

Two more school systems in Arkansas are making temporary adjustments due to the coronavirus pandemic, as the state adds almost 400 new coronavirus cases to its total number of cases.

According to numbers from the Arkansas Department of Health, the state saw 398 new cases today (Thursday), bringing the cumulative number of COVID-19 cases to 66,804. Of those cases, 5,196 are considered active.

Both hospitalizations and patients on a ventilator due to COVID-19 have decreased. Those hospitalized fell by 19 for a total of 392. There are three fewer patients on a ventilator. That number is now 79. 12 more people in Arkansas have died from COVID-19, bringing the death toll to 940.

According to Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, Deputy Commissioner with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education at the Arkansas Department of Education, all of the school districts in the state have submitted their “district support plans,” which outline how the district will provide a curriculum for the school year.

NEWS08**:16****“...the year”**

“These plans are also important because they outline the communication that the district will engage in with the communities about learning options and also assure that students will have the necessary resources as we continue to work throughout the year,” Pfeffer said.

Pfeffer also stated that both the Fordyce School District and Tuckerman High School in the Jackson County School District are both pivoting to virtual only learning as they each deal with COVID-19 cases.

Speaking during the coronavirus briefing, Gov. Asa Hutchinson said he was pleased with the past few days’ case numbers, all of which stayed below 400.

NEWS09**:26****“...additional spread**

“My sense is that people are taking it very seriously as we go back to school. That they are following the guidelines to a greater extent in Arkansas. And then, actually we haven’t talked about it much lately, but I think our contact tracing has proven to be very successful in identifying clusters and doing the isolation quarantine to stopping additional spread,” Hutchinson said.

The state reported 4,900 testing results, not including antigen tests.