



## 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 26, 2020

4:22 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)**

Arkansas Department of Health State (ADH) Epidemiologist Dr. Jennifer Dillaha recommended that Arkansans wear face masks that fit pretty closely to the face and consist of a minimum of two layers of material in order to reduce the puffs of air that can go through or around the mask. Dr. Dillaha said masks with valves are not effective because the valve focuses a stream of air and does not prevent respiratory droplets from making it outside the mask. If individuals choose to wear neck gaiters or bandannas, they should double-them up because the second layer of material will offer added protection.

Arkansas Department of Education Deputy Director Dr. Ivy Pfeffer provided an update on how DESE continues to provide leadership, support and service to districts across the state to help them make decisions, to help parents and communities feel confident in the decisions that are being made.

"We continue to see evidence of positive starts to school from districts all around the state. We are very thankful for that. We also realize they continue to deal with uncertainties and challenges," Dr. Pfeffer said.

DESE has created points of contact for every superintendent in the state with members of the agency's leadership team.

"So every superintendent has someone they can call, 24-7, in order to get questions answered. We as a team then coordinate directly with the Department of Health, and it not only helps us answer questions, it is also helping us to anticipate and to respond more timely when there are decisions that need to be made," Dr. Pfeffer said.

Dr. Pfeffer also reminded Arkansans of the resource call center available from 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. For English, call 1-833-353-6050. For Spanish, call 1-501-218-4015.

“To date, most of the calls have been from parents and grandparents. The calls have changed over the last couple of days. We’ve had a lot of questions about technology. Some have been about procedures in schools. Questions about schools opening or closing,” Dr. Pfeffer said.

The Governor announced that during tomorrow’s briefing information will be shared regarding school district COVID case statistics in terms of any positive cases in each district. This would be for any district that is over five cases. This will also be posted on the Department of Health website.

When the Governor was asked what the state has seen so far in regards to having to make modifications to their plans due to positive cases, he said, “A couple of them have had to respond to positive cases in their district. They have followed the guidelines, communicated with the Department of Education and the Department of Health. That’s gone as smoothly as it can go. It’s always disruptive, but they’ve handled it very well.”

1. When the school district is informed of a positive COVID case among scholars, teachers, or staff members, our school district point of contact communicates with ADH. ADH will give specific instructions, and the persons who are identified as close contacts are called and given instructions on what to do. If parents are not contacted, this means that your scholar is not impacted by any exposure.
2. Parents will be informed when decisions are made that impact schools through closure or other modified operations. There are no pending closures or modifications at this time.
3. ADH plans to release additional COVID data for school districts. This information will be shared with parents and our community once we have the data.

We appreciate your continuing support and understanding.

Respectfully,

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

Bryan Duffie. Ed.D.  
Superintendent