

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

### COVID:

- Day 297
- 164,000 tests
- 5.5% statewide rate without micro-clusters
- 5.8% statewide rate with micro-clusters
- 6.8% rate in micro-clusters
- 5.4% rate on 7 day average
- 139 deaths
- 6,661 hospitalizations
- Gov. said admissions are flat, but discharges are lower
- ICU patients are up 31
- Intubations up 1

### Positivity Rate by Region:

- Mohawk Valley: 8.5%
- Finger Lakes: 8.3%
- Central NY: 6.9%
- Capital Region: 6.5%
- Long Island: 6.5%
- Western NY: 6.4%
- Mid Hudson: 6.2%
- North Country: 5.2%
- NYC: 4.3%
- Southern Tier: 2.4%
- Bronx: 5.03%
- Brooklyn: 4.4%
- Manhattan: 2.75%
- Queens: 4.9%
- Staten Island: 5.5%

### UK COVID Strain:

- Gov. said there are hundreds of strains of the virus so far, but one mutation can be deadly
- Gov. said he did not endorse banning flights from the UK, but said testing should be required of travelers from any country
- Gov. said Dr. Fauci agrees testing should be required, and Fauci believes new strain is already in the U.S.
- State is contacting hospitals statewide to test specifically for the new strain

### Vaccine:

- 50,000 vaccinations completed in the state so far
- 630,000 total dosages received
- Expecting 300,000 additional doses by the end of next week
- Gov. said he is requesting vaccinations continue through the holidays

### Bills:

- Gov. said he is discussing protocols with Bills and other teams
- DOH looking at experimental model to see if fans can be allowed safely

### Q&A:

- On hospital discharges being down:
- Gov. said length of stay, rate of deaths, intubations are down
- Gov. said he believes discharges being down are an anomaly

- Gov. said hospital capacity is reported and reviewed every night, he is confident in hospital capacity, no hospital has reported being near capacity

- On Republican Party in Queens indoor, no masks:

- Gov. said he saw the video, called it "not smart"

- On test for UK COVID strain, and how state will respond if it is detected:

- Gov. said test is complex, but higher-capacity labs can perform it

- Any hospital lab that can perform the test, state will provide reagents needed to do so

- If new strain is found, they will find out where it is and begin contact tracing, isolation immediately

- On Gov.'s conversations with federal government on testing travelers from UK:

- Gov. agreed there are flights into other states from UK

- Gov. said he has spoken with the federal government, called NY's approach "simple to replicate", called it "gross negligence" for feds to not take this step

- On whether every test will include new variant, will this slow down testing:

- Gov. said it is not expected to slow down testing turnaround

- Gov. said it depends on labs' testing capacity whether new strain will be tested for

- DOH is discussing with upstate hospitals today

- Downstate tests are already doing so, 4,000 tests for new strain completed so far