

Despite seeing two days in a row of declining daily increases in new coronavirus cases, Arkansas has seen its largest single-day increase in people hospitalized with COVID-19. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced today (Tues) an additional 32 Arkansans had been hospitalized, while 259 people testing positive for the coronavirus brought the state's total to 24,512. The number of Arkansans hospitalized rose to 369, while the state's COVID-19 death toll increased by nine to 301. Speaking in the governor's daily briefing on the pandemic, Health Secretary Dr. Nate Smith said a lack of testing is to blame for today's (Tues) lower-than-average increase in new cases.

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"...those to pick up."

Smith said the state completed just over 33-hundred COVID-19 tests from Monday to Tuesday, as opposed to average daily testing totals ranging between six and seven thousand seen in recent weeks. Today's (Tues) record increase in hospitalizations came exactly one week after the state saw its highest single-day increase in new coronavirus cases of 878 people testing positive. Gov. Hutchinson said the state's hospitals still have the capacity to cope with the upswing in COVID-19 patients.

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"...at that every day."

Pulaski County saw the highest increase in new coronavirus cases today (Tues) with 57 people testing positive. Benton County saw 26 new cases, with 14 from neighboring Washington County.