

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

- Number of deaths effectively flat for past two days.
- NJ's cases are still growing.
- Total hospitalizations, ICU admittance, intubations are all down.
- State looking at whether or not we're in the apex, and if we'll deal with a peak or a plateau of case numbers.
- Dataset over past few weeks charts a lower bed count than earlier models projected. Malatras credits the social distancing actions with putting downward pressure on the number of needed beds.
 - Governor states that the numbers are hopeful, but dependent upon future actions - Social distancing is working
 - If we're plateauing, we're doing so at a high-level, and the healthcare system is "red-line" stress.
- Surge and Flex program (inter-hospital / hospital system coordination) continues, move 802 ventilators.
 - Javits Center coming up to functionality now - relief for hospitals.
 - USNS Comfort: Governor requesting that the ship be used for COVID use. Non-COVID cases declined. Gov wants it as relief valve for downstate hospital system. Gov calling President this afternoon.
 - Federal Beds: Northwell Health will help manage, and US Military personnel are staffing.
- NEWS: Governor extending NY Pause until April 29.
- Governor is increasing maximum fine for violations of State social distancing protocol.
 - \$500 maximum increased to \$1,000. "Not about the money, it's about the compliance."
- State setting up COVID-19 First Responders Fund - help with costs associated with continuing to work through the pandemic: Childcare...
 - DOH will run the fund.
 - Governor thanked Blackstone for a \$10M donation.
- Headspace app will partner with NY to provide free services.

Q&A:

GENERAL COVID-19:

- Federal gov't might increase hydroxychloroquine and zithromax supply and the State can then lift the 14 day limit on the drugs.
 - Anecdotal evidence suggests the treatments have been positive.
- Governor has not heard reports of NYC plans to temporarily bury COVID victims in City Parks. NY Post reported it earlier this morning.
- State is releasing 802 ventilators to the downstate area. Surge and Flex program is focused on needs, and not wants.
- In response to reports of Orthodox Jewish communities continuing to gather in large numbers for wedding and funerals, Gov stated that the social distancing rule should be enforced. "None of us has the right to be reckless."
- On ventilator usage, Governor stated that the state is currently utilizing all back-up plans. Governor states that the hospital system is "over-capacity."
- State of California, in addition to Washington released ventilators. No specifics given.
- At close of presser, Gov stated that we are not currently in need of ventilators, which contrasts the statement that the state is currently employing contingency plans due to ventilator usage.

UNEMPLOYMENT:

- Child support & Spousal support issues? Question unanswered.
- State partnering with Google to introduce a new interface for use.
- State now deploying 1,000 people at DOL to help process.
- DOL servers increased from 4 to 50.
- New interface should be operational by mid-week.