

5.21.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

Hospitalizations are down to 5,187

Net change in hospitalizations and intubations are down.

Amount of new hospitalizations: 246

105 lives lost yesterday: 78 in hospitals, 27 in nursing homes.

REOPENING:

- Rockland County is eligible for elective surgery and ambulatory care.
- Increased activity only leads to increased cases, if precautions are not taken.
 - "What will happen is a function of what we do."
- Gov stressed to think about roles and responsibilities.
 - NY Coronavirus Hotline: 1-888-364-3065
 - Report employers if they are not following proper reopening procedures.
- State beaches open tomorrow.
 - Beaches are limited to 50% capacity.
 - Social distancing must be followed.
 - Concessions will remain closed.
 - No contact sports are allowed.
- Small businesses: sales tax filing deadline has been extended to June 22.

TESTING:

- Gov reiterated that the NYC general population has seen more COVID-positive tests than transit and healthcare workers, NYPD, and other frontline workers.
- State police, DOCCS, Office of Court Admin. all have a lower percentage than the NYS general population.

TRACING:

- NYS tracers will call infected people.
 - Tracers ask who they have been in contact with
 - They also provide follow-up services for contacts
- Caller-ID will read: "NYS Contact Tracing"

CHILDREN:

- Last Thursday, 7 countries, 17 states, and Washington D.C. have reported cases.
- NYSDOH is now investigating 157 cases of COVID-related illness in children.
 - Today, 13 countries and 25 states and Washington D.C. have reported cases.
- Gov reiterated that it is still too early to decide if schools will open in the Fall.
 - The state will issue guidelines to schools in June.
 - Schools will submit plans to the state in July.
- Summer school will be conducted via distance learning.

NATIONAL EMS WEEK:

- Gov expressed his condolences for fallen fire department and EMS workers.

Q&A:

CAMPS:

- Will some day camps be able to reopen?
 - Mujica: we are looking at guidelines to ensure that we are not doing this too early and that the guidelines still work.
 - Gov: until we have more information on COVID-related illness, it might be a bad idea to send children to camps.

TRAVEL:

- What will the Gov do to protect airports as travel is expanded?
 - Gov reiterated that federal law and federal agents must dictate who comes in and who doesn't.

-On stay-at-home order:

- Gov stated that the European travel ban was enacted in March 16th, but the virus had already spread from China to Europe by then.

LEGISLATIVE:

- Gov: legislative leaders are working harder than ever.
- What can still be done?
 - Gov: this is an unprecedented situation, so the possibilities are endless. We are waiting for Washington to act.

COVID-RELATED ILLNESS:

- Why does the Gov expect we are only seeing "the tip of the iceberg?"
 - Gov explained that we are still in a discovery phase.
 - Nobody knows the impact of antibodies yet.
- On partnership with Rockefeller Inst.:
 - Rockefeller is trying to figure out what causes children to have adverse effects.

REOPENING:

- Connecticut is opening bars - why not NY?
 - Gov: different areas have different densities and different realities altogether. The goal is to collaborate properly.
- On schools: Gov does not have a position on reopening. The state will wait to see what schools submit to them in July.
 - Of 700 school districts, Gov closed down all the schools.
 - Gov claimed 550 districts would have disagreed with closing.
- Reporter said NYC Mayor de Blasio says NYC has to reopen by early to mid-June.
 - Gov stated there is financial and person stress, but there is also death; there must be a balance.
 - There are metrics that will guide reopening for NYC just like every other region.
 - DeRosa clarified that de Blasio said that it looks like NYC is on track to reopen by mid-June.