



## Jacksonville | North Pulaski SCHOOL DISTRICT

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[www.jnpsd.org](http://www.jnpsd.org)

*Building Futures: Every Scholar, Every Day*

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December 15, 2020

3:49 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 Arkansas received its first shipment of COVID-19 vaccine at 8:10 am yesterday and had its first vaccination yesterday afternoon.

"The goal is to get healthcare workers, emergency responders, staff and residents of our long-term care facilities vaccinated as soon as possible. Then we'll move to additional priorities, then on to the general public; and everyone wants to know the answer to the question when will it get to me in terms of priorities? We know exactly where we are in terms of the first set of distribution, there will be more decisions made as to how this flows into the future until it gets to the entire public. This is a massive distribution effort. It's a lot of logistics. It worked well yesterday, but we have to make it work every day, well. We will get there," Governor Hutchinson said.

"Safety has never been compromised for these vaccines. In all three phases of the vaccine development, safety has been paramount and that has been echoed by the pharmaceutical companies, the FDA, and the CDC," Arkansas Department of Health Secretary Dr. José Romero, and chair of the Arkansas Vaccine Medical Advisory Committee.

Dr. Romero also encouraged Arkansans who have tested positive for COVID-19 to ask their doctor about treatment with monoclonal antibodies.

"These therapies have been proven effective in limiting the extent of disease in individuals who have been infected by COVID. Individuals that have been confirmed by either a PCR test or an antigen test should receive this therapy early if you have risk factors. This really is something that the public should know about and should take the place of any other non-proven recommendations for treatment, and getting treated early, not late, before the infection takes hold," Dr. Romero said.

Lastly, Dr. Romero stressed that the pandemic is not under control and encouraged Arkansans to reassess their holiday plans this year and follow CDC guidelines which include no non-essential travel, limiting gatherings to individuals you live with, or wearing a mask indoors if going over for a gathering at a friend or family member's home.

Arkansas Department of Education Secretary Johnny Key reported 35 schools made modifications to instruction last week. So far this week, there are 30 schools that have had to make modifications to instruction, 25 are due to winter weather in northern Arkansas and only 5 are COVID-related. Currently, there are a total of 48 schools that have some type of active modification to onsite instruction, and 343 schools have returned to normal onsite instruction.

The Governor announced the Arkansas TraumaComm system called COVIDComm is now online. The system will be centralized through the Arkansas Department of Health and will ensure that patients are transferred to the right hospital for the right level of care.

1. JNPSD COVID data updates are issued weekly. Please review this case data for our community and school district.
2. Reminder: Affected staff members, scholars, and parents of scholars are notified if they have been impacted by a positive COVID case and must quarantine according to the state directive. If you are not contacted, then you have not met the quarantine requirements.

As new information becomes available, you will be advised.

Thank you for supporting JNPSD during this critical time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan Duffie', written in a cursive style.

Bryan Duffie, Ed.D.  
Superintendent