

10.22.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

COVID:

- Day 236
- 135,000 tests conducted yesterday
- 986 hospitalizations
- 209 ICU patients
- 106 intubations
- Gov. said micro-clusters are being adjusted based on 14-day data
- Restrictions rearranged in Queens, Brooklyn, added in Steuben and Chemung
- Hotspot infection rate: 3.2%
- Statewide rate without hotspots: 0.96%
- Statewide rate with hotspots included: 1.2%
- Gov. noted only one state below 1%, Maine at 0.5%
- NY currently has second lowest infection rate in the nation

Infection Rate by Region:

- NYC: 1.1%
- Capital Region: 0.9%
- Central NY: 1.0%
- Finger Lakes: 1.4%
- Long Island: 1.0%
- Mid Hudson: 1.5%
- Mohawk Valley: 0.6%
- North Country: 0.5%
- Southern Tier: 1.5%
- Western NY: 1.5%
- Gov. noted uptick being seen along NY/PA border counties

Federal:

- Gov. noted early voting will begin in NY this Saturday, 10/24
- Secretary Azar reportedly considering firing FDA director Hahn, as Hahn is unwilling to accelerate approval of vaccine prior to election day
- Gov. called this "unethical", "abhorrent"
- Gov. opined Dr. Hahn should "remember his oath"
- There will be a statewide plan for vaccine administration, localities will be responsible pursuant to state plan
- Gov. reiterated governors need answers from federal government on vaccine to put a plan in place, but have received no response from President

Q&A:

- On an explanation for spike in Ozone Park, Queens:
 - Ozone Park was in yellow zone, spike likely caused by spread from red zone, no specific event has been determined to be the cause
- On fluctuation in hospitalizations in recent weeks:
 - Micro-clusters will result in fluctuations, especially where events with mass non-compliance occur
 - State can use data to ascertain exactly where hospitalizations are increasing
- On whether polling places in red zones will be closed:
 - Garvey said polling places will remain open
 - State published guidance through DOH prior to June primary
 - Encouraging early voting, can help reduce density on election day
 - Absentee ballots can still be utilized now
- On how long Rockland and Orange counties will be in red zones:
 - Restrictions will be in effect until data dictates otherwise

- Gov. reiterated lack of compliance led to spikes
- Gov. urged compliance and noted any establishment in violation will lose state funding