

4.14.21

Notes from Governor Cuomo's Conference Call:

COVID:

- 2.97% statewide positivity rate
- 43 fatalities
- 887 ICU patients
- 563 intubations

Positivity Rate by Region:

- Western NY: 4.8%
- Mid Hudson: 3.7%
- Long Island: 3.7%
- NYC: 3.3%
- Finger Lakes: 3.0%
- Capital Region: 2.9%
- Mohawk Valley: 1.8%
- North Country: 1.7%
- Central NY: 1.5%
- Southern Tier: 0.8%
- 7-day average statewide: 3.1%

- Staten Island: 4.4%
- Queens: 3.7%
- Brooklyn: 3.7%
- Bronx: 3.3%
- Manhattan: 2.0%
- 7-day average for NYC: 3.3%

Vaccinations:

- 5 million New Yorkers fully vaccinated
- 39% have received at least one dose
- Johnson & Johnson vaccine pause was to notify providers that typical protocol does not apply for clotting condition
- Gov. said it is open as to how long the vaccine will be paused for

Public Safety Reform:

- Gov. said proposals are still being reviewed, he will discuss further next week

Belmont Park:

- Gov. said in regard to fire at stable, 58 horses were saved, 2 perished
- Gov. repeated his earlier announcement that a new arena will be constructed for the Islanders, which will be completed this year
- Racing will start at Belmont April 23, guidance will be updated for horse racing, will require 20% capacity of venues
- Negative tests will be required, as well as safety protocols

Reopenings:

- Current curfew of 11:00 p.m. will be extended for food and beverage to midnight, effective April 19th
- Curfew for catered events will be extended to 1:00 a.m.

Indian Point closure:

- Gov. said there have been past concerns about attacks at Indian Point, called evacuation plans "impossible" for that region

- Gov. said downstate will be safer as a result of the closure

Q&A:

On whether AG James' office has issued subpoenas or requested information from his office:

- Gov. said it is "inappropriate" for him to comment on the investigation

On the Gov.'s previous comment that he never intentionally sexually harassed anyone or made them uncomfortable:

- Gov. said his previous comment was he never intended to offend anyone, and this would apply to any conversation he has had with anyone, including staff

On Erie County Exec's comment that Bills stadium will be fully open to fans next season:

- Gov. said the county exec is not "legally correct", and the state works with local governments to make these decisions
- Gov. added the decision to reopen stadiums will have to be made closer to the start of the season, will depend on vaccinations, virus numbers

On when off track betting offices can reopen:

- Garvey said these were never specifically closed, they voluntarily closed when racing was closed
- Garvey added they will check with DOH on updated guidance

On marijuana still not being available legally through retail, and whether additional legislation is needed for legal purchase:

- Garvey stated medical dispensaries are still open and can sell to anyone who is medically approved
- Garvey said small amounts can be purchased out of state and be legally used in New York

Follow-up on whether the law is contributing to illegal purchase, and whether the law needs to be amended:

- Garvey said the law deliberately included time to allow dispensaries to be set up, ensure regulations for retail are in place, and the Office of Cannabis Management is set up

On one staff member who claims the Gov.'s office is not protecting those who have made complaints against the Governor:

- Gov. said he hopes everyone is treated with collegiality
- Garvey added there is "zero tolerance for retaliation", they have been in touch with the attorney for the staff member who was interviewed by the Times Union
- Garvey declined to comment further

On whether Gov. is planning a phased reopening for the summer:

- Gov. said it is difficult to make decisions about reopenings for the summer at this point, as circumstances may change before then and is dependent on behavior and vaccinations

Earlier in the day:

- Governor Cuomo announced a new arena will be constructed for the New York Islanders, which is part of the Belmont Park Redevelopment Project. The venue will hold 19,000 seats, generate \$850 million annually, and create 3,200 jobs.
- The Governor added Northwell Health will provide vaccinations for the workers constructing the arena, and the arena is expected to be completed before the new hockey season.