

Arkansas's Republican governor is speaking against President Trump's executive order requiring states to partially pay for extended unemployment benefits as more than 50-thousand Arkansans have tested positive for COVID-19. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced today (Mon) an increase of 645 new coronavirus cases brought the state's total to 50,028, while an additional 11 deaths brought the death toll to 555. Speaking in his daily briefing on the pandemic, Hutchinson called on Congress to break its deadlock on passing another coronavirus relief package.

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"...package or nothing."

The governor's comments come after President Trump signed a series of executive orders over the weekend aimed at providing economic relief in lieu of a congressional aid package. One order requires states to pay 25% of the cost of providing an additional \$400-dollars-a-week on top of traditional unemployment benefits. Hutchinson said Arkansas would be able to cover that cost for the 120-thousand residents still receiving unemployment, though it would come at the expense of other programs funded by the \$2 Trillion-dollar CARES Act.

News02

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"...requirement over time."

The number of Arkansans hospitalized with COVID-19 decreased by six today (Mon) for a total of 508, with 117 patients on a ventilator. Pulaski County saw the highest increase with 61 new cases, with 52 new cases from Sebastian County and 50 from Garland County. As of today (Mon) Arkansas has 7,343 active COVID-19 cases, including 52 nursing home residents and 886 inmates of correctional facilities.