

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

#### COVID:

- Day 311
- Statewide positivity rate without micro-clusters: 8.2%
- Statewide rate with micro-clusters: 8.3%
- Micro-cluster rate: 8.8%
- 152,402 tests conducted
- 149 fatalities
- 8,590 hospitalizations, up 339
- 1,392 ICU patients, up 35
- 851 intubations, up 8

#### Hospitalizations by Region:

- Finger Lakes: 929 (0.08%)
- Western NY: 546 (0.04%)
- Southern Tier: 22 (0.04%)
- Mid Hudson: 986 (0.04%)
- Central NY: 397 (0.05%)
- Mohawk Valley: 309 (0.06%)
- NYC: 3,055 (0.04%)
- Long Island: 1,577 (0.06%)
- Capital Region: 476 (0.04%)
- North Country: 87 (0.02%)

#### Positivity Rate by Region:

- Finger Lakes: 10.32%
- Western NY: 8.61%
- Southern Tier: 5.41%
- Mid Hudson: 8.33%
- Central NY: 9.13%
- Mohawk Valley: 10.70%
- NYC: 6.38%
- Long Island: 9.61%
- Capital Region: 10.12%
- North Country: 9.19%
- Manhattan: 3.74%
- Staten Island: 7.85%
- Brooklyn: 6.25%
- Queens: 7.28%
- Bronx: 7.82%

#### Vaccine:

- Gov. explained federal government controls supply of vaccine
- NYS has been receiving about 300,000 doses per week, approximately 1.2 million per month
- Gov. urged federal government to approve AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, and increase supply from Pfizer and Moderna to speed up vaccination process
- On distribution, the state is mostly in control, except for nursing home program, which is federally-run, but state will be supplementing this program
- Gov. reiterated hospitals need to utilize their allocations more quickly
- 900,000 vaccines have been distributed so far to healthcare workers
- After healthcare workers are vaccinated, essential workers and general public over 75 years of age will be priority, which is about 2.5 million people
- For the general public, vaccine will go through retail network of pharmacies, federally-qualified health centers, county DOHs, urgent care clinics, private physicians

- 3,762 provider sites are enrolled statewide so far, 636 already have the vaccine and are administering to healthcare workers
- State is asking police departments, fire departments, transit workers to utilize their own medical teams to vaccinate their workers if possible
- Gov. stated this would lessen the burden on the retail network
- Other sites will include Javits Center, churches, SUNY/CUNY facilities for drive-thrus

#### UK COVID Strain:

- Gov. urged anyone who may have been in contact with case in Saratoga to contact NYS DOH
- Gov. criticized the federal government's refusal to test all international travelers prior to entering the country

#### Q&A:

##### On whether the state will require hospitals post vaccination numbers online:

- Gov. said the state released yesterday ten hospitals that are using their allocation most quickly, and ten utilizing it most slowly, based on DOH data
- Gov. said the state will continue to provide this information

##### On what is causing lag in vaccinations for hospitals:

- Gov. denied that hospitals were given too many allocations, citing that doses are available for only half of healthcare workers so far
- Gov. stated some hospitals are simply operating better than others

##### On the potential legal ramifications of fining hospitals, and whether fining public hospitals will only further burden the state:

- Gov. responded the goal is to improve the vaccination rate
- Gov. stated that going forward, those hospitals that perform better will be receiving more allocations from the state

##### On whether additional cases of UK strain have been found related to case in Saratoga:

- Dr. Zucker said DOH has been contact tracing these cases
- The test for this strain takes 44 hours, has not been completed yet for additional samples

##### On whether retail sites will have sufficient staff, when they will open, and how residents will sign up:

- Gov. said the state is still focusing on healthcare workers currently, will be weeks before this tier is completed
- Gov. raised concerns over healthcare staff refusing to take the vaccine, stating that 25% refusal is expected and acceptable to reach critical mass
- Gov. said he is asking essential workers to utilize their own networks in order to avoid burdening the retail network once it is available to the general public

##### On whether the state can mandate healthcare workers receive vaccine:

- Gov. said he does not believe it has come to the point of mandating the vaccine, but there is a legal question as to whether this can be done under a federal emergency use authorization, which this vaccine has