

5.18.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

Gov reiterated how easy his COVID-19 test was.

- He tested negative
- The state has more testing capacity than it is using at many sites.
- Testing eligibility has been expanded:
 - Anyone who has any flu-like symptoms can get a test.
- Hospitalizations are down
- Net change in hospitalizations and intubations are down.
- New cases are down by one.
- 106 lives lost on 5/17: 83 in hospitals, 23 in nursing homes.

NURSING HOMES:

- Top priority is protecting nursing home residents and seniors.
- All staff must be tested twice per week.
 - NY is connecting facilities to nursing homes. These facilities have reserved at least 35,000 tests per day.
 - The state is sending 320,000 testing kits to nursing homes today.

REOPENING

- Western NY needed 521 tracers and 525 have been identified, making them eligible to reopen.
 - Western NY starts Phase I tomorrow.
- Gov encouraged major sports teams to plan reopening without fans.
- Gov encouraged people to think of their responsibilities.
 - Gov reiterated that we will know what will happen in the future, based on what we do today.

DATA:

- Gov reiterated the importance of monitoring:
 - 70% hospital beds
 - 70% ICU beds
 - 30 tests per 1,000 residents/month
 - 30 tracers per 100,000 residents
 - An infection rate less than 1.1 per person
- International experts will advise NY on data:
- Dr. Michael T. Osterholm
 - Director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research, University of Minnesota
- Dr. Samir Bhatt, a senior lecturer at Imperial College London, joined the press briefing via video conference.
 - He is an expert in Geostatistics.
 - He commended NY for its data collection, but reiterated that no country is out of the woods yet.

Q&A:

DATA:

- Reporters asked if NY reset metrics to allow Western NY to reopen.
 - DeRosa: Net change in daily cases couldn't exceed 5 deaths on a three-day average. Western NY's rolling average is now negative 6.
- Gov reiterated that the guidelines include a 14 day buffer because that is the incubation period of the virus.
 - There is an assumption that counties are reporting accurate data. Take data with a grain of salt.
- Hochul: we have enlisted public servants to do contact tracing.

UNEMPLOYMENT:

- New Yorkers claim they still can't get through to the state.
- DeRosa: The majority of the backlog has been cleared. To date, the state has paid out \$9.2 billion to 2 million New Yorkers.
 - DeRosa reiterated that outstanding cases are missing partial information because either personal data was wrong, or they are a suspected fraud case, or the DOL is waiting for a response from the federal government.

NURSING HOMES:

- Gov: "this scale of testing is new for everyone."
- Gov reiterated testing capacity has been secured from labs and will be set aside for nursing homes.
- Gov denied that the state is to blame for problems with nursing homes.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- A law firm has filed a suit against the Gov.
 - Claim: forcing employees to work off-site is an abuse of power.
 - Gov said he can't please everyone.
- On tourism: Gov said this was a question of when we can allow large gatherings. The same rule applies to places of worship.
 - Mujica: reopening for stadiums will apply to the last Phase of reopening.
- On sports: If teams can have games without fans and get revenue from tv, then why wait?
- On enforcement: Gov said the guidelines are clear and that people need to work together.