

10.30.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

COVID:

- Day 244
- 146,000 tests conducted yesterday
- micro-clusters at 2.7% positivity rate, down from 3.2%
- statewide positivity rate without micro-clusters included: 1.3%
- overall statewide rate including micro-clusters: 1.5%
- 7 day average with clusters included: 1.4%, third lowest in nation
- 12 fatalities
- 1,085 hospitalizations
- 243 ICU patients
- 116 intubations

Micro-clusters:

- State is working with schools in red and orange zones to find a way to reopen safely, have agreed on a protocol:
- Before reopening, all students and faculty will be tested, only those who test negative will be allowed in
- 25% of population will be tested every week after schools reopen
- Garvey added if more than 9 cases present in smaller schools, that school will close again
- If a school sampling more than 300 on a weekly basis, and positivity rate exceeds 2% in NYC, or 3% upstate, those schools will switch to remote learning
- State will provide rapid test kits for this
- These protocols continue while schools are in red or orange zones
- If a zone becomes yellow, 20% of population will be tested every week
- Once no longer in a yellow zone, surveillance testing will cease

Vaccine:

- Gov. had a call with White House Coronavirus Task Force today
- Dr. Birx requested governors to urge mask use
- White House program to administer vaccine is "deeply flawed", is a public private partnership, but main distribution would be private providers
- Gov. said this approach is too limited to be effective, this plan does not allow state to organize administration to cover volume of vaccinations needed
- Gov. said it could take a year to vaccinate the whole population using private sector only

Q&A:

- On allowing NYC restaurants to go to 50% indoor dining capacity:
- Gov. said data is still being looked at for this, but no decision yet

- On why CT and NJ rates are spiking at 6% when NY is level:
- Gov. said actions of NY residents is why rate is lower than CT or NJ

- On whether NYC BOE has handled early voting well despite criticisms:
- Gov. said he disagrees, NYC BOE was not well prepared
- Gov. said NYC BOE needed "radical change for many years"
- Gov. said he would work with NYC if they submit a proposal

- On what NY can do besides private distribution of a vaccine:
- Gov. said White House is "locked in" on this plan to fund only private sector providers
- Gov. said funding is needed for state to set up a supplemental network of distribution
- Gov. asserted Trump administration "learned nothing", will create same challenges as with testing