



Jacksonville | North Pulaski SCHOOL DISTRICT

1414 West Main St - Jacksonville, AR 72076

Ph: 501-241-2080 Fax: 501-241-2092

www.jnpsd.org

Building Futures: Every Scholar, Every Day

November 17, 2020

2:53 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)

The Governor announced the Winter COVID-19 Task Force has met and is continuing to meet in subcommittees. He expects to begin receiving recommendations on addressing hospital staffing shortages, coordinating statewide bed space, as well as ideas on slowing the spread later this week.

Governor Hutchinson will also join a conference call on Thursday with Vice President Joe Biden and his transition team to share information about what Arkansas is doing to combat COVID-19 and what the state needs as he prepares for January 20.

In a report released by the White House this week, the Governor cited "given a change in the slope in the last two weeks post Halloween, Arkansas is on the precipice of a rapid accelerating increase in cases which will be followed by new hospital admissions." Looking toward the holiday season, Governor Hutchinson added, "We have to be mindful that if Arkansas continues at the present pace over the last two days, there Arkansas will have an additional 1,000 Arkansans that will die as a result of COVID-19 between now and Christmas. That for anyone who wants to enjoy the cheer of Christmas is a cloud that hangs over us. That should inspire us to do well, to follow the guidelines, to do everything we can to break the trend."

Secretary Dr. José Romero, "For the first time in very poignant language, we are on the precipice of a significant and possibly an uncontrollable rise in cases. This is like a boulder rolling down a hill. There will come a time when we cannot stop it. It will continue to escalate and will eventually overwhelm our healthcare facilities. Now is the time to act. I cannot stress enough the importance of the three W's. I will say it again -

wear your mask, wash your hands and watch your distance. Again we're coming towards the holidays before Thanksgiving. Our elderly in nursing homes and congregate facilities are vulnerable. Bringing them to your home may be a detriment to their health. I really think that you need to consider this and consider postponing Thanksgiving with them to a later date. It is for their safety. I understand the situation, you want to be together, but it is a time to protect them and protect their lives."

Arkansas Department of Education Secretary Johnny Key reported there were 46 instances of onsite modifications the week of November 8 through 14. So far this week, there have been an additional 16 modifications bringing the total to 72 active onsite modifications, and 204 modifications that have been closed.

"We do acknowledge we are seeing a substantial increase in the number of modifications and this is not a surprise due to the increasing number of cases in the communities," Secretary Key said. "We expected this and we worked back in the summer with the Arkansas Department of Health to plan for it through our Ready for Learning Guidance and our Response Levels for Learning. Our school districts are doing an excellent job of consulting with the Department of Education and the Department of Health to understand their community and their in-school COVID-19 data and making operational decisions that are appropriate for our collective goal. That collective goal is to maximize the number of students for onsite instruction for the maximum amount of time this school year and do so in a way that emphasizes health and safety."

Current status of JNPSD: Positive COVID Cases and Quarantine

575 Staff – 3985 Scholars	Total to Date	Active
Staff Positive	31	5
Staff Quarantine	116	28
Scholar Positive	21	5
Scholar Quarantine	388	123

As new information becomes available, you will be advised.

Thank you for supporting JNPSD.

Respectfully,



Bryan Duffie, Ed.D.
Superintendent