

High school football teams can begin no-contact practice in Arkansas starting next week as the total number of people to test positive for the coronavirus surpasses 42,000. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced today (Fri) the state saw 752 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the total to 42,511. An additional 11 Arkansans died from the disease for a death toll of 453. Speaking in his daily briefing, Hutchinson said the Department of Health will approve safety plans allowing for football, volleyball and cheerleading to continue once schools in Arkansas open the week of August 24.

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“...protocols for that.”

Hutchinson also announced the creation of an advisory group, made up of educators, physicians and Health Department researchers, to provide recommendations for ensuring student athletes’ safety. Health Secretary Dr. Jose Romero said it falls on individual players and coaches to ensure compliance with best practices to curb the spread of COVID-19.

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“...forward we’ll see.”

Arkansas saw 3 additional residents hospitalized with COVID-19 today (Fri) for a total of 507, while the state had a total of 6,645 active cases of the disease. Sebastian County had the highest daily increase with 81 residents testing positive, while Pulaski County added 77 new cases.