

## **2.19.21**

### Notes from Governor Cuomo's Briefing:

#### COVID:

- Day 356
- 3.49% overall statewide positivity rate
- 3.60% rate on 7-day average
- 116 deaths
- 6,155 hospitalizations, down 279
- 1,199 ICU patients, down 59
- 834 intubations, down 29

#### Hospitalizations by Region:

- Finger Lakes: 237 (0.02%)
- Western NY: 261 (0.02%)
- Southern Tier: 143 (0.02%)
- Mid Hudson: 644 (0.03%)
- Central NY: 106 (0.01%)
- Mohawk Valley: 115 (0.02%)
- NYC: 3,314 (0.04%)
- Long Island: 1,049 (0.04%)
- Capital Region: 206 (0.02%)
- North Country: 80 (0.02%)

#### Positivity Rate by Region:

- Finger Lakes: 2.33%
- Western NY 3.01%
- Southern Tier: 0.78%
- Mid Hudson: 4.43%

- Central NY: 1.41%
- Mohawk Valley: 2.11%
- NYC: 4.40%
- Long Island: 4.36%
- Capital Region: 2.09%
- North Country: 3.91%
  
- Manhattan: 3.01%
- Staten Island: 4.57%
- Brooklyn: 4.57%
- Queens: 4.96
- Bronx: 6.20%

#### Re-Openings:

- NYC Restaurants can increase to 35% capacity next Friday, which aligns with New Jersey
- Gov. stressed that schools must be opened, but repeated it is a local decision
- Gov. called on local governments to take more aggressive measures to allow in-person classes

#### Vaccinations:

- 12.1% of residents have received their first dose
- 3.5 million total vaccines have been administered so far
- 73% of nursing home residents have been vaccinated, all have been offered the vaccine
- Mass vaccination sites will open in Queens and

Brooklyn to target "socially vulnerable" communities

and to target high positivity rates

- Sites will have capacity of 3,000 vaccines per day

- Scheduling opens tomorrow, 2/20, at 8:00 a.m.

- Only residents of those communities can schedule

for first week, then residents of that borough can sign up

- On March 3, four new FEMA sites will open in Buffalo

Rochester, Albany, and Yonkers

- Scheduling to begin for those sites Wed., 2/24, at 8:00am.,

only residents for the first week will be allowed

- FDA has allocated 4,610 doses of therapy drug

Bamlamivimab to treat high-risk COVID patients

Rapid Testing:

- DOH will be issuing guidance on allowing

visitation in nursing homes, which will be in

accordance with CMS and the CDC guidance

- DOH will recommend rapid tests prior to visitors

being allowed in, DOH will provide testing to

facilities

- 11 rapid testing sites will be opening in Manhattan,

Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx today

- Cost for rapid tests will be \$30, tests will be

completed within 30 minutes

- Gov. stated testing will assist in reopening businesses,

allowing colleges to resume in-person

- Colleges can test 25% of on-campus population,

and cannot exceed 5% positivity over 14 days

- If colleges do not test 25% of population, then once 100 individuals test positive, in-person classes pause

#### Nursing Homes and Reforms:

- Gov. stated he is countering false statements to ensure families are getting accurate information

- Gov. asserted he was "not aggressive enough" at addressing false statements previously

- Gov. said he will "call-out" false accounts that "cause pain and damage to New Yorkers"

- Gov. repeated that he believes issue surrounding nursing homes is politically-motivated

- Gov. stated that the information the state reported on all fatalities is accurate

- Gov. argued that DOJ targeted democratic governors only in requesting information on nursing homes

- Gov. said the legislature's request was paused to prioritize DOJ, and notified the legislature

- Gov said he has spoken with legislative leaders, and they are in agreement to move forward to focus on the pandemic

- Gov. highlighted Dr. Zucker's credentials and ability to handle the pandemic, saying the state is "lucky to have him"

- Gov. discussed need to learn from COVID, strengthen hospitals and reform nursing homes

- On nursing homes, more staff, more PPE, "surge staff" availability, isolation areas, regulation on funding, and

communication with families is needed

- Other reforms: limited profit margins, regulate portion of funding for staff, funding must go to facilities and care, and mandatory salary cap for management
- Gov. said he is proposing these today in amendments to the budget, said he will not sign without these included

Comments from Dr. Zucker:

- On the March 25th directive, Zucker stated based on facts available at that time, this was the "correct decision"
- Zucker discussed threat to hospital system capacity last Spring
- Zucker reminded that projection models indicated even more deaths if ICU beds were not available
- Zucker explained that transferring nursing home residents back to their facilities was in their best interest
- He asserted that CMS and CDC advised this as well, with 12 other states doing the same
- Zucker said the guidance indicates that if a facility could not care for a COVID patient, the facility did not need to accept the patient
- Zucker stated that COVID is still getting into nursing homes, despite no visitation and testing staff
- He further stated his comments are not political

Public Safety Reforms:

- Gov. stated many regions have been making progress
- NYC Council have passed a number of bills
- Gov. reminded that plans need to be enacted prior to April 1

#### NYC Mayoral Race:

- Primary is four months away
- Gov. pointed to increase in homicides, homelessness, NYCHA as issues that should take priority

#### Winter Storms:

- State is preparing for storms on Monday in the state
- Storms across the country have impacted deliveries of vaccines to states

#### Q&A:

On nursing home information "void", and how this explains the lack of information to the legislature:

- Garvey said Zucker testified on August 12 at a public hearing, and the request was a follow up from that hearing
- Gov. said he has already acknowledged that information should have be provided sooner to the legislature and the public
- Gov. added delays were due to managing the pandemic, and was "agreed to" with the legislature

On vaccinations in NYC, and whether the state is holding up doses, as de Blasio has reportedly suggested:

- Gov. said de Blasio is "confused"
- Gov. said the federal government sends the doses directly to the city
- There are weather-related delays, but any other delays are due to the federal government

On what the Gov. would say to those questioning his credibility:

- Gov. said the state's success in responding to the pandemic should be taken into account
- Gov. asserted it should not be an issue of credibility, as DOH notified the legislature the information would not be provided, and pointed to the fact that the legislature chose to not subpoena the information
- When questioned on a follow-up, the Gov. said he provided what information he did have publicly when he had it

On vaccine delays, and whether this impacts the state-run sites:

- Gov. said it may affect those sites, the state is looking into it
- The White House indicated delays should be expected
- Gov. said no appointments have been impacted as of yet, but residents will be notified if they are
- Rhodes added many sites are still utilizing their existing allocations
- DeRosa said if any information is received from CDC,

they will issue a press release immediately

On NY-22 congressional race, Oneida County BOE

Commissioners resigning, and how to address these issues:

- Gov. said it was right for those commissioners to resign

- Gov. added this is an issue with political appointments

and a lack of competency

On whether Gov. will release data sent to DOJ or transcripts

of any other meetings which occurred:

- Gov. said he would "have no problem" releasing that, lawyers

can speak to DOJ on it