

Northwest Arkansas no longer leads the state in new COVID-19 cases, as the total number of those with the coronavirus increased by more than 400.

According to numbers from the state Department of Health, Arkansas saw 420 new cases, bringing the state's total to 21,197. Of those cases, 5,757 are considered active. That's 219 fewer active cases compared to Tuesday.

Hospitalizations also decreased in the state, down 15 for a total of 275. However, the state did see seven more deaths, bringing the death toll to 277.

Lee County had the highest number of new cases, with 69. Pulaski and Washington counties had the second and third highest, with 49 and 48 new cases respectively.

Speaking during his daily briefing on the virus on Wednesday, Gov. Asa Hutchinson said the state met its goal for testing 120,000 Arkansans in the month of June.

NEWS22**:10****“...in Arkansas”**

“We went to 180,000 tests that were done, which is 6% of our population in Arkansas,” Hutchinson said.

While the number of new cases appears to be on a downward trend, Hutchinson said he was concerned about the upcoming Fourth of July holiday.

NEWS23**:25****“...part of that”**

“How do you balance, well we had a good day, and so people say ‘Well, cases are going down so let's go out and everything's fine.’ That's not the case. And so we try to communicate it in many different ways, but hopefully Arkansans are getting the message that it is consistency is what we need and disciplined behavior and social distancing. And wearing a mask is a part of that,” Hutchinson said.

At the beginning of the briefing Hutchinson also addressed whether sports would resume for high schools and higher education. He said whether or not sports return in the fall depends on if Arkansans practice social distancing and wear masks now.