

Despite a few recently diagnosed coronavirus cases in the Arkansas House, its speaker says there are no plans to adjust how the chamber conducts business, though leadership is continuing to monitor the situation. Since session began on January 11th, three House members have tested positive for COVID-19. Speaker Matthew Shepherd told reporters today (Thurs) they are continuing to speak with public health experts about the situation.

**NEWS07****:19****“...of Arkansas”**

“We don’t want to have any positive cases. I think, unfortunately, in a group of 100 members plus staff just with what’s going on, we recognize that there was the likelihood that there would be some positives. Particularly when you consider you’re pulling members from across the state of Arkansas,” Shepherd said.

Additionally, Shepherd said he has not been informed of any House members violating the COVID-19 protocols passed late last week.

**NEWS08****:10****“...the circumstances”**

“From what I’ve been able to observe, I feel like the membership is doing their best to try and comply, to try and wear the mask, maintain social distance as best we can under the circumstances,” Shepherd said.

So far, no Arkansas senators have been diagnosed with the virus since session began.