

Arkansas has seen its largest single-day increase in deaths due to COVID-19 while nearly 900 more Arkansans have tested positive for the coronavirus. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced the state saw 887 new cases today (Fri), the fourth-highest daily increase in new cases since the pandemic began. The state's death toll increased by 22 for a total of 663. Speaking in his daily briefing on the pandemic, Hutchinson said both sharp increases come after days of lower daily upticks in new cases and deaths.

News01

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"...back to normal."

Pulaski County saw the highest increase in new cases today (Fri) with 80 residents testing positive. Washington County added 47 new cases, while Benton County reported 47. The number of Arkansans hospitalized with COVID-19 increased by 10 for a total of 509, with 120 patients on a ventilator. With the record uptick in coronavirus deaths, Health Secretary Dr. Jose Romero stressed the need for restrictions on visitation at nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

News02

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"...protect this population."

Romero said 11 of the 22 deaths reported today (Fri) were among nursing home residents, including seven in Little River County in southwest Arkansas. As of today (Fri) a total of 55,652 Arkansans have tested positive for the coronavirus, while 5,854 are considered active cases. Gov. Hutchinson said the state has also completed its goal of testing all inmates and staff of Arkansas correctional facilities for the coronavirus.