More than 2-thousand Arkansans have tested positive for the coronavirus since last Friday as the state nears 500 deaths from COVID-19. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced today (Mon) the state saw 787 new coronavirus cases, bringing the total to 44,597. An additional 11 Arkansans died from COVID-19 for a death toll of 475. Speaking in his daily briefing on the pandemic, Hutchinson again voiced his support for schools reopening statewide at the end of the month, despite the state's average rate of positive COVID-19 tests being over the 10% recommended by the C-D-C.

News01 0:26 "...a question about."

Hutchinson said the state has received 100 machines capable of completing antigen tests for COVID-19, which will be prioritized for use by K-12 students and staff. While there's currently no vaccine for the coronavirus, Acting Health Secretary Dr. Jose Romero stressed the added importance of getting a flu shot this year.

News02 0:24 "...increased mortality, morbidity."

The number of Arkansans hospitalized with COVID-19 dropped by two to 513 total, with 108 on a ventilator. Sebastian County saw the highest increase in new cases with 87 residents testing positive, followed by Washington County with 66 and Pulaski County with 54. As of today (Mon) Arkansas had 6,882 active COVID-19 cases, including 80 nursing home residents and 392 inmates of correctional facilities.