Notes from Governor Cuomo's Briefing:

COVID:

- 1.52% statewide positivity, which Gov. noted is half the national average
- 2,026 hospitalizations
- 491 ICU patients
- 32 deaths
- Over 60% of New York has had at least one vaccine dose so far

Announcements:

- Gov. announced the White House is setting up a program for Uber and Lyft to offer free rides to and from vaccine sites and NY will participate
- Gov. also announced the completion of the Javits Center expansion
  - Gov. said this was a 50% increase, includes meeting room space, exhibit hall, ballroom
  - Gov. said this will create 6,000 additional jobs, generate $400 million annually
  - Gov. added that the expansion includes a loading dock to remove trucks going to the center from the street, relieving traffic congestion
- Gov. announced "new round" of the Regional Economic Development Council Intitiative, which is a competition for regions to submit recovery plans
  - $750 million will be available in rewards, applications due July 30
- Gov. also announced another public awareness campaign is being launched on the COVID recovery

Q&A:

On whether demand for space at Javits has changed:

- Javits President and CEO Alan Steel says increased capacity is expected to draw more need for space
- Steel added they have events booked for August so far, and are working on capacity guidelines for those

On vaccinations for children:

- Gov. said Pfizer is the only company that will get approval for children, with official approval expected tomorrow
Once federally approved, the state will review and Gov. said he expects it to be approved by the state as well.

On whether vaccines will be mandated for students:

- Gov. said this would require a state law but cannot be done as all vaccines are currently under emergency use authorization.
- Gov. said if the federal government approves the vaccine outside of emergency use, a mandate will be a "legitimate topic to discuss".

On religious exemptions from vaccinations:

- Gov. repeated that mandatory college vaccinations are dependent on federal approval, but they have not heard of resistance for religious reasons so far.

On social distancing guidance:

- Gov. said currently, masks are required indoors, 3ft distance allowed for those vaccinated, 6ft for unvaccinated.
- Gov. repeated this is based on CDC guidance.