

11.2.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

COVID:

- Day 247
- Micro-cluster positivity rate: 3.5%
- Statewide positivity rate without micro-clusters: 1.4%
- Statewide rate with micro-clusters included: 1.7%
- NY still the third lowest rate in the nation
- 14 fatalities
- 1,151 hospitalizations
- 276 ICU patients
- 116 intubations
- Gov. said NY should be "on high alert" due to increased spread

Vaccine:

- Vaccination program will be "greatest operational task government has undertaken during COVID-19"
- Gov. discussed incompetence of federal government and inadequacy of proposed vaccination program
- 660 million vaccinations would be needed, private sector cannot handle this capacity alone
- Gov. stated black and brown communities would be disadvantaged by this method as well
- Gov. said federal government issued data share agreement requiring states to share patient info with feds in order for states to receive vaccine
- Gov. said patient information required is name, address, DOB, ethnicity, sex, and ID number, which typically is driver's license, social security number, or passport number
- Patient info will be used by CDC, HHS, and "other federal partners"
- Gov. asserted this is another avenue of pursuit against undocumented, another example of Trump admin. trying to extort NY
- Gov. "no legitimate health reason" to supply this information, so he will not be doing it
- Gov. is sending letter to Redfield, Azar, Trump, requesting explanation on why an ID number is required, what other partners will have access to it, how privacy will be protected

Q&A:

- On what the state is doing to prepare for potential protests after the election:
 - Gov. said peaceful protest is allowed, criminal behavior is not
 - Gov.: "let's wait for the election results"
- On what enforcement/guidance state has for Thanksgiving, Black Friday:
 - State is considering extra guidance, but none available yet
 - Gov. said travel is discouraged, but not prohibited
- On whether any update on allowing fans at Buffalo Bills games:
 - Gov. said they are still reviewing this, working with NFL
 - Infection rate already a concern in Western NY
- On new travel policy and how state will monitor negative tests:
 - When arriving at airport, negative test is entered into CommCare system, which is monitored by local DOH, subsequent test on Day 4 is reported to NYS DOH