

10.19.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

COVID:

- Day 233
- 3.3% infection rate in hotspot red zones
- 1.1% infection rate statewide without red zones
- 1.2% infection rate statewide including red zones
- 14 fatalities
- 934 hospitalizations
- 198 ICU patients
- 106 intubations
- Gov. noted hospital discharges and admissions both down over the weekend

Infection Rate by Region:

- NYC: 1.3%
- Capital Region: 1.1%
- Central NY: 1.1%
- Finger Lakes: 1.5%
- Long Island: 1.0%
- Mid Hudson: 1.4%
- Mohawk Valley: 0.3%
- North Country: 1.3%
- Southern Tier: 1.2%
- Western NY: 0.9%

Hotspots:

- Brooklyn: 5.2%, down from 5.8%
 - Queens: 2.3%, down from 3.3%
 - Rockland: 4.5%, down from 9.7%
 - Orange: 4.6%, down from 12.4%
- Gov. stressed NY has one of lowest infection rates in the country, citing other states' infection rates between 20-50%
- Micro-cluster approach targets specific regions, is a faster and more efficient way to control spread

Unemployment:

- Unemployment rate is currently 9.7%, down from 16%
- Gov. called this good news, but stated progress needs to continue

COVID Vaccine:

- Gov. discussed expectation of ongoing flare-ups throughout the Fall, but expecting vaccine sometime in Winter
- Gov. disagreed with Secretary Azar's comment that COVID will be over once a vaccine is developed
- Gov. called vaccine "only the beginning of the end"
- Gov. stressed the need to ensure vaccine is safe, and need for strategic administration of the vaccine
- Gov. stated vaccination will be significantly more difficult than implementation of testing was
- Citing federal failures, Gov. discussed states' struggles to respond to COVID, and asserted implementing a vaccine poses similar challenges
- National Governors Association sent 35 questions to President Trump on distribution and administration of vaccine

Q&A:

- On whether there are infection rate benchmarks to lift restrictions in red zones:
- Gov. said he spoke with community leaders last night, stressed restrictions are only determined by numbers

- Gov. reiterated only the state can dictate restrictions/reopenings
- A second set of target numbers are being worked out as well as guidelines
- Numbers have come down, especially in Queens, so zones can be adjusted as needed
- Gov. said on Wednesday, changes to the zones will be announced

- On details of prioritization zones in vaccination plan draft:
 - Gov. noted plan is preliminary, more information from federal government will be needed
 - Rhodes added prioritization is based on prevalence of COVID in a region, as well as high risk populations and essential workers
 - Within essential workers and high risk populations, plan includes different phases to determine priority

- On rising infection rates in border states:
 - Gov. cited difficulty in regulating traffic between NY, NJ, and CT
 - State is working with border states continually

- On law enforcement in Williamsburg, where large events are reported to occur:
 - Gov. said he spoke with community leaders, they said protests were not going to occur and they did not expect large volumes
 - State and city law enforcement will be ready for any events

- On what actions are being taken to reduce zones in Queens:
 - Gov. said as infection rates come down, zones can be reduced and adjusted based on data