

5.22.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

MEMORIAL DAY:

- This is the 155th Memorial Day weekend.
- Where was the first officially recognized Memorial Day celebration?
 - Waterloo, NY, Seneca County, 1866

Day 83 of the COVID-19 crisis.

All numbers are down.

109 lives lost yesterday: 82 in hospitals, 27 in nursing homes.

REOPENING:

- Gov reiterated the importance of his reopening guidelines:
 - Phased reopening
- On LI and mid-Hudson: If deaths continue to decline and tracing is operational, both regions can reopen next week.
 - Construction staging will be permitted now.
- Gov reiterated that we must remain vigilant to prevent a second wave.
- Gov urged the public to continue wearing masks.
 - Masks are still mandatory in public settings.
- Gov mentioned the Wear a Mask campaign:
 - coronavirus.health.ny.gov/wear-mask
 - 92,000 people have visited the campaign site and cast their votes for ads.

TESTING:

- NYS is launching a new pilot program with 52 independent pharmacies to conduct 7,000 tests per week.
- There are now 750 testing sites in NY.
- Get a test at coronavirus.health.ny.gov.

TRACING:

- Contact tracing is underway in seven regions.
- Amount of tracers by region:
 - North Country: 26
 - Mohawk Valley: 166
 - Capital District: 285
 - Central NY: 220
 - Finger Lakes: 482
 - Western NY: 586
 - Southern Tier: 71
- NYS and Bloomberg have developed a contact tracing program and will share the curriculum with other states.

SMALL BUSINESS:

- Minority-owned businesses have received less in federal aid.
- NY FORWARD \$100 million fund to distribute to businesses with 20 or fewer employees and less than \$3 million in gross revenues.

Q&A:

NYC:

- On reopening: Gov reiterated that NYC must meet the same criteria as every region.
 - Gov stressed that local officials do not have legal authority to reopen.

MEMORIAL DAY:

- Gov explained that regions must coordinate with one another for beaches to be safe.

- He recognized that this will lead to higher demand at state beaches.

DATA:

- DeRosa: indicators for reopening are shared between NYC and the state.
- Malatras: the DOH website only includes confirmed deaths
- Gov expanded upon the concepts of probable deaths and confirmed deaths.
 - Zucker: the state called the CDC to talk about getting this information out to the public.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Mujica: The DOL went from 50,000 calls per day to an average of 3 million calls per day.
 - The state hired 5 private contractors to hire more staff.
- Gov reiterated that federal government must provide financial aid.
- The state will adopt CDC guidelines on hydroxychloroquine.