**4.19.20 Notes from the Governor’s Briefing:**

- with Michael Dowling (head of Northwell), who worked with Gov. Mario Cuomo for 12 years, according to Gov. Andrew Cuomo.
- Total hospitalizations is down again, lower end of 16k.
- Still questioning if the state is past the apex, data will show. Trend is suggesting that the state is on a descent.
- Net change in hospitalizations is down, as well as the three-day average.
- Net change in intubations is down again.
- 1,384 new COVID hospitalizations yesterday. Lowest number since March.
- 93% of hospitalizations are downstate, with 7% in rest of state.
  - Westchester / Rockland: 8%
  - LI: 21%
  - NYC: 63%
- Nursing homes are still #1 concern.
- 507 lives lost yesterday: 474 in hospitals, 33 in nursing homes.
- Governor thanks entire team of Northwell Health, as well as the 1.1M healthcare frontline workers.
  - Expresses gratitude for climbing increase, sustaining the plateau, and guiding down the other side.
  - Credits skill, courage, and love of all first responders.
  - 95,000 medical professionals offered to help.
  - Reiterates that NYS will remember everyone’s generosity, and will repay kindness.
- MA may need 400 ventilators, and the state has already identified available ventilators, and will make them available with 24 hours notice.
- Mentions again that the crises brings out the best and worst in people.
  - "Don't get cocky. Don't get arrogant. This is only halftime. The war is not won."
  - "Thank you to all New Yorkers for what you have done."

SECOND PHASE OF ADDRESSING OUTBREAK:
- Do No Harm. Do not jeopardize accomplishments.
- Be Smarter: develop new testing.
- Learn the Lessons: build back better. "We have to open for a better future."
  - Better healthcare, transportation/telecommuting, smarter telemedicine, smarter education tech, more social equity, more cohesive spirit.
- Gov reiterates importance of testing in reopening NY.
  - Need to determine how many people have been infected, take steps beyond data extrapolation.
  - State will start antibody testing.
  - State will sample thousands of people across the state starting next week, DOH to run and administer antibody testing.
  - State will work with the White House on diagnostic testing and coordinating supply chain and private labs (described issue yesterday). Cuomo spoke with CDC head yesterday.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION:
- Cuomo again calls on Feds to help with states’ needs for resources.
  - If you starve state gov’t, the state then has to turn around and cut first responders, and healthcare system.
  - Mentions a possible 50% cut in education, if Federal aid not committed.
  - Again reiterates call for Gov Assoc. call for $500B in funding.

LOCAL ISSUES:
- School districts looking for longer-term guidance on reopening.
- Local gov’t question opening beaches, parks, etc.
- Gov reiterates that the best plan is to work in coordination with neighbor states.
- Gov referred to a couple from Queens that drove to Albany yesterday for Thai food, and used it as an example of people traveling.
- Gov gets political pressure local gov't is under, and reiterates need to be smart and coordinated. All gov't must send the right message.
- The State's emergency powers govern, "so blame me."

**Q&A:**

**TESTING:**
- FDA approved antibody testing, and state will roll out this upcoming week. Looking for real baseline on how many people were infected.
- Gov mentions that Northwell has multiple machines from multiple manufacturers all requiring different supplies, which is presenting complications. Supply chain is international, and thus the need for the Federal Gov't to participate.
- Northwell looking to get up to 10k tests per-day, and in the future to 20k tests per-day.
- Dowling anticipates that with cooperation, 100's of thousands of tests a day are possible.
- Rationing of diagnostic testing referenced, and will it be the same with antibody testing.
  - Gov states that there will be random sample testing for antibody testing across the state.

**POLITICS:**
- "Anyone can say anything." Gov calls attention to division between opinions and facts. Referenced First Amendment, and wants to provide perspective with comment on inclusions of facts to temper conspiracies surrounding COVID.
- The virus is wholly dependent upon what we do, purely contingent.
- To paraphrase: Shame on us if we recreate the crisis.
- Governor states that the states will do their part, and are looking to the Feds for partnerships.
- Governor was read a Pres. Trump tweet, and Gov side-stepped the political end and addressed the content of a federal and state partnership for testing.

**MARRIAGE:**
- You can get a marriage license online by licensed official that perform a ceremony online. Governor joked about immediate pressure inherent in having online ceremonies available.
- DeRosa: New exec order will include any licensed official, not just clerks.

**FUNERAL HOMES:**
- Out of state or retired funeral directors are immediately licensed in NYS in order to help with increased demand.

**BUDGET:**
- At the end of the Q&A portion there was a question on 50% cuts, with specific reference to healthcare, and the Gov reiterated the position that the Federal Gov't's response in legislation will determine that outcome.