

1.7.21 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

Federal:

- Gov. discussed yesterday's events at the U.S. Capitol, stating they were the result of Trump's rhetoric over the last four years
- Gov. called it a "universal disgrace for all Americans"

New COVID Strain:

- Gov. has discussed vaccine with local governments, they are concerned about the new strain, hospital capacity
- Gov. said although only one case confirmed in NY, it is expected there are already many more undetected
- Staff shortage is now the priority concern for hospitals

Vaccinations:

- Some hospitals still lagging in vaccine administration, many have improved over the last week
- Any hospital that has reached its refusal rate needs to reallocate its supply
- Essential workers and general public over 75 years of age are the next populations to be vaccinated
- Gov. told local officials today to ask essential workers who can self-administer to do so
- Some local governments have asked to prioritize police, Gov. stated this will not be allowed and local governments cannot prioritize one population over others
- A reallocation plan will be announced tomorrow to expedite vaccination of healthcare workers

Q&A:

On the total number of vaccinations to date in NYS:

- 430,000

On how complicated reallocating the vaccine is, and why the state is taking this step:

- Gov. said reallocation plan will be announced tomorrow, and no hospital has reached its refusal rate
- Gov. said healthcare workers are contacting his office upset that they have not received the vaccine
- Gov. clarified that reallocating does not necessarily mean shipping from one hospital to another
- DeRosa added that healthcare workers include those outside of hospitals, as well

On Long Island reaching almost 4,000 cases in a day:

- Gov. said the numbers have been continuing to increase daily since the start of the holidays

On the closure of three state prisons, whether Gov. is reconsidering:

- Mujica said prison closures are due to declining prison population
- This was passed in the budget passed in April, plan was to begin at the end of the year, but the closures will take place by March 31, 2021
- Mujica added there will be no layoffs, staff will be offered positions at other facilities

Whether local health departments should play a larger role in vaccine distribution:

- Gov. said local departments of health will be part of the vaccination network for the next tier
- Local health departments are working with local hospitals currently

Whether the Gov. thinks that 430,000 vaccinations is acceptable so far:

- Gov. said hospitals made sense as distributors since healthcare workers are top priority
- Gov. said next tier will be different, particularly if essential workers can self-administer, vaccination rate will be higher
- Gov. said the challenge will be the general public over 75 years, as this encompasses 3 million people
- Gov. would like to see nursing home residents and staff wrapped up next week

On what the parameters are to move to next vaccination tier:

- Gov. said state has 900,000 doses for 2 million healthcare workers
- After a few weeks of allocations, if 1.5 million workers are vaccinated, that would be acceptable
- Gov. said opening up the next tier too early would only lead to longer wait times

On Gov.'s opinion on President Trump, events yesterday:

- Gov. said a statement should be made condemning events at the Capitol
- Gov. said if he were a cabinet member, he would support the President being removed "for the history books"

- On Erie County orange zones, and whether these will become red zones based on current numbers
- Gov. said once a region is within three weeks of being at 85% hospital capacity, a red zone will be designated