



## 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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July 29, 2020

7:45 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 and other information posted since March 6 is available for your reference.

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

The Governor was asked if the state is planning to do testing for school outbreaks?

"In terms of our high schools, we are still developing some of those plans but it is important, and we're looking at whether those 200 antigen test machines should be utilized in some way to have a quick response on testing even in our high schools, particularly for our teachers," Governor Hutchinson said.

When asked how much of the information from the 14-day rolling average will the Governor rely on regarding closing schools, Governor Hutchinson responded, "It wouldn't be closing the school down. It would be changing from in-classroom to more virtual instruction. So, if that is necessary then that will be coordinated between the local school district and the Department of Health. So there's a lot of flexibility there. The reason this information on positivity and on the case spread in the community is so important is it helps to determine the level of response. It might be we might need to shift for one or two days so we can do some cleaning and then move back in to regular instruction, or it could be a more strenuous response because there is a greater spread. This helps to inform us on how to properly respond."

The Governor was asked if he believes the State's contact tracing and testing system is ready for opening up schools next month in case we start seeing outbreaks?

"Opening up school is more than three weeks away, so we are learning things every day. We are improving our infrastructure. We're improving our testing capability. You should probably ask me that question about a week out and our answer will be hopefully much different than what it might be today. ... I'm thankful to the General Assembly Legislative Council yesterday that approved about \$17 million in enhancing our contact tracing

capacity. We're also increasing our testing capacity within the state. So, as we get closer to school our infrastructure is improving on both those points," Governor Hutchinson said.

The question was raised whether ADH has enough staff to monitor local school districts at the granular level in order to keep tabs on whether a school needs to transition to virtual learning before an outbreak occurs.

ADH Director of Immunizations Jennifer Dillaha, filling in for ADH Interim Secretary Jose Romero, said, "The Arkansas Department of Health is working with the Department of Education who works with the school districts to do that kind of functioning. We are advising the Department of Education and those that deal with K through 12 to provide guidance and information. So those kinds of decisions would fall under the Department of Education."

1. **FREE IMMUNIZATIONS**: Parents can make an appointment with Baptist Health Community Outreach at 501-202-1540. The appointment dates available are Aug 8, Aug 10, Aug 13, Aug 15, and Aug 22.
2. The Arkansas Department of Health in cooperation with the Jacksonville Health Unit will be having a **FREE COVID testing** event on August 4 from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Jacksonville Community Center Farmers Market. For more information, please contact Patricia Henderson at 501-982-7477 or [Patricia.henderson@arkansas.gov](mailto:Patricia.henderson@arkansas.gov).
3. The following school reentry plans have been posted online through our website and social media outlets:

Titans Return to Learn School Reentry Playbook  
Titans Return to Learn Frequently Asked Questions  
Titans Return to Learn Roadmap to Reopening

These documents have been shared with local media as well. The Leader and Arkansas Democrat-Gazette have published articles detailing JNPSD's general plans for school reentry. Please stay tuned to phone, email, and media outlets for any updated information.

4. Stay tuned for information concerning open house dates and times. These sessions will be "virtual open house" events.

Thank you for your support of JNPSD during this crucial time for our community.

Respectfully,



Bryan Duffie. Ed.D.  
Superintendent