

11.23.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

COVID:

- Day 268
- 2,724 hospitalizations
- Gov. noted hospitalizations went from 1,227 to 2,724 over three weeks
- Gov. cautioned at this rate, in another three weeks, hospitalizations will reach 6,000
- 4.4% rate in micro-clusters
- 2.7% statewide rate without micro-clusters
- 3.8% statewide rate with micro-clusters
- 191,489 tests conducted
- 33 fatalities
- 545 ICU patients
- 249 intubations

Micro-clusters:

- Upper Manhattan will be designated as a yellow zone
- Staten island will be designated a yellow zone, parts will be orange
- Staten island has hospital capacity issues, hospitals have reached out saying they're in need of emergency beds
- Gov. announced an emergency COVID facility will be set up in South Beach
- Long Island, Hampton Bay will be yellow zones, Suffolk, Great Neck, Massapequa are yellow zones
- Parts of Syracuse will be designated orange zones
- Monroe, Rochester will be designated as orange zones

Gov. said the following regions are on the "warning track:"

- Parts of Erie could become red zone
- Parts of Westchester could become orange, others red
- Orange county could become orange zone
- Putnam, Ontario counties could become yellow zone

Other Announcements:

- Gov. stated cashless tolling is now completed
- Gov. announced the opening of a new road today connecting RFK Bridge with Harlem River Drive

Q&A:

- On Staten Island hospital facility:
 - Rhodes said this is near Staten Island University Hospital, was opened in Spring as emergency temporary hospital
- On whether Gov. discussed congestion pricing approval with President-Elect Biden:
 - Gov. said he has not, many other DOT issues need to be addressed as well
- On where the state, NYC, Staten Island stand now as far as preparedness:
 - Gov. said state "has learned its lesson", has PPE, supplies, hospital capacity, staff needed
 - Gov. added he does not anticipate the same crisis experienced in the spring, but the numbers are concerning
- On how schools can "test out" to reopen in NYC:
 - On 5th day after closing and after sanitation, whole population needs to be tested, then 25% of student population needs to be tested once a week thereafter
 - Gov. reiterated this occurs at 3% positivity rate, and is mandated by the state at that point
- On upstate law enforcement who refuse to enforce 10-person restriction on gatherings:
 - Gov. said law enforcement does not have the right to choose which laws to enforce
- On Gov.'s comments on his International Emmy:
 - Gov. said he is "flattered by it", credited others on his team

- On what would occur if a federal stimulus does not include aid for state and local governments:
 - Gov. said tax increases, cuts, layoffs, borrowing would have to be considered, and would still not solve the problem
- On how vaccine will be prioritized:
 - Gov. said it depends on how many doses will be available and how quickly, but first priority is senior citizens and immuno-suppressed
- On in-person events for Mayoral candidates:
 - Gov. said candidates should be following the law, setting a good example
- On long lines for COVID tests in NYC:
 - Gov. said many of the 420 testing sites in the state do not have wait times
- On Senate Dems' super majority:
 - Gov. said state government works through the budget, "super majority or not, doesn't make a really difference"
 - Gov. said he cant think of situation where every Dem would all disagree with him
 - De Rosa called it "great news", said Cuomo admin helped to get many Dems elected
- On whether teachers are considered essential workers:
 - Gov. said they fulfilled their governmental obligation when asked to
 - De Rosa added many went above and beyond to continue educating through remote learning