

New projections from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences suggest the state could be heading toward a third wave of coronavirus infections. KUAR's Daniel Breen explains.

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The latest report by the UAMS Fay Boozman College of Public Health predicts cases, hospitalizations and deaths related to COVID-19 are all expected to increase over the next few weeks. This comes as COVID-19 is once again on the rise in Arkansas, adding over 57-hundred cases and 86 deaths in the last week. The report forecasts over 11-thousand new cases of COVID-19 in the state by next week, and nearly 24-thousand cases by the end of the month. Hospitalizations and deaths are expected to rise toward the end of the month, which is typical of the lag-time seen following surges in new cases. The report predicts 54 new deaths and 430 new hospitalizations from the disease by the end of December. While much is still unknown about the new Omicron variant of the coronavirus, the report says the highly-contagious Delta variant continues to be the dominant force behind new infections in Arkansas. If the state is heading toward a third surge of the virus, the report states it will likely peak in February or early March. DJB KUAR News.