



Jacksonville | North Pulaski SCHOOL DISTRICT

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www.jnpsd.org

Building Futures: Every Scholar, Every Day

August 6, 2020

3:22 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)

Dr. Romero was asked what the rationale is for requiring schools to have an outbreak before shifting to remote instruction.

"I think we're fine to push forward with the plan to have onsite classes. We are monitoring this daily and weekly, and we will make a decision if the numbers rise significantly. We are hopeful that our use of the mask mandate that the Governor has put in place will drive this downward. It was originally stated we thought it would take about two weeks to do that, now the projections are that it will take another two weeks. So, in about two more weeks we should have a better idea. The idea of starting school and waiting for an outbreak really is that we want students in the classroom. We want to try to start school in a safe environment with the ability to test appropriately, and that's why we're deploying these rapid antigen tests across the state. I think at this time we are not going to change that. We're going to see whether there are significant outbreaks in schools. There will be cases sporadically in classes, because in some cases one of these children are going to acquire the disease from the community. So we have to watch this very carefully," Dr. Romero said.

When asked if ADH has a protocol for testing students when they return to school, DR. Romero said, "We are not planning to test children as they go to school. Testing will be based on symptoms and exposure if appropriate. There is no set program to test all students entering into the class."

1. The Arkansas Department of Education is partnering with UAMS, ADH, Arkansas Children's Hospital, the Republic of the Marshall Islands Consulate, the Arkansas Bilingual Bicultural Education Support Network and the Office of Coordinated Support

and Service. The call center will be open from 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday.
The number is 1-833-353-6050.

2. Please watch for school announcements about virtual open house events for each school and virtual school orientation.

We appreciate your support of our school community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Duffie", is centered below the text "Respectfully,".

Bryan Duffie. Ed.D.
Superintendent