

The number of active covid-19 cases in Arkansas stood at 6,323 as of Sunday, a continuation of the upward trajectory of the state's virus cases.

At the same time, the active case count was up 198 from the day before, suggesting that even though more than 600 people have recently become infected with the coronavirus, a significant number of the people who previously tested positive for the virus have recovered.

Nevertheless, the number of new cases reported on a daily basis in Arkansas has so far not reached a visible plateau or decline. In fact, the number of new cases reported each day has largely risen during the early part of the summer.

All told, between Friday and Sunday during the Fourth of July holiday weekend, Arkansas reported a total of 1,739 new covid-19 cases, adding to the mounting number of new cases in the state.

That came after the state set a single-day record of 878 new cases reported on Thursday.

Sunday's new-case total of 605 was the highest single-day increase since that record-setting day.

The cumulative number of covid-19 infections in Arkansas now stands at 23,814.

In a news briefing on Friday, Arkansas Department of Health Secretary Nate Smith pointed out the increase in the number of active covid-19 cases that has occurred in the state during the nearly six weeks between Memorial Day weekend and the weekend of the Fourth of July.

At the start of Memorial Day weekend, there were 1,063 active cases in the community, according to the Department of Health's numbers. By Friday, active cases in the community had quintupled to 5,350.

Smith noted that the fivefold increase in active cases between Memorial Day and the Fourth of July meant that the same activities entailed five times the risk of coming in contact with someone actively infected with the virus.

The number of individuals hospitalized because of covid-19 in Arkansas rose by 20 on Sunday, for a total of 325, according to Department of Health spokesman Gavin Lesnick.