Mandates CNN – 1 DM/ 10/25 MonAM

Governor Asa Hutchinson is continuing to defend his opposition to state-level vaccine mandates to prevent COVID-19 on the national stage. During an interview on CNN's State of the Union broadcast yesterday (Sunday), Hutchinson said imposing a state mandate would not be worth the controversy it would create.

NEWS22 0:18 "...controversy and resistance."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Arkansas, with 47percent of the total population vaccinated, still ranks among the states with the lowest vaccination rates. The number of active COVID-19 cases and related hospitalizations in the state has declined recently.

```
Mandates CNN – 2 DM/ 10/25 MonAM
```

Arkansas' approach to vaccine mandates is drawing national attention again. Yesterday (Sunday) Governor Asa Hutchinson, in an interview for CNN's State of the Union, said COVID-19 vaccinations would not join the list of mandatory vaccines for school children.

NEWS23 0:20 "...of COVID outbreak."

The Federal Food and Drug Administration is expected to approve the use of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine in children ages 5 to 11 during a meeting on Tuesday. Arkansas currently mandates vaccines for tetanus, measles, and rubella, among others.