Notes from Governor Cuomo's COVID Update:

COVID:

- 0.70% positivity rate statewide (lowest since Aug. 30)
- 133,208 Test Results Reported
- 1,274 Statewide Hospitalizations (-83)
- 297 Statewide ICU (-10)
- 177 Statewide Intubations (-4)
- 17 Statewide Deaths

Positivity Rate by Region:
- Finger Lakes: 2.2%
- Central NY: 1.51%
- Western NY: 1.44%
- Capital Region: 1.08%
- Mohawk Valley: 0.99%
- Mid Hudson: 0.77%
- Long Island: 0.69%
- NYC: 0.65%
- Southern Tier: 0.57%
- Manhattan: 0.41%
- Bronx: 0.69%
- Queens: 0.67%
- Brooklyn 0.75%
- Staten Island 0.81%

- The national positivity rate yesterday was 2.6%
- New York's positivity is one of the top-three lowest states in the US

Vaccinations:
- 18 million total doses statewide
- 64% of 18+ At least one dose
- 55.5% of 18+ fully vaccinated statewide
- Gov. said vaccine rates are slowing
- Gov. said population 12-17 year olds are driving COVID positivity rate
- Age group 12-17 year olds are least vaccinated group

Sparking the economy:

- NYS is undertaking the largest building program in history
- Gov. outlined new building projects: New Belmont Arena, new Penn Station, improving LIRR, new Moynihan Train Hall, New Port Authority Bus Terminal, East Side Access Project
- Gov. going to do a tour of East Side Access Project tomorrow
- NYS Small business grant program applications open June 10
- Emergency rental assistance program applications open June 1

Announcement:

- Gov. announced "Get a shot and make your future" initiative
- Program will be a raffle for 50 full tuition room and board scholarships to any public college or university in NYS for 12-17 year-olds who get vaccinated in the next 6 weeks
- Any 12-17 year old who gets a first Pfizer dose can enter
- 10 scholarships will be awarded every Wednesday
- Kids who receive the vaccine will be eligible for every weekly drawing

- Gov. announced all venues can open to 100% capacity for fully vaccinated people
- Some venues can open at 50% vaccinated / 50% unvaccinated but capacity will be limited
- Radio City Music Hall has opened at 100% capacity for fully vaccinated people

Q&A:

On whether the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) works as it is:
- Gov. said it is no secret that JCOPE enforcement could be better
- Gov. recommends either a constitutional amendment or the designation of special prosecutors with authority from the state
- Gov. said the issue is that the legislature is immune from JCOPE

On whether Gov. supports legislation restricting excessive force by police in the state:
- Gov. said use of excessive force is an issue and he is in conversations with the legislature about it, but that issues in policing are bigger than that
- Gov. said people need to feel safe first otherwise nothing in the system works
- Gov. said the state needs to restore a relationship of trust between people and police
- Gov. said defund and abolish the police is not the answer

On what changes Gov. has made within his administration in response to criticisms:
- Gov. said there are a number of reviews going on to evaluate the specifics and if the reports identify any clear problems they will be addressed

On whether the application deadline for small business grants and support could be extended to ensure that minority owned businesses have enough time to apply:
- Gov. said there is no deadline for applications right now, funding will be allocated on a first come first serve basis
- MWBE owned businesses are being prioritized for funding

On whether the Governor's increase in approval ratings justified his decision not to resign earlier this year:
- Gov. said he is grateful that New Yorkers think he is doing a good job

On whether 12-17 year olds who have already been vaccinated are eligible for the scholarship program:
- Gov. said if 12-17 year olds have gotten their first shot and go online to register for the raffle they can be eligible.

On whether vaccination rates are increasing since the introduction of lotteries as incentive:
- Gov. said it is hard to tell yet