



Jacksonville | North Pulaski SCHOOL DISTRICT

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www.jnpsd.org

Building Futures: Every Scholar, Every Day

November 16, 2020

8:09 pm

JNPSD School Community:

Please continue to stay informed through all of our postings on JNP social media, JNP website, local media, and other communication outlets. All community updates, official documents, and other information posted since March 6 is available for your reference.

Governor's Press Conference (APSRC Report)

Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson hosted a press conference to announce the creation of a COVID-19 Winter Task Force to investigate, advise and make recommendations to the Governor regarding the state's hospital capacity and what the state can do to manage that capacity.

The Governor said he has asked the task force to focus on four key areas:

1. How to better coordinate the COVID caseload statewide,
2. How can the state assist in increasing staff resources,
3. What additional steps make sense in increasing compliance of the mask mandate, and
4. How can we reduce the high number of cases and reduce the burden on our hospitals.

Governor Hutchinson will chair the task force, and Arkansas Surgeon General Greg Bledsoe will serve as Vice Chair. Arkansas Department of Health Secretary Dr. José Romero will serve on the task force along with leaders from hospitals and medical associations from across the state.

Message from the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement

The Health Policy Board for the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement released a statement about the upcoming holidays. Our coronavirus caseload is climbing in Arkansas. We know how weary everyone is, especially our health care and education workers. It is a difficult time, and people are longing for holidays and better times. We

want to encourage everyone to stay the course and strive to prevent super spreader events during the holidays. While the holidays bring joy and thanksgiving, we have documented transmission events that occurred at family gatherings and celebratory events. The ACHI Health Policy Board offers the prevention strategies based upon logical application of the best available science. <https://achi.net/givethanksnotcovid/>.

The ACHI Health Policy Board strongly encourages families to forgo large family gatherings and to celebrate with household members, joining extended family by telephone, video, or other electronic means. We offered a more detailed plan on the website for larger gatherings.

It is a difficult season. Be smart, not afraid. Safeguard your loved ones and do not let Thanksgiving include COVID-19.

You can sign up for future updates here <https://achi.net/newsletter>.

ACHI Offers Strategies for COVID-19 Prevention at Thanksgiving

COVID-19 is being transmitted within all communities in the state at unprecedented and rising levels, resulting in record numbers of new infections, hospitalizations, and deaths. While the holidays bring joy and thanksgiving, we have documented transmission events that occurred at family gatherings and celebratory events. The ACHI Health Policy Board offers the following prevention strategies based upon logical application of the best available science.

The ACHI Health Policy Board strongly encourages families to forgo large family gatherings and to celebrate with household members, joining extended family by telephone, video, or other electronic means.

Keep in mind that Arkansans with the following conditions who contract COVID-19 have much higher rates of hospitalization, ICU admission, and death:

- immunocompromised (e.g. on chemotherapy, high dose steroids)
- kidney failure
- congestive heart failure
- diabetes
- dementia
- COPD

- mental illness
- asthma
- coronary heart disease
- obesity

In addition, pregnant women are at increased risk of hospitalization and death if infected. Individuals in nursing homes are at particular risk and should not be brought home for celebrations.

For families who do plan to bring different households together for Thanksgiving (or for other family gatherings), there are logical steps that should be taken to diminish the risk of transmission of COVID-19. The board strongly advises that the following steps be taken:

By this weekend (Saturday, Nov. 14), communicate with all family units that will congregate to discuss risk reduction and management strategies, commit to safeguard each other, and establish a plan. If agreement is not reached, consider not participating.

Starting this weekend (Saturday, Nov. 14), all anticipated attendees should modify their external exposures by eliminating unnecessary shopping, minimizing participation in gatherings and other social activities, and ceasing visits to bars, restaurants, and other places of exposure to the public.

Prior to travel and/or by Monday of Thanksgiving week (Nov. 23), seek a COVID-19 PCR molecular test to minimize the likelihood of unknowingly transmitting the virus while being asymptomatic. If you test positive, do not travel or attend.

On Thanksgiving, have a plan to reduce risk. Do these 10 things:

1. Limit groups to 10 or fewer, if possible.
2. Anyone with cold-like symptoms (fever, cough, headache, loss of taste) should not attend.
3. Safeguard individuals with the conditions noted in paragraph 3 above.
4. Gather and eat outdoors if weather permits. If gathering indoors, open windows (use a heater if necessary) and turn on vent hoods to increase ventilation.
5. Do not share serving utensils. Designate one person to serve the group while wearing a mask and gloves.

6. Limit the length of the event.
7. Maintain distance as much as possible and avoid close personal contact.
8. Wear masks when not eating/drinking.
9. Sanitize/wash hands frequently.
10. For those staying overnight, maximize outdoor time, maintain social distance, and wear masks throughout the visit.

Be smart, not afraid. Safeguard your loved ones and do not let Thanksgiving include COVID-19.

Current status of JNPSD: Positive COVID Cases and Quarantine

575 Staff – 3985 Scholars	Total to Date	Active
Staff Positive	31	5
Staff Quarantine	114	26
Scholar Positive	20	4
Scholar Quarantine	384	119

As new information becomes available from the state, you will be advised.

Thank you for supporting JNPSD.

Respectfully,



Bryan Duffie. Ed.D.
Superintendent