

Arkansas has added its highest ever number of daily COVID-19 cases, breaking the record set only one week ago.

According to the Arkansas Department of Health, the state added 1,107 confirmed new cases, bringing the cumulative total of cases to 67,911. Of the total number of cases, 5,713 are considered active.

The state added 7,801 PCR testing results in the past 24 hours. The state also recorded 459 antigen tests, with 78 of those returning a positive result.

Speaking during his final near-daily briefing on the coronavirus today (Friday,) Gov. Asa Hutchinson said he wasn't very surprised by the sudden uptick in new cases after the state experienced lower positive case totals the majority of the week.

**NEWS06****:24****“...last Friday”**

“I think you heard me say on Monday, when we were having very low numbers that I wouldn't be surprised, in fact I actually expect a spike. And we see that pattern. We'll go for a number of days with declining and lower numbers and then it'll shoot up. This is a high shoot up, but it was also 1,000 last Friday,” Hutchinson said.

Hospitalizations remained the same at 392, while the number of those on a ventilator decreased by three for a total of 76. 13 more Arkansans have died from COVID-19, the death toll is now 953.

According to Health Secretary Dr. José Romero, of the state's 67,911 total number of cases (Friday), 12.9% of them are from colleges and universities. However, Romero said a few days earlier that percentage was even higher.

**NEWS07****:12****“...previous reading”**

“Our data is not real time in that day. Sometimes we get this data a little later, so we'll wait and see where it's going. But this [12.9%] is less than it was in a previous reading,” Romero said.

10 counties in the state added 20 or more new cases. Pulaski County added the highest number with 105. Washington County added 91, while Craighead County added 61.