

**REPORT OF THE
HOSPITAL AND MEDICAID STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

December 17, 2020

Senator Bledsoe and Representative Wardlaw, Co-Chairs:

The Hospital and Medicaid Study Subcommittee met on December 17, 2020, at 1:00 P.M. in Committee Room A. The Subcommittee discussed the following items:

1. Jennifer Dillaha, MD, State Epidemiologist, Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), discussed the recent surge in the number of Covid-19 cases in the state. She also discussed the arrival of the vaccine in Arkansas and the administration plan. The first groups to receive the vaccine are health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities.
2. Cam Patterson, MD, MBA, Chancellor, UAMS, provided testimony regarding UAMS' continued response to COVID-19 and emphasized the severe lack of ICU beds available.
3. Troy Wells, President and CEO, Baptist Health, discussed the shortage of ICU beds and nurses, as well as the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine.
4. Bo Ryall, President and CEO, Arkansas Hospital Care Association, provided testimony further emphasizing the increased numbers of COVID-19 related hospitalizations and shortage of ICU beds.

Respectfully submitted by Co-Chairs, Senator Eddie Cheatham and Representative Fredrick Love