

1.8.21 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

COVID

- Day 314
- Statewide positivity rate without micro-clusters: 7.49%
- Statewide rate with micro-clusters: 7.7%
- Micro-cluster rate: 8.3%
- 243,0000 tests conducted
- 161 deaths
- 8,561 hospitalizations, up 13
- 1,475 ICU patients, up 51
- 912 intubations, up 53

Hospitalizations by Region:

- Finger Lakes: 905 (0.08%)
- Western NY: 530 (0.04%)
- Southern Tier: 212 (0.03%)
- Mid Hudson: 980 (0.04%)
- NYC: 3,066 (0.04%)
- Long Island: 1,552 (0.05%)
- Central NY: 374 (0.05%)
- Mohawk Valley: 321 (0.07%)
- Capital Region: 515 (0.05%)
- North Country: 106 (0.03%)

Positivity by Region:

- Finger Lakes: 10.22%
- Western NY: 8.61%
- Southern Tier: 5.30%
- Mid Hudson: 8.12%
- NYC: 6.42%
- Long Island: 9.68%
- Central NY: 8.57%
- Mohawk Valley: 10.80%
- Capital Region: 10.16%
- North Country: 8.45%
- Manhattan: 4.45%
- Staten Island: 7.84%
- Brooklyn: 6.70%
- Queens: 7.49%
- Bronx: 8.21%

Vaccine:

- Gov. cautioned "frightening infection rate" of new strain, combined with low supply of the vaccine can still cause stress on the hospital system
- State is concerned about low vaccination rate for healthcare workers, particularly in New York City, which is currently at 13%
- New distribution networks will be added to supplement the hospitals
- Private providers, ambulatory centers, pharmacies, county health departments will begin being utilized next week
- On Monday, reservations for vaccinations will be accepted, the state will have a website to sign up
- Healthcare workers must continue to be prioritized, but the next tier (1b) will be eligible as well
- NYSDOH will hold a webinar on Monday for new providers, county DOHs
- State will allocate to distribution network proportionately by population of each group and region
- State will be mandating social equity distribution by local health departments
- Gov. signing an EO making additional staff eligible to administer vaccinations
- DOH is setting up 20 "mass distribution sites" in the coming weeks: Javits Center will be open next Wednesday

- Gov. noted at the current rate, the first two tiers (1a) and (1b) will not be completed until mid-April

Federal:

- Gov. further condemned the events at the U.S. Capitol, and President Trump's actions
- Gov. questioned the lack of security at the Capitol
- Gov. stated President Trump should resign, or should be impeached if he refuses
- He further called on NY federal officials to call for Trump's resignation

State of the State:

- Will be on Monday, will be focused on specific initiatives, post-COVID issues
- Gov. proposing legislation to process absentee ballots as soon as they're received and begin being counted on election day
- Also to extend early voting hours, and extend timeframe to request absentee ballot to 45 days before an election
- Gov. will propose legislation to create an Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, and to authorize courts to force abusers to pay damages, including housing and moving costs
- Legislation will also create new misdemeanor for those convicted of domestic violence attempting to purchase guns, closing a loophole in existing law
- Also proposing legislation for a statewide eviction moratorium on commercial evictions to be extended until May 1
- Also, penalties for late residential rent payments will be prohibited through May 1
- Gov. also announced the creation of a new public space at Pier 76 on the west side of Manhattan, where a tow pound currently exists
- By law, NYPD had to vacate this space by January 1, it will be transferred to Hudson River Park Trust, which will be accepting proposals for design this month

Q&A:

On whether Gov. believes Rep. Stefanik is "complicit" in events at U.S. Capitol:

- Gov. referenced his earlier request that NY's federal elected officials call for the President's resignation

On orange zone in Chemung county, and why this is still in effect based on numbers:

- Gov. said they will look at the numbers for this specific county, and then respond
- As an aside, the Gov. added that of 7,000 tests done in anticipation of Bills playoff game, 1.9% were positive

On when vaccinations will start for second (1b) tier:

- Appointments can be scheduled on Monday, some pharmacies will begin administering Monday, others will take longer
- Gov. said website will be available Monday, listing available sites and accepting reservations
- Gov. added the Biden administration is currently working on increasing the supply available to states

On any updates on reallocation of vaccine from low-performing hospitals:

- Gov. responded that performance from hospitals has increased over the last week, but low-performing hospitals will not receive additional allocations
- Gov. said this issue is expected to be solved by the new distribution network being introduced next week

On current vaccination number:

- 479,000 vaccines done so far in the state
- Nursing home residents, staff will be completed by the end of next week

On how the state will ensure healthcare workers will continue to be prioritized:

- Providers must continue to give priority to healthcare workers when scheduling appointments
- New providers in the distribution network are required to vaccinate their own workers prior to administering the vaccine