

### **11.13.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:**

#### COVID:

- Day 258
- 200,000 tests conducted yesterday, all-time high
- Statewide rate is 2.6% with hotspots included, down from 2.9%
- Statewide rate without hotspots included is 2.2%
- Rate in micro-clusters is 4.5%, down from 4.8%
- 24 fatalities
- 1,700 hospitalizations, up 60 from yesterday
- 331 in ICU
- 137 intubations

#### COVID Restrictions:

- Rockland will go from orange to yellow zone
- Gov. said he will speak with Governors of neighboring states this weekend to align policies, believes additional measures will need to be taken in addition to recent restrictions to restaurants, bars, & gyms

#### Q&A:

- On Mayor de Blasio's comments on closing schools on Monday:
  - Gov. said infection rate in schools is low
  - State has general parameters for schools: less than 5% to open, 9% requires closure
  - local districts were to specify their own parameters within these, NYC agreed on 3%
  - Mayor de Blasio is correct that 3% would trigger closure, but Gov. suggests schools remain open, saying schools "are not the problem" right now
- On long waits for testing in NYC:
  - Rhodes said over 1,200 test sites statewide, 425 in NYC
  - Rhodes said some sites may have delays, but many have open appointments daily
  - [coronavirus.health.ny.gov](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov) lists sites, residents can see where openings are near them
- On COVID in schools upstate and why yellow zone schools are required to conduct testing as opposed to "problem areas"
  - Gov. said yellow zone is considered a problem area, just to a lesser degree than red or orange zones
- On why de Blasio is being allowed to close NYC schools when Gov. has previously asserted it is within the state's jurisdiction to mandate school closures:
  - Gov said state overrides all localities on closures, however, schools could set their own parameters for closure
  - NYC's parameters are within compliance of state regulation, infection rates were based on geographic area, not the infection rate within the school district
- Gov. ended the call by indicating he may hold another call on Sunday