

## 5.27.21

Notes from Governor Cuomo's Announcement:

COVID:

- 0.65% positivity rate statewide
- 1,223 hospitalizations
- 300 ICU patients
- 177 intubations
- 10 deaths

Vaccinations:

- 55.8% of those over the age of 18 are fully vaccinated
- Kaiser Family Foundation conducted a study that found those not vaccinated are concerned about missing work due to side effects of the vaccine

Announcements:

- Gov. announced that DOL is issuing guidance today requiring that any time off taken due to vaccine side effects be covered under paid sick leave
- Over 11,000 vaccinations conducted at MTA stations, Gov. said this will continue at Penn and Grand Central for one more week
- The Saratoga Race Track will open July 15th, and anyone fully vaccinated will be admitted for free

Grand Central Station:

- Gov. announced construction on East Side Access project is complete
- Grand opening will be next year, as some systems work still needs to be completed
- Gov. said this will reduce commute times, increase trains from LIRR, will allow 300 trains to be stored during peak times, and reduce trains going into Penn Station