

5.25.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

- Hospitalizations down, net change down, intubations down. New COVID cases in hospital down.
- Lives lost on 5/24: 96. 75 in hospitals, 21 in nursing homes.
- Announcement: State and local gov'ts to provide death benefits for public heroes who died from COVID. Calls on feds to do the same.

Q&A:

NURSING HOMES:

- Testing patients under same regimen as staff?
- Gov: it's not a requirement, but "we are testing all the people in nursing homes."

DEATH BENEFITS:

- Where does the funding come from?
- Gov: Local or state depending on where those who died come from.

DE BLASIO & NYC:

- Reopening?
- Gov: states that both state and NYC share numbers, and that they will dictate the decisions moving forward.

LETTER FROM STATEN ISLAND LEGISLATORS:

- Letter states that SI meets metrics, if broken out on its own.
- Gov states that SI is not a place unto itself. "Staten Island is part of NYC."

UPTICK IN HOSPITALIZATIONS:

- Gov states that the recent uptick probably isn't attributed to re-opening, due to incubation period of virus. It "doesn't sync up."

SUBWAYS / CONGESTION PRICING:

- Question: Is congestion pricing on track?
- Gov says contingent upon federal gov't approval, which the state doesn't yet have.
- many conversations with the feds, but they've not yet approved.

GENERAL REOPENING:

- Reporter questioned on Gov's thoughts for not social distancing/wearing masks, etc. Gov stated that he'll continue to talk about wearing masks till he's blue in the face.

EVICCTIONS:

- Why lines in exec order about requirements to prove financial hardships?
- Gov states that you should not be evicted because you can not pay rent. "If we're still in this chaos in August, then we'll figure it out."
- Gov states that it must be "financial hardship related to COVID."

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

- Gov states that Legislatures tend to spend money, but states that there's no money to spend. Reiterates that unless feds act, the state is looking at 20% cuts across the board for services.
- Gov: He would like more money for food banks, and frontline workers. But the state doesn't have the money, unless it comes from additional cuts.
- Gov: Only wiggle room is if the feds provide funding.
- Gov: Revenue-neutral bills are great, but they have to be smart.