

12.23.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

COVID:

- Day 298
- Statewide rate without micro-clusters: 5.37%
- Statewide rate with micro-clusters: 5.8%
- Micro-cluster rate: 7.09%
- 200,000 tests conducted
- 164 deaths
- 6,864 hospitalizations, up 203
- 1,008 new hospital admissions
- 1,166 ICU patients, up 40
- 633 intubations, up 19

Hospitalizations by Region:

- Finger Lakes: 816 (0.07%)
- Western NY: 484 (0.04%)
- Southern Tier: 171 (0.03%)
- Mid Hudson: 796 (0.03%)
- Central NY: 433 (0.06%)
- NYC: 2,337 (0.03%)
- Long Island: 1,167 (0.04%)
- Mohawk Valley: 211, (0.04%)
- North Country: 69 (0.02%)
- Capital Region: 380 (0.04%)

Positivity by Region:

- Finger Lakes: 8.48%
- Western NY: 6.39%
- Southern Tier: 2.59%
- Mid-Hudson: 6.31%
- Central NY: 6.44%
- NYC: 4.28%
- Long Island: 6.41%
- Mohawk Valley: 8.55%
- North Country: 5.30%
- Capital Region: 6.98%
- Manhattan: 2.67%
- Staten Island: 5.51%
- Brooklyn: 4.44%
- Bronx: 5.07%
- Queens: 4.95%

New COVID Strain:

- Gov. reiterated UK strain is believed to be more dangerous
- Gov. criticized the federal government's lack of response in limiting travel from the UK
- Gov. called it "reprehensible" that the CDC, HHS have not responded
- Hospitals can send positive samples to Wadsworth Center to test for new strain

Vaccinations:

- 89,000 vaccinations in NY so far
- 22,000 vaccines administered in nursing home program so far
- Moderna vaccine vials hold 11 doses, instead of the 10 doses that were expected

2020-2021 State of the State:

- Gov. said balancing staying open, reopening safely will be the focus
- Vaccinations combined with testing will be used to determine safety
- Gov. reiterated vaccination process will take several months to be effective
- DOH is examining if rapid testing will allow for the reopening of venues
- DOH is considering whether rapid testing would allow for fans to attend a Buffalo Bills playoff game, with contact tracing afterward
- Dr. Zucker said this model has not been used before
- 6,700 people would be tested and allowed in if they test negative
- Dr. Zucker said parties surrounding the game are a concern
- Bills have submitted a plan to the state which would allow for control of fans coming in and out of the stadium, masks and social distancing will be required, ushers in every section

Q&A:

- On whether Gov. will extend rent eviction moratorium:
 - DeRosa said it is in place through Sunday, they will continue to extend residential and commercial eviction moratoriums
- On whether the plan for Bills games is still in review or is completed:
 - Gov. said it is still being developed, DOH is working with the Bills
 - DOH is concerned about unforeseen events which could contribute to viral spread
- On how future events could be impacted by Bills playoff game:
 - Gov. said the state is looking at how to keep the economy open utilizing testing, vaccine as tools
 - Gov. said he will address this further in the State of the State
- On census data indicating significant decline in NY:
 - Gov. said NY was unique in experiencing the pandemic, but was adversely affected by the idea that the virus was specific to NY
- On an update on a racial disparities study announced in April
 - Maltras said UAlbany is analyzing data, the first installment is almost completed, but the study is ongoing