Notes from the Governor’s Briefing:

- 15,599 total hospitalizations as of yesterday. "The curve is on the descent."
- Net change in total hospitalizations and intubations is down
- 1,366 COVID hospitalizations yesterday
- 474 deaths (446 in hospitals, 28 in nursing homes)

White House Visit:
- Visit was productive... was able to put personal politics aside and come to terms on the federal and state partnership in terms of testing, state funding, and the state/FEMA match.
  - About 40K tests could be done daily if all variables were bought up to capacity.

Building a Tracing Army:
- NY will work with Gov. Lamont and Gov. Murphy to launch nation-leading contact tracing program
- Michael Bloomberg has volunteered to help develop testing/tracing/isolation program and will partner with John Hopkins and Vital Strategies on coordinating efforts.
- Will be a coordinated downstate and tri-state area
- Will work with SUNY and CUNY to draw 35K students in medical fields who can serve as tracers.

Earth Day:
- Areas with high concentrations of COVID cases are also locations with polluting plants
  - Asthma and respiratory illnesses are 3x more likely among African American communities

Reopening:
- Local leaders are feeling pressure to reopen
  - "This is not a time to be stupid."
- Governor reiterated what happened during the Spanish flu noting that if we are not prepared a second wave could wreak havoc.
- Governor reiterated that he has no problem taking the blame for any judgements on the matter.

Q&A:

Partnerships:
- All efforts for testing and tracing will be coordinated with affected areas as jurisdictions will cross
- Bloomberg will provide about $10M in funding to develop and coordinate tracing plan
  - Online curriculum will be created for tracers

Testing and Treatment:
- Still waiting to receive results on serum for treated patients
- The use of antibodies may prove effective
- Random surveys are being taken across the state (in grocery stores and street corners) to find how many people have been infected

Nursing Homes:
- Announcement will be made tomorrow on regulations and ensuring safety of staff
- Working with nursing home leadership to increase staff and find ways to help
COVID patients within the nursing home
- Trying to provide comfort for nursing home residents in addition maintaining public health is the key to balance.
- State mandate is to readmit COVID residents even though homes are privately operated.
- If homes are not providing staff with PPE they may be put out of business by the state for noncompliance.

Reopening:
- "I don't know how you open businesses without opening schools."
- Schools will only open if it is known that schools are disinfected and there are protocols in place for continued disinfesting and social distancing.
- Can't reopen businesses without reopening schools and transportation
- Must try to manage responding to economic hardship while to managing public health risk?

PPE
- Issues regarding PPE are due to need of equipment and supply from one source
  - We must bring the production of PPE and other necessary resources closer to home