

COVID Update 1
8/18/20(TuesPM/WedAM)

DJB

Hospitalizations due to COVID-19 in Arkansas are on the rise as 16 more Arkansans have died from the disease. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced an increase of 410 new cases brought the state's total to 53,487, while the additional COVID-19 deaths brought the death toll to 619. Speaking in his daily briefing in Blytheville today (Tues), Hutchinson said he's confident the state is completing enough coronavirus tests despite delays due to a nationwide shortage of testing supplies.

COVID Update 1a

0:24

“...three months ago.”

Arkansas received 4,675 results from coronavirus tests in the past 24 hours, while the state's average rate of positive test results remains slightly below 10%. Dr. Jennifer Dillaha, medical director for immunizations at the Arkansas Department of Health, elaborated on the differences between traditional P-C-R tests for coronavirus and point-of-care antigen tests which yield faster results.

COVID Update 1b

0:22

“...result very quickly.”

Dillaha said the Health Department plans to give priority to students and school employees for receiving antigen tests at its Local Health Units across the state. The number of Arkansans hospitalized with COVID-19 rose by six today (Tues) to 492, with 122 patients on a ventilator. Today's (Tues) increase brought the number of active COVID-19 cases in Arkansas to 5,898. Sebastian County saw 44 residents test positive, with 40 new cases added in Pulaski County and 29 in Washington County.