

10.15.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

COVID:

- Day 229
- 4.84% infection rate in hotspot red zones
- Statewide infection rate without hotspots is 0.99%
- Statewide rate with hotspots is 1.09%
- 13 fatalities
- 897 hospitalizations, down 41 from yesterday
- 197 ICU patients
- 95 intubations

Infection Rate by Region:

- NYC: 1%
- Capital Region: 0.8%
- Finger Lakes: 1.3%
- Long Island: 1.1%
- Mid Hudson: 1.6%
- North Country: 0.5%
- Western NY: 1.6%
- Central NY: 1%
- Mohawk Valley: 0.5%
- Southern Tier: 1.1%

Future COVID Vaccine:

- Gov. stressed importance of looking ahead at a vaccine
- Discussed committee to review vaccine, citing distrust of White House
- Administering vaccine quickly and safely will be a challenge
- National Governors Association is sending letter today to President Trump requesting meeting to address vaccine distribution, administration process
- "monumental undertaking" that could be weeks away according to WH
- Gov. said federal coordination is required, states will not be able to implement on their own
- Gov. said they anticipate "anti-vaxxers" who will refuse COVID vaccine, will spur "ongoing, small flare-ups" of the virus

Ultra-Orthodox Communities & Enforcement:

- Gov. reiterated outbreaks coming from lack of compliance, enforcement
- "micro-clusters" are occurring due to spread from one-time events
- Gov. said majority of Ultra-Orthodox community is compliant, only a small number is resisting and has been since March

Schools:

- Local governments asked to do testing in yellow zones in schools, state will provide if needed
- 200,000 test kits being provided to NYC
- 131 positive test results yesterday from 111 schools
- 95 onsite cases
- 36 off site cases
- 672 public school districts are submitting data
- 38 positive cases in NYC, 31 onsite from 28 schools
- 2 schools show 2 or more student cases in Queens and Bronx
- 2 or more cases in NYC triggers a review according to NYC plan

Q&A:

- On Mayor de Blasio's comments that restrictions may be lifted in hotspot regions as of Sunday:
- Gov. said state will make that determination, it is not up to NYC

- Gov. added it is too early to tell, but he has been in touch with local governments, believes compliance will increase
- On an approximate timeframe for winter high schools sports:
 - Mujica stated this is currently being looked at, expects a determination in November
- On lawsuit alleging targeting of Orthodox Jewish communities:
 - Gov. said hotspots are determined based on geographic locations of known positive cases
- On whether non-state employees will receive a day off on Juneteenth:
 - Garvey said employers may or may not offer day off, state workforce will have a holiday
- Follow up on if state can afford an additional paid holiday right now:
 - Gov. stressed federal help is needed, and one holiday will not make a significant difference