



## 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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August 20, 2020

7:18 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.

# FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: AUGUST 24

## GOVERNOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (APSRC REPORT)

Governor Hutchinson thanked the efforts of ACHI, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) for their efforts to provide a breakdown of cumulative cases and active cases per 10,000 individuals living within a district catchment area. The district-level breakdown also provides trend line information as well as the level of testing for the county.

"We start next Monday in-classroom instruction. We're excited about it. Everybody is working hard for it. I know the Department of Education is working extraordinarily hard and we've partnered with ACHI, led by Dr. Joe Thompson, in terms of the data. Everybody wants more specific data broken down by the school district level," Governor Hutchinson said.

ACHI Executive Director Dr. Joe Thompson said ACHI has been able to provide pieces of information which is tiering the risk that are within the school district geographic areas themselves because many rural school districts pull from multiple communities. It's important to note this data does not include correctional or nursing home cases.

Dr. Thompson said, "This is not a triggering indicator for any active decision. It is a tiered risk indicator so that school districts can know 'am I in a school district that I am in a low-risk situation or am I in a school district that I am in a high-risk situation.'"

ACHI went back to the end of July, so there are at least four data points for each school district to provide a trend line over the month of August. When viewing the trend information, the rate per 10,000 is included for each data point unless than 10.

“We anticipate updating this on a weekly basis. So, we will add a new data point each week to allow for a monitoring mechanism for parents, for school district officials, for school personnel, for the state to know where to allocate resources and where we need to hold increased vigilance to break the spread of this tricky virus.” Dr. Thompson said.

Arkansas Department Education Secretary Johnny Key provided an update on PPE in school districts. He showed an example of the screening kit ADE is delivering to school districts all over the state. Secretary Key said 2,000 kits were ordered and that there are 1,055 school buildings, so each building will get at least one of these kits.

DESE also continues to provide support to those districts with supply chains issues by providing PPE from their strategic stockpile.

As a result of the new district-level data available on ACHI’s website, ADE has updated its Response Levels for On-site Learning Document to provide context to ACHI’s numbers.

“One thing that I want to make sure is clear. There is not a one-to-one transfer from this scale to the response levels. We have a green, yellow, and red. They have a similar scheme, but there are other data points that must be considered in addition to the data that Dr. Thompson and his team have released today,” Secretary Key said. “This is a refinement of things to consider for districts as they understand their local data and they understand this relative risk that is now being provided to them at the school district level of some of the things that they may need to consider when they look next week at their plans, as they bring students and staff onsite -- there may need to be some adjustments. This data along with what they learn next week can help them establish what those adjustments are according to the appropriate response levels. Some of the districts on the list this week may not have been on the list last week. There are things they can track to. Again it's within the area, but not necessarily a reflection of what is coming into the school buildings.”

“This is not a policy document. We are not saying that if you fall into one of these categories, you must do these things. Again, the local context always has to be in consideration, and as the Governor said, what this does is provide flexibility for school leaders and superintendents to make these decisions as to how to adjust their plans and how to adjust their onsite learning operations and make the modifications accordingly,” Secretary Key said.

When asked why high-risk districts could not be given the option to start virtually, Secretary Key said, “Because they have plans in place. We want them to see how those plans are going to work, and we want them to see, again, some of these that may be on the map as high risk, the local context may be different in that they are not high risk

when looking at all the data points. It is still a situation where we expect, and we have said all along, we expect onsite instruction to begin in August. That's what we are holding to, we are simply giving another set of tools for them to use to make adjustments as they move forward.”

The Governor was asked if every district has sufficient PPE.

“Yes. All the districts have received funds for the purchase of PPE. We've had our reservoir of \$1 million of PPE acquisition at the Department level to supplement the need. So if anybody is short, they can have that supplemented by the Department of Education. So there should not be any issues with PPE in any district,” Governor Hutchinson said.

The question was posed if school nurses being considered critical infrastructure workers could increase the potential of spreading the virus within schools.

“School nurses being healthcare professionals, we have worked with the health department to create a situation where they are being looked at as similar to healthcare professionals in other settings. So there is an added layer of protection for these professionals even though they are on a school site and not on a medical site. That's why school nurses have added layers. We have made sure we have added N-95 masks, so their PPE standards are higher. It's one of those things where if you have the school nurses that become unavailable, then that's a critical response of the medical side of things that happen at a school that would be missing, and school nurses are hard to find. It's the same treatment as other nurses in other medical settings are also subject to,” Secretary Key said.

“Nurses are considered essential healthcare personnel. There are exceptions where healthcare personnel, if there are critical shortages, can return to work under certain situations and certain screening. This will depend on what goes forward as to Secretary Key pointed out, they are in a different category. They are being given PPE that is appropriate for them, and we will guide the department of education regarding these individuals,” ADH Secretary José Romero said.

1. The Jacksonville Secondary School Virtual Academy (Grades 6-12) will offer a hotline for parents and scholars to contact for assistance. The details are as follows:

Monday – Thursday from 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm  
Email: [JaxVa2020@gmail.com](mailto:JaxVa2020@gmail.com)  
Phone: 662-771-6169

2. The Jacksonville Elementary School Virtual Academy (Grades K-5) has provided contact information to parents who enrolled children in the academy. Ms. Lorri Stinnett is coordinating the program. Her email is [lstinnett@jnpsd.org](mailto:lstinnett@jnpsd.org).

