

Nearly 700 Arkansans have died from COVID-19 as schools across the state reopen for in-class instruction. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced an increase of 320 new coronavirus cases brought the state's total to 56,894, while an additional nine deaths from COVID-19 brought the death toll to 696. Speaking in the governor's daily briefing on the pandemic, Education Secretary Johnny Key said the state aims to keep schools open for in-class instruction even with high levels of virus activity in the general public.

News01                      0:26                      "...could take place."

Key also responded to reports of some schools delaying the start of classes because of coronavirus concerns.

News02                      0:16                      "...be successful at it."

The Woodlawn School District in Cleveland County said it will delay the start of school indefinitely to allow for all staff members to get tested for COVID-19. The KIPP Delta charter school in Helena-West Helena will also begin the school year with all-virtual classes after a staffer tested positive. The number of Arkansans hospitalized decreased by 34 today (Mon) for a total of 466, with 106 patients currently on a ventilator. Pulaski County had the highest increase in new cases with 46 residents testing positive. Arkansas received a total of 4,629 results from coronavirus tests within the past 24 hours.