

3.3.21

Notes from Governor Cuomo's Briefing:

COVID:

- 3.53% overall statewide positivity rate
- 75 fatalities
- 5,323 hospitalizations, down 46
- 1,047 ICU patients, down 29
- 735 intubations, down 12

Positivity Rate by Region:

- Finger Lakes: 1.89%
- Western NY: 1.90%
- Southern Tier: 0.70%
- Mid Hudson: 4.14%
- NYC: 4.02%
- Long Island: 4.18%
- Central NY: 1.00%
- Mohawk Valley: 1.78%
- Capital Region: 1.99%
- North Country: 2.77%

- Bronx: 5.14%
- Manhattan: 2.55%
- Staten Island: 4.11%
- Brooklyn: 4.39%
- Queens: 4.26%

Vaccinations:

- Just under 5 million vaccines done overall
- Johnson & Johnson vaccine arrived in NYS, which Gov. noted is easier than other vaccines, as it requires only one dose and cold storage not required
- State is expecting 164,000 doses initially
- Vaccine will be administered by "radically" ramping up distribution system
- Mass vaccination sites will expand to 24/7 operation, but will only last for duration of first Johnson & Johnson delivery
- There will be a brief lag in production for Johnson & Johnson after this, but will increase again at some point
- Yankee stadium will begin overnight appointments today, other sites tomorrow
- Number of nights this will continue will be determined by turnout and availability
- Pharmacies, FQHCs, hospitals, local DOHs will continue to administer
- About 70% increase in vaccine doses since Biden took office
- Biden also directed states to prioritize teachers, which Gov. said he agrees with
- Localities must report how many teachers are vaccinated and how many in classrooms

Executive Emergency Powers:

- Gov. said he has come to an agreement with legislature
- Legislature can repeal any EO with over 50% in both houses

- Emergency powers will be extended beyond April 30th
to coincide with federal emergency
- Notice must be provided to legislature 5 days prior to effect
unless emergency situation
- If emergency as deemed by DOH, then notice will be as soon as possible
- The legislature will be consulted on changes in orders during
five day notice period

Re-openings:

- Travelers no longer required to quarantine or test out
within 9 days of full vaccinations
- Beginning March 22nd, residential gatherings can expand
to 25 people, indoor gatherings remain limited at 10
- Social gatherings in public space can expand indoors to 100,
200 outdoors, with masks, social distancing required
- Beginning April second, venues less than 10,000 can open at 33%
capacity up to 100 indoors, 200 outdoors
- Above 10,000, 150 allowed indoors with testing measures in place,
outdoors up to 500 with testing
- Face coverings and social distancing will still be required

Empire Pass Program:

- State has been working with IBM on an app
- App allows test results to be uploaded automatically to
show as proof of negative test to enter venues
- App has already been tested at Barclays and Madison Square
Garden

- A printout of test results can also be used as proof

for those who don't want to download app

Public Safety Reform:

- Gov reminded 29 days left for localities

to submit and implement new plans

- Gov. stated many localities have been making progress

Sexual Harassment claims:

- AG doing an independent review, Gov. said he

will fully cooperate

- Gov. said lawyers say he should not comment until

review is completed, but he wants to address this

- Gov. said he fully supports a women's right

to come forward, and should be encouraged

- Gov. said he understands he made some people

uncomfortable, but it was "unintentional"

and he is "embarrassed" by it

- Gov. denies he ever inappropriately

touched anyone, and claims he was not aware

he was making anyone uncomfortable

- Gov. asked that the review be completed

before opinions are made

- Gov. apologized for "whatever pain he caused

anyone", and said he has learned a lesson from

this experience

Q&A:

On whether the sexual harassment and nursing home investigations could cause a distraction and whether the Gov should resign given the state's circumstances:

- Gov. agreed the budget is critically important to rebuilding the state's economy
- Gov. cited problems in NYC that also need to take priority to make the city "functional"
- Gov. said he will cooperate with AG investigation and continue to work on the budget, citing difficult circumstances surrounding last year's budget

On pictures of Anna Ruch incident, and whether this is similar to other photos of the Gov. doing the same to men and women he meets:

- Gov. said he understands Ruch's feelings, but there are hundreds of pictures of the Gov. doing the same with others in innocuous situations
- Gov. claimed this is how he greets people, and how his father greeted people
- Gov. added that his intent "does not matter" if his behavior offends someone, and he apologizes

On calls for Gov.'s resignation from Democrats, and whether this briefing indicates Gov. will not resign:

- Gov. stated calls for his resignation are "playing politics"
- Gov. indicated he will not be resigning

On whether additional accusers may come forward:

- Gov. said he has apologized, and will continue to

do so, and repeated he was unaware of the effect of his

behavior but will learn from the experience

- Gov. said the facts will be evident after AG review

On how the Gov. would handle a member of his administration

who had engaged in sexual harassment:

- Gov. repeated the facts from the AG investigation

need to come out first before opinions are formed

On who the Gov. is apologizing to, and whether the Gov.

was apologizing to New Yorkers:

- Gov. said he was apologizing to the former staffer

he made uncomfortable in the workplace

- Gov. said he is "embarrassed" about the allegations, and

that someone in his workplace was uncomfortable

On whether Gov. has taken required sexual harassment

training

- Gov. stated he has taken the training

On how DeRosa feels about allegations against Gov.,

and on her message to women

- DeRosa repeated AG investigation should be

completed before opinions are formed

- DeRosa said she is "proud" of the progress made for women by this administration

- She pointed to number of women in high level

positions, and stated these allegations do

not diminish that progress