

11.9.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

COVID:

- Day 254
- Micro-cluster positivity rate is 4.3%
- Statewide rate with micro-clusters: 2.8%
- Statewide rate without micro-clusters: 2.6%
- 26 fatalities
- 1,400 hospitalizations
- 282 ICU patients
- 125 intubations
- Gov. said he expected infection rates to continue to go up through the Winter
- Gov. stressed importance of administering vaccine quickly and efficiently
- Gov. said micro-cluster approach is effective, citing following counties as evidence:
 - Broome: reduced from 8% to 3.5%
 - Orange: reduced from 12% to 2%
 - Rockland: reduced from 9% to 3%
- Progress in Brooklyn has continued, will be reduced from a red zone to an orange zone
- Gov. again urged local governments to improve enforcement

New micro-cluster zones:

- Parts of Erie, Monroe, Onondaga will be designated as yellow zones
- Certain restrictions in yellow zones: 25% max capacity indoors, 4 people max for dining, schools testing 20% of students, bars and restaurants close at midnight

Vaccine:

- Reported 90% efficacy for Pfizer drug is "great news"
- Feds say vaccine will ship in matter of days
- States will be able to distribute it, but Gov. still has questions about distribution methodology
- Gov. said infrastructure "is not there" in certain communities, the state is working on solutions

Q&A:

- On whether Staten Island will become a micro cluster, specifically Tottenville, which is at 6.6% positivity rate
- Gov. said data sample needs to be representative, and state is watching the numbers across the state
- Micro-clusters will be designated as necessary, but no action at this time for Staten Island
- On enforcement in NYC, possibility of wider restrictions:
 - Gov. said local officials are consulted, data is reviewed, and zones are developed from there
 - Gov. reiterated spikes were expected in the fall, noted NY's hotspots are still lower than rates in other states
- On new boundaries for yellow zones, and if testing will be made available for those zones
 - Gov. said maps were developed with counties, will be released today
 - Testing will be available for schools and other facilities
- On whether winter high school sports are being considered:
 - Mujica: state will continue to review numbers, but with numbers increasing, winter sports are not likely to be allowed
 - Mujica added outdoor sports, such as skiing, have been allowed and guidance was provided