

11.6.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

COVID:

- Day 251
- 3.16% positivity rate in micro-clusters
- 1.8% positivity rate statewide without clusters included
- 1.9% statewide rate with micro-clusters included

Micro-clusters:

- Queens: Red zone in Rockaway will be removed today
- Kew Garden in Queens will remain unchanged
- Brooklyn: Red and yellow zones will be reduced by 50% today
- Long Island remains flat
- Mohawk Valley is flat
- Southern Tier is making progress, Broome is down from where it was
- North Country is flat
- Westchester is flat except for Port Chester on CT border, which will be a yellow zone, Gov. said he is working with County Exec Latimer
- Western NY is still a problem, went from 1.5% to 2.8%, Erie County is highest rate in NY at 3.1%
- Finger Lakes: Monroe County is a problem, went from 1.7% to 2.6%
- Central NY is also a problem, going from 1.1% to 2.2%
- Rockland County will be reduced from red zone to orange zone
- Orange County will be reduced from orange zone to yellow zone
- Gov. noted that these areas are still lower than other states, but are high for NY
- Dr. Zucker said given increase in Erie County, it's "reckless" to open Bills stadium to spectators at this time
- State will design micro-cluster strategy for Western and Central NY, will be tailored to each region, Gov. will announce specifics Monday

Travel Advisory:

- Enforcement will increase at NY airports to ensure proof of negative test being supplied upon passengers landing
- National Guard being deployed, NYPD will also be utilized

Colleges:

- Exit testing will be conducted at SUNY campuses, every student will be tested prior to leaving for Thanksgiving break
- Return from Thanksgiving break will be canceled, remote learning will be utilized for remainder of the semester
- Gov. urged private colleges to review SUNY's policies and announce their own plans

Comments on NY Times Stories:

- Gov. referenced story in NYT on NYPD blog, calling it "disturbing"
- Gov. said blog has been in existence 20 years, and is "disgusting, discriminatory, and vile"
- NYPD said they will investigate further, but blog has since been taken down
- Gov. asserted greater action is needed, as there are "hundreds of contributors" to the blog
- Gov. called for internet company to be subpoenaed today
- Gov. called on investigative journalists to look into the blog, said some identifying information from officers had been supplied there
- On McKinley/Rubenstein story asserting Gov. made de Blasio a scapegoat:
- Gov. said in NY elections, as compared to NJ and CT, senate and assembly elections should not have been as close as they were
- Gov. said republican message in NY was that democrats were anti-law order, and footage of protests and looting contributed to perpetuating this

Q&A:

- On Monroe County officials not issuing citations for mask mandate violations, conducting education instead:
- Gov. said he has been urging increased enforcement from local governments for months

- On airport passengers being required to supply negative tests:
- Gov. said this is a common requirement now, passengers should be aware
- Gov. said there is a nationwide communication system through which test results can be looked up and verified if passengers do not supply tests

- On whether Gov. has any control over which reporters are allowed to ask questions during these conference calls:
- Gov. said he has "no idea" how reporters are chosen for questions

- On Gov.'s opinion on election returns so far:
- Gov. said President's behavior is "predictable", "absurd"
- Gov. said election is "not even close", said Biden won by millions on popular vote, has won GA and PA
- Gov. added COVID was a "clear failure of leadership" of President, hurt his chances in the election