

12-28 Asa 1

DJB

12/28/21(WedAM)

Arkansas' Republican governor says he supports President Joe Biden's efforts to ramp up COVID-19 testing nationwide. Gov. Asa Hutchinson met with Biden on Monday along with several other governors to discuss challenges faced by states as coronavirus infections are once again rising. Speaking on MSNBC yesterday (Tues), Hutchinson said he applauds Biden's efforts to use federal resources to address shortages and delays in testing.

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"...get that supply."

The federal government plans to purchase and distribute over 500 million COVID-19 rapid tests, which the governor says could interfere with state's attempts to stockpile tests. Hutchinson also praised new guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention limiting the amount of time those who test positive need to quarantine.

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"...their economy forward."

The C-D-C on Monday shortened its quarantine guidelines for asymptomatic people from ten days to five. Officials also recommend unvaccinated people quarantine for only five days if exposed to the coronavirus.

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More than 24-hundred Arkansans tested positive for COVID-19 yesterday (Tues), the highest single-day uptick in new cases in nearly three months. The Department of Health reported cases rose by 2,414, while hospitalizations rose by 51 and deaths by 16. Speaking on MSNBC yesterday (Tues), Gov. Asa Hutchinson said the surge in cases is a stark reminder that the pandemic is not yet over.

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“...of total vaccination.”

Hutchinson also praised new guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reducing the quarantine time for asymptomatic COVID-19 patients from ten days to five. Hutchinson met on Monday with President Biden, thanking him for “de-politicizing” the public health crisis.