

1.12.21 - Governor Cuomo's Conference Call and State of the State Part 2

Notes from Governor Cuomo's Conference Call:

- Gov says that during his second state of the state presentation, he will discuss accelerating the return of arts to cities and the viability of cities when you reduce benefits and increase burdens (homelessness, taxes, crime)
 - Tomorrow he will discuss the green economy
 - Next day: the largest public sector construction plan the state has ever undertaken

COVID-19 General:

Day 318

- Statewide positivity rate without micro-clusters: 7.6%
- Statewide rate with micro-clusters: 7.7%
- Micro-cluster rate: 8%
- 196,000 tests conducted
- 164 deaths
- 8,926 hospitalizations, up 281
- 1,492 ICU patients, up 66
- 909 intubations, up 18
- Overall, numbers have flattened over the past two weeks, following the holiday spike

Hospitalizations by Region:

Finger Lakes: .07

Mohawk Valley: .07

Capital Region: .05

Long Island: .06

- "Everyone else: .04%/.05%"

- Western NY
- Southern Tier
- Mid Hudson
- NYC
- Central NY
- North Country

Vaccine:

- CDC: states should open up vaccines to people 65 years+ and immunocompromised individuals
 - This would include about 7 million New Yorkers
- Gov: UK strain could overwhelm the hospital system
 - Staff shortages are a huge concern
- NY will continue to focus vaccines on frontline health care workers to avoid overwhelming hospitals

Q&A:

- On vaccines and health care workers, why did Gov. change his mind and move to phase 1B?
- Gov: there are competing priorities but hospital worker shortages would hurt everyone

- Will NY receive an increased amount of vaccine doses per week from the federal government?
- Gov: we get 300,000 doses per week, there is no indication that this will change

- Does the federal government have a huge storage or is this a production issue?
- Gov says the production and the federal government's purchasing power determines vaccine availability
 - The federal government's practice of stockpiling vaccines is also limiting NY's access to vaccines

- What will the Gov do to address vaccines going to waste (due to strict regulations)

- Gov: there will not be vaccines going to waste
- DeRosa: there are mandatory standby lists to prevent waste
 - 65+ patients can register for vaccines immediately

Notes from the Governor's State of the State Address (#2):

Reopening and Rebuilding the Economy:

- Rapid testing pilot model at NFL games has been successful
- Gov: local real estate communities will open new rapid testing sites
- The state will partner with property owners to open office buildings with testing for all tenants
- Gov will launch a Commission on the Future of the US Economy
- This will draw a roadmap for New Yorkers to find jobs
- Gov: why not convert empty commercial space to affordable housing
- This could create more jobs, make cities more diverse
- Jobs of the Future Program
- Large employers will report on new partnerships and new jobs
- The goal is to triple the number of employers
- Expansion of the SUNY training system

Arts:

- Gov. Cuomo highlighted the struggles that artists have faced during the pandemic
- Gov announced the launch of NY Arts Revival
- Pop-up performances beginning February 4th
- Participants will include comedians, actors, arts organizations, and orchestras
- Performances will be held on state properties, flexible venues, and parks
- Two landmark events:
 - Opening of Little Island at Pier 55
 - 20th anniversary of the Tribeca Film Festival
- The state will launch the Creative Rebuild Initiative to put artists back to work and fund community arts groups

Broadband:

- Gov stressed the importance of making broadband both accessible and affordable
- Gov proposed \$15 per month internet to help low income households
- NY will establish a fund for families that cannot afford \$15 per month for internet