4.26.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

- Hospitalizations continue to drop, back to March 31st numbers.
- Intubations and new cases are still down, 1,000 news cases yesterday.
- 367 new deaths yesterday: 349 in hospitals / 18 in nursing homes.

REOPENING:

- CDC mandates that hospitalization rate must be in decline for 14 days.
- Gov reiterated that rates are different between upstate and downstate
- Plans to reopen in phases, TBD by regional analysis and individual businesses.
  - Phase I: Low risk construction and manufacturing
  - Phase II: Determined by a matrix, how risky and essential is the business. Businesses must develop their reopening plans.
    - Think about people, places, and processes. Businesses must ask themselves how to deal with creating a "new normal."
  - Two weeks between the phases to monitor the effects on the rate of infection
- No openings that will attract visitors from other regions
- Transportation, parks, schools, and beaches must be coordinated
- Downstate is the "region most problematic" and will require special attention.
- Upstate must coordinate with Massachusetts, other regions will cooperate with Pennsylvania
- Gov wants more food assistance and philanthropy

DATA:

- Reopening will depend on how fast the virus will spread.
  - Spread was much worse at the beginning of the pandemic. It was here "much earlier than we knew."
- The rate of transmission is less than one person per person:
  - For each infected person, they infect .8 people
  - .9 upstate, .75 downstate.
  - The goal is to lower this rate as much as possible and keep it below 1 person per each infected person.
- Monitoring will be done by paying attention to several factors:
  - Number of hospitalizations
  - Antibody testing
  - Number of positive diagnostic tests

L TRAIN TUNNEL:

- 400,000 total average weekday customers
- The L Train had to partially shutdown for 12 months for repairs.
  - There has been an "explosion" of opposition to closing the L Train
  - The L Train project is complete today.
- The L Train closure is a metaphor for the state during COVID-19.
  - "We don't like change...we like control."
  - Gov says change is crucial for growth. Masks are not a mandate.

Q&A:

REOPENING:

- Gov was asked for specific dates for reopening.
- Gov says the pause is statewide until May 15.
  - Total hospitalizations must be on decline for 14 days.
- Upstate regions are more likely to reopen first.
- There could be a second wave that affects the current estimated dates for reopening. Current plans for reopening are dependent on short term data.

SCHOOLS:

- Can’t get to Phase II without reopening schools.
- Local districts are talking about summer school to make up for lost time.
- Gov is worried about getting ahead of ourselves.
Mujica: Right now there is up to 20% of additional reduction of funds to schools.
    - Between now and May 20 there will be more clarity for schools to develop their budgets.

BUSINESSES:

- Government offices will follow guidance similar to businesses.
- Gov reiterated following a phased plan, but added that state agencies can be more essential than others in the short term.
- The state will create their own work environments with social distancing in place, and lead by example for businesses.
- Businesses must show the state a plan before they can reopen.

HOSPITALS:

- Gov says facilities must transfer patients that they cannot take care of themselves. Otherwise, the Dept. of Health will find a place.
- Gov clarified that facilities must give patients care if they have the proper PPE and resources.

AGRICULTURE:

- Gov says there must be a way for upstate farmers to sell overstock to food banks.
    - The state will help facilitate purchases.

DOMESTIC ISSUES:

- There are abnormal circumstances affecting data related to mental health, unemployment, drug-use, etc.
- Sanity will be considered for reopening, to help relieve stress.