the state's healthcare system already caused by COVID-19.

News04

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"...vaccine is safe."

Flu season in Arkansas typically lasts from October through May, though Romero says Arkansans should begin getting vaccinated now. Arkansas saw two fewer residents hospitalized with COVID-19 today (Mon) for a total of 513, while today's (Mon) increase in positive test results brought the state's active case count to 6,882.