4.14.20 Notes from the on-going Governor's Briefing:

- Total hospitalizations is basically flat, "technically" down. Governor believes we are at the apex.
- Net change in hospitalizations is down. The 3-day average is also down.
- Net change in ICU admissions is down.
- New COVID hospitalizations down. However, 1,600 new COVID cases came in yesterday. The Governor reiterated that though volume is still high, net changes reflect discharges as well as new entries.
- Total hospitalizations by region has remained relatively flat. Hot spots have been isolated and traced as they pop up.
- Percentage of loss of life higher in nursing homes than hospitals.
- Deaths since April 13: 778. This is higher than recent numbers but reflects a current flattening of the curve. Total deaths: 10,834.
- Celebrated changes made to projected infection rates through distancing protocols.
- Governor reiterated that the rate of infection is decreasing due to these measures and emphasized the importance of continuing.
- REOPENING: Seven states have joined the multi-state council for reopening (DE, MA, PA, CT, NJ, NY, RI).
- President has said he has "total authority" on reopening, but the Governor disagrees. He says the Federal government was created by states thus states should hold more power over the Federal government.
- Comment on the President's briefing last night: Says the President is "clearly unhappy" with Governors and is "spoiling for a fight." The Governor hopes to stray from political division and will be walking away from said fight. Says a fight is not worth the risk of a second wave.
- Looks forward to working with the President in partnership.

Q&A:

PRESIDENT:
- The Governor was questioned on his comments made towards the President on TV, specifically asked why he simply did not provide comment on the matter.
Governor Cuomo stated that the President cannot get away with claiming total authority as it is a violation of the constitution. He commended the President's actions in helping NYS and claimed he would not be engaging in a fight with the President.
- On the topic of Federal control over reopening, the Governor was not opposed to the idea as long as it is well planned. He emphasized a focus on public protection and proper stock of medical equipment, as well as a need for Federal funding to provide such resources. "This is no time for division," said the Governor.
- When asked on whether his staff is preparing to battle with the President, Governor Cuomo again said he was not interested in fighting with him.
The Governor said he will fight for New Yorkers if it comes to it but he doesn't believe such actions will be necessary.

NURSING HOMES:
- Malatras explained nursing home death data by county was released yesterday, however, personal privacy protections must be ensured before releasing further information on the matter.
- Seeing issues in hospitalizations, looking at bed usage, deaths, etc.
Have seen increased cases in areas downstate, but this is expected.
- The Governor explained nursing homes are filled with some of the most vulnerable populations and, though staff is being monitored, protecting them is hard. Zucker added that many senior citizens have multiple underlying conditions thus putting them more at risk for fatality.

TESTING:
- The Governor explained that only a handful of private companies produce tests, thus creating competition between states. He argued FEMA should hold control over testing to stray from multi-state competition and issue them on a need basis.
- When asked about NYC Mayor DeBlasio's claims of increased testing, the Governor said he did not believe his claims would come to fruition due to competition.
- Zucker said the state is looking for tests with over 95% accuracy. He also said the DOH is looking into false positive issues.
- When asked how many antibody tests could be done, Zucker said 2k tests will be held daily next week. Additionally, he said DOH was working with private sector companies and hospitals to develop 100k tests per day.
- The Governor said diagnostic testing is key to returning to normal. Need to look at the need and scale up to meet it.
COVID:
- It was explained to the Governor that Rochester held a 100-person vigil that had been OK'd by their Mayor. He was then asked on the appropriateness of the gathering. "At least learn the lesson of New Rochelle," he replied. The Governor reiterated previous arguments that suburban communities are still at risk when holding large gatherings.