Teachers are available for additional calls from 4 pm – 6 pm each day. Teacher contact information is as follows:

|                       |              |               |                      |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Ms. Jacqueline Cook   | Kindergarten | (501)237-5778 | jcook@jnpsd.org      |
| Ms. Chrissy Christian | 1st Grade    | (785)566-6732 | cchristian@jnpsd.org |
| Ms. Raven Smith       | 2nd Grade    | (682)990-6184 | kismith@jnpsd.org    |
| Ms. Beth Younge       | 3rd Grade    | (682)990-4527 | ryounge@jnpsd.org    |
| Ms. Jennifer Simpson  | 4th Grade    | (501)613-7216 | jsimpson@jnpsd.org   |
| Ms. Jessica Hilbert   | 5th Grade    | (501)503-0860 | jhilbert@jnpsd.org   |

3. On-site classes will begin on August 24 as well as virtual school classes. Schools have sent announcements to parents concerning various activities.
4. A separate document detailing the COVID case data as prepared by the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement will be shared in conjunction with the JNPSD community updates. You can view the health data at [achi.net/covid19](http://achi.net/covid19).
5. JNPSD teachers, administrators, and support staff have been working since the closure period to plan for as many scenarios as possible for reopening school. All plans, community updates, ADH information, and other announcements have been posted since March 6 and throughout the closure period and the summer as follows:

JNPSD Website  
 JNPSD Social Media  
 The Leader newspaper  
 Arkansas Democrat-Gazette  
 Broadcast Media  
 Calls, emails, text messages using the JNP messaging system

Adjustments will be made as issues arise after school begins on August 24.

6. JNPSD is excited for our student athletes to begin their sports season for the 2020-2021 school year. The goal is not to just start but more importantly be able to finish their season and stay safe in the process. In order for this to happen, we will need everyone's assistance in following the Arkansas Department of Health directives that have been set forth.

#### **REQUIREMENTS AT ALL ATHLETIC VENUES:**

- \* Face coverings are required at all times. (Except to consume food or beverages)
- \* Seating will be restricted to every other row.
- \* Capacity will be limited to meet ADH requirements.
- \* Single-household family groups may sit together but 6 feet physical distance must be maintained from all other groups or individuals.
- \* All ticket sales will be advance ticket sales only. **There will be NO ticket sales at the front gate.**
- \* Arkansas Activities Association passes will only be honored.
- \* Please follow ALL marked signs.

\* There will be no admittance to the football field or courts following the conclusion of the game.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience while we work to provide a safe environment for our Titan Family. **Look for announcements soon about online ticket sales for games.**

#### 7. JHS Volleyball Game vs. LR Central Advance Ticket Sales Only

The 9th/JV and Varsity Lady Titan's will compete against LR Central on Monday, August 24th starting at 4:30 p.m. at Titan Arena.

All tickets are \$5.00.

#### **Volleyball Player Ticket Sales**

Parents/guardians of our JHS volleyball players will have the first opportunity to purchase up to four tickets. Parents will be required to show ID to purchase tickets. Those tickets can be purchased on Friday, August 21st from 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. at Titan Stadium and also on Saturday, August 22nd from 9:00 a.m.-11 a.m. at Titan Stadium.

#### **General Ticket Sales**

Ticket sales will be open to the public starting Monday, August 24 from 9:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. or until we reach our seating capacity per the Arkansas Department of Health. Fans may also purchase up to four tickets each. General Ticket Sales can be purchased at the High School Office. **A face covering is required to enter the high school.**

**There will be NO ticket sales at the front gate.** Once we reach our ticket sales limit, we will post an announcement on Jacksonville North Pulaski School District social media. (Facebook and Twitter)

Gates to Titan Arena will open at 4:00 p.m. for the 4:30 p.m. contest.

Please follow all safety guidelines attending events at Titan Arena.

#### 8. JHS Benefit Scrimmage Game: Advance Ticket Sales Only

The Varsity Titan's will scrimmage against Parkview in a benefit game on Tuesday, August 25 at 6:00 p.m. at Titan Stadium.

Per the Arkansas Activities Association tickets are \$4.00.

#### **Football Player Ticket Sales**

Parents/guardians of our JHS football players will have the first opportunity to purchase up to four tickets. Parents will be required to show ID to purchase tickets.

Those tickets can be purchased on Friday, August 21st from 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. at Titan Stadium and also on Saturday, August 22nd from 9:00 a.m-11 a.m. at Titan Stadium.

### **General Ticket Sales**

Ticket sales will be open to the public starting Monday, August 24th from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. or until we reach our stadium capacity per the Arkansas Department of Health. Fans may also purchase up to four tickets each. General Ticket Sales can be purchased at the High School Office. **A face covering is required to enter the high school.**

**There will be NO ticket sales at the front gate.** Once we reach our ticket sales limit, we will post an announcement on Jacksonville North Pulaski School District social media. (Facebook and Twitter)

Gates to Titan Stadium will open at 5:15 p.m. for the 6:00 p.m. benefit scrimmage game.

Please follow all safety guidelines attending events at Titan Stadium.

We appreciate your continuing support and understanding throughout the school reopening process.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan Duffie', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Bryan Duffie. Ed.D.  
Superintendent