

2.1.21

Storm Briefing:

- Gov. said roads are dangerous all across the metropolitan area.
- State-wide snow storm incoming.
- Gov. said Snow will fall at 2 inches per hour and plows can not keep up with this rate of snowfall.
- 12-18 inches total snow accumulation expected
- Storm expected to last until Tuesday night.
- The state has declared a state of emergency for 44 counties.
- Gov. said to expect a number of suspensions and closings
- Gov. said that in areas declared in a state of emergency only essential workers should be traveling.
- NYC transit authority is continuing to operate both underground and above ground services but will suspend outdoor subway service starting at 2pm.
- Gov. said expect possible road closures.
- MTA ridership is low and will have an adjusted schedule during the storm.
- Port authority: upwards of 90% of flights have been canceled already and others will likely be cancelled as the day continues. PATH will stop operating trains as of 3pm.

COVID:

- Statewide Positivity rate 4.8%
- 141 deaths
- Gov. said COVID numbers are going down but if a new strain hits NY numbers could go back up
- Gov. reminded of the fair breakdown of vaccine distribution by subgroup

Positivity Rates in Select Regions:

- Long Island: 6.1%
- Mid-Hudson: 6.01%
- NYC: 5.1%

- Bronx: 6.6%
- Queens: 5.4%

COVID Vaccine:

- 1.96 million vaccines administered
- Gov. said the vaccine issue is supply, NYS is only receiving 300,000 vaccines per week
- Gov. said vaccines scheduled for today/tomorrow at state-run facilities are being postponed and will be rescheduled.

Q&A:

On above ground transportation closures:

- NYC Transit Authority said outdoor service will be suspended at 2pm and customers will be alerted on twitter, their app, and on the trains.
- Customers will have to exit trains at underground stations.

On racial disparities in vaccine distribution:

- Gov. said NYS anticipated this disparity and is working to increase access to the vaccine in public housing projects, churches and other locations.
- Gov. said that a major issue in disparity is distrust of the vaccine.

On plans for dealing with coastal flooding after this storm:

- The state is preparing to distribute pumps, generators and other equipment to communities that may experience flooding.
- National guard is also on hand to support if necessary.

On how seniors without technology access can schedule a vaccination appointment:

- Gov. said there is a phone number that can be called to make an appointment for a vaccine.

On the rationale for opening indoor dining in the NYC area and whether restaurant workers will be eligible for the vaccine soon:

- Gov. said there are both economic and health concerns right now and people need income to cover expenses.
- Gov. said NYC COVID numbers have been dropping consistently.
- Gov. said he believes everyone should be eligible for the vaccine but there is not enough supply right now to provide for that demand.

On transportation shutdowns in Staten Island:

- NYC Transit authority will continue service in Staten Island as of now.