

The cumulative total of COVID-19 cases in Arkansas is now over 70,700 as the state added over 600 daily cases to the total today (Wednesday).

According to the state Department of Health, Arkansas added 606 new coronavirus cases. The total number of cases is now 70,731. Of those cases 5,572 are considered active. The state logged the testing results of 6,360 PCR tests in the past 24 hours.

Of the PCR tests, 2,444 were conducted by public health labs, commercial labs contributed 3,544 tests while UAMS conducted 372. The state also logged the results of 529 antigen tests.

The rate of hospitalizations decreased by two for a total 387, while patients on a ventilator is now 65, a decrease of three. Seven more Arkansans have died from COVID-19, bringing the death toll to 1,010.

Washington County added the highest number of new cases with 65. Pulaski County and Benton County had 58 and 37 new cases respectively.

During a briefing on the pandemic today (Wednesday) Gov. Asa Hutchinson spoke on the most recent COVID-19 modeling from UAMS, which currently projects that if nothing changes, the state will have close to 121,062 cumulative cases and 2,088 deaths by the end of October.

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“...doing this”

“They did recognize and express concern that we could have an expansion of cases simply because we’re reopening schools and universities. Well that’s a challenge to us to make sure we do it safely so that we don’t add to the spread in new cases. And I applaud our education partners that have been doing this,” Hutchinson said.

The modeling also projects 14-day forecast of a cumulative 4,852 hospitalizations, 1,986 patients needing intensive care and 1,108 deaths.