

Hospital Concerns – 1

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MonAM

Medical experts in Arkansas are again concerned hospitals in the state could run out beds and staff to care for patients. This week on Arkansas PBS, Dr. Jose Romero, the state's secretary of the Department of Health, said surges of both Covid-19 and the flu are possible in the coming weeks.

News20 0:21 "...overwhelm the system."

Last week, Governor Asa Hutchinson announced the first confirmed case of the Omicron variant of the virus that causes Covid-19 in the state. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, wearing masks in public indoor spaces offers protection against all variants. The CDC recommends all fully vaccinated people get a third booster shot of a Covid-19 vaccine for the strongest protection.

Hospital Concerns – 2

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MonAM

Hospitals in Arkansas, including the state's lone pediatric hospital, may be facing another surge in patients. On Arkansas PBS this week, Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Health, Dr. Jose Romero, said Covid-19 and the seasonal flu could impact young patients more this year than last.

News21 0:19 "...could be overwhelmed."

Reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show the Delta variant, which is still the dominant variant in Arkansas, triggered an increase in pediatric patients hospitalized with Covid-19. Researchers around the world are studying the Omicron variant to determine how contagious and deadly it is. Arkansas reported its first case linked the Omicron variant last week. Vaccines and mask-wearing continue to be recommended by the CDC as protection against the virus that causes Covid-19.