

The total number of coronavirus cases in Arkansas has surpassed 35,000 as the number of hospitalizations dropped one day after reaching a new highest peak.

According to numbers from the Arkansas Department of Health, the state added 591 new COVID-19 cases. While this number is lower than previous days, the amount of testing also decreased. The total number of active cases is now 6,876.

The number of hospitalizations, which reached its highest point on Tuesday, dropped by 14 for a total number of 474. Six more Arkansans have died from COVID-19 bringing the death toll to 380.

Speaking during Gov. Asa Hutchinson's daily briefing on the pandemic, taking place in Fayetteville today (Wednesday), Dr. Jose Romero, acting Health Secretary, said in Washington County, 72% of the cases are in Arkansans 44 years or younger.

NEWS06**:10****"...work sites"**

"Which actually points to the fact that these are individuals that are engaged in work and are acquiring the disease in the community, or possibly spreading it at their work sites," Romero said.

Of the total deaths in the state, Romero said 39 deaths, a little more than 11% come from Washington County. Of those deaths, around 60% or 23 are in the county's Marshallese community.

When asked about the upcoming school year and the risk for students and teachers, Romero said the risk of coronavirus spread is not as high in younger students.

NEWS07**:15****"...they are"**

"Children ten and older may be more capable of spreading and similarly as you get into an adolescent, an older adolescent like an adult. In essence, they're not high risk for anyone in particular or for spreading it in their classroom environment the younger they are," Romero said.

According to NPR, while it appears as though children do have a lower rate of infection compared to adults, because schools closed before the peak of the pandemic, there is a lot unknown about how it spreads in children.