



## 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 22, 2020

8:14 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, 2020 are available for your reference.

### **Governor's Press Conference (APSRC Report)**

The Governor reported that as of this morning 12,969 healthcare workers have been given the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine since it arrived a little over a week ago. Arkansas has received its vaccine allocation for next week which includes 23,400 doses of the Pfizer vaccine in addition to the 2nd doses for those who received the first dose, as well as 17,700 doses of the Moderna vaccine for long-term care residents.

Governor Hutchinson also announced the authorization of an alternative care site to be constructed and to have additional bed space in partnership with Baptist Health Systems which will provide a total of 124 new beds between Van Buren and Little Rock to be managed by the COVID-Comm system. The build-out is estimated to cost \$7.4 million, and the Governor hopes FEMA will cover 80 percent of the expense.

"This is important because even though it's going to take some time to build this out, we have to be ready for whatever comes in January. It is my hope that we will build this out and we will not have to utilize those beds for COVID patients, but it is prudent upon me as Governor to make sure we have that adequate space if the need arises," Governor Hutchinson said.

Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Deputy Commissioner Dr. Ivy Pfeffer reported ADE is trying to learn more about how the funding from the recently passed stimulus package will roll out to the states and to schools and how those funds are to be used to best meet the needs of students.

"We all realize we've had success this school year that we were all not really expecting to have and that's because of all of the efforts that have been put into place, but we know that there are a lot of things that schools are doing now that they've had to learn differently. I think the ongoing technology needs will have to continue to be prioritized. We want to make sure that school districts have access to testing as they need in order to continue to make good decisions about whether or not they are able to continue onsite learning or need to make pivots based on their staffing needs. We also know that they have done a lot of work with putting systems in place for contact tracing and that will continue as we return, but overall we feel very good about the success we've had. We feel very good about the partnership and the support that has been provided to schools and will continue to be provided," Dr. Pfeffer said.

1. JNPSD COVID data updates are issued weekly. Please review this case data for our community and school district. Since case numbers change each day, school status could change based on COVID cases and quarantines. Please know that schools may switch to virtual learning on short notice depending on the impact of cases and quarantines. We advise all parents to update contact information with your child's school.
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.
3. JNPSD schools, offices, and departments will reopen on January 4.
4. JNP is participating in voluntary staff COVID testing on school campus using the Binax rapid test. This testing is only for school staff members at this time. The testing kits are available through partnership with the Arkansas Department of Health and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

We hope you have a wonderful holiday with your family, and we look forward to seeing all of our scholars, staff, and parents on January 4, 2021.

Respectfully,

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

Bryan Duffie. Ed.D.  
Superintendent