

## **5.17.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:**

- Day 78.
- All numbers down. Governor flew through the slides.
- Total hospitalizations down to 374.
- Lives lost on 5/16 at 139, 106 in hospitals / 33 in nursing homes.

### **REOPENING:**

- Capital Region / WNY meet 6 out of 7, must meet the testing/tracing capacity. State will work to get tracing up. Speaking with regional heads today to work on more tracers.

### **TESTING:**

- Gov reiterates testing and tracing as important to reopening efforts.
- Gov reiterates testing metrics as more than other countries. Thanks DOH.
- Gov reiterates testing metrics as more than other states.
- Gov reiterates state efforts in testing networks (over 700 sites).
  - Gov adds that CVS and the state will partner for additional testing.
  - Gov states that many sites are not at full capacity.
  - Gov adds that an individual who would return to workplace in Phase 1 can get tested.
  - Gov reiterates encouragement to get tested if showing symptoms.
  - State announcing a new website to locate a testing site.
- Gov demonstrates nose swab testing to showcase speed in getting tested.

### **MENTAL HEALTH:**

- Governor promotes: [www.howareyoureally.org](http://www.howareyoureally.org) / #HowAreYouReallyChallenge
- Gov also promotes state response: Hotline: 1-844-863-9314 / [headspace.com/ny](http://headspace.com/ny)

### **Q&A:**

#### **UNEMPLOYMENT:**

- DeRosa: state will have an update about mid-week. Speaks to cases that are more than three weeks old have either certification issues, missing information, or suspected fraud. Website will be updated to display reasoning for case delay.
- DeRosa adds that the state is working to avoid fraudulent claims. Gov states that while the state is working to avoid it, it is going to happen.

#### **TESTING:**

- 40k max capacity (meets goal)
- DeRosa adds that tests will be allocated and dedicated to nursing homes in order to meet DOH mandate.
- On prisons: Gov states that testing is being conducted in congregate care facilities. Reporter presses on state data as showing that prisoners are tested at a lower rate than general public. DeRosa states that criteria for testing prisoners is the same as general public; there must be a reason for testing.
- Gov states that people that work in the prisons have a lower infection rate than the general public, using that as rationale for stating that the prison population is also low.

#### **SUMMER CAMPS:**

- Mujica: state considering and working on guidelines, mentions that discussions are in context of emerging child health issue (Kawasaki-like syndrome).
- Deadline end of June, but state looking to make decision prior to that.

#### **KAWASAKI-LIKE SYNDROME:**

- Gov reiterates that this is an emerging issue and he thinks that the

number will continue to grow as the state begins investigation. Gov and Zucker note that other states are reaching out with similar cases.

#### NURSING HOMES:

- Accountability for deaths? Gov states, "how do we get justice? Who can we prosecute? Nobody."
- Reporter presses on changes in mandates, posing that if the mandates had been in place earlier, people's lives would have been saved.
- Gov states that no patient was in want for medical equipment or space, and that no one died from lack of effort or equipment.

#### JEWISH HOLIDAY, THIS WEEK:

- Guidelines or protocol for observance?
- Gov states that guidance for Memorial Day will be provided Monday, and used it as a leaping point to say that guidelines are possible and that the state is looking at requests for observances.