



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

CDC

COVID-19 Update, 10/19

October 16, 2020 | [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://www.arkmed.org/covid19)

Status Update as of 10/18 from ADH Website:

[View the ADH COVID-19 Dashboard here.](#)

- Total cumulative cases in Arkansas - 99,066
- New confirmed cases since 10/17- 529
- Active cases - 8,904
- Recovered patients - 84,175
- Deaths - 1,704
- Patients in the hospital - 572
- Patients on ventilators - 97

State Receives Rapid Antigen Tests

This week, Gov Asa Hutchinson announced that Arkansas has received 100,000 new rapid results COVID-19 antigen tests from the White House. This shipment was from the 900,000 Abbott BinaxNow antigen tests allocated for Arkansas.

The governor outlined how the state will distribute the first round of tests:

- 55 percent will go to Arkansas schools to screen their staff weekly.
- 20 percent will go to the Department of Corrections for visitors and residents with public-facing jobs.
- 20 percent will go to the Department of Human Services for staff at the Arkadelphia, Booneville, Conway, Jonesboro and Southeast development centers
- **The last 5 percent will be reserved for health care workers and “other populations” as needed.**

The Department of Health has access to more rapid results tests through a different brand, Hutchinson said. And the state will receive 50,000 more Abbott BinaxNow tests each week.

If you have questions about receiving rapid antigen tests, we recommend contacting your local health department offices.

Trump Administration Drives Telehealth Services in Medicaid and Medicare

On October 14, CMS expanded the list of telehealth services that Medicare Fee-for-Service will pay for during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). CMS is also providing additional support to state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) agencies in their efforts to expand access to telehealth.

For the first time using a new expedited process, CMS added 11 new services to the Medicare telehealth services list since the publication of the May 1 COVID-19 Interim Final Rule with comment period (IFC). Medicare will begin paying eligible practitioners who furnish these newly added telehealth services effective immediately and for the duration of the PHE. These new telehealth services include certain neurostimulator analysis and programming services, and cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services.

The list of these newly added services is available on the [List of Telehealth Services](#) webpage.

[Read more here.](#)

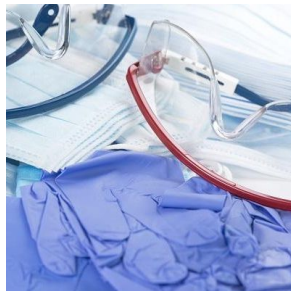
Update from the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement: School District Data Update; Importance of Flu Vaccinations

Twenty-six Arkansas school districts have had [50 or more new known COVID-19 infections](#) per 10,000 district residents over a 14-day period, up from 13 the week prior. "The doubling of the number of school districts in the red zone in one week is a cause for concern," says ACHI President and CEO Dr. Joe Thompson. "Most of the districts entering the red zone this week are in rural areas, which shows that COVID-19 is affecting all parts of the state." Rates of new known infections in school districts across the state, as well as counts of cumulative and new infections, are tracked on ACHI's [COVID-19 in Arkansas](#) web page.

In July, Arkansas Medicaid began [reimbursing healthcare providers for the administration of a flu vaccine](#), a move that may provide a greater incentive to clinicians to offer the vaccine at a critical time. Getting a flu shot during the COVID-19 pandemic reduces one's chances of coming down with the flu and COVID-19 at the same time and helps hospitals avoid becoming overwhelmed treating patients for both illnesses.

[Read more from ACHI here.](#)

PPE



View our information on personal protective equipment at [ARKMED.org/ppe](https://www.arkmed.org/ppe) or visit [arkansasready.com/ppe](https://www.arkansasready.com/ppe) for Arkansas PPE vendors.

Telemedicine



View the latest information from insurance carriers, HIPAA, and other sources on telemedicine during the COVID-19 crisis at [ARKMED.org/telemedicine](https://www.arkmed.org/telemedicine)

Financial Resources



We've compiled all of the financial resources that you may need for your clinic or practice during the COVID-19 crisis at <https://www.arkmed.org/financial-assistance-during-covid-19/>.

Join our COVID-19 Mailing List

Got Questions? Let Us Help.

The Arkansas Medical Society is here to serve our physician members and their medical teams. On our website, we have a place that you can send us questions or share what you're experiencing. Visit [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://www.arkmed.org/covid19) and click on the Got Questions box. We will respond to your question as soon as possible. Thank you for your hard work and together we will make it through this crisis.

For more AMS COVID-19 Resources, visit [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://www.arkmed.org/covid19).

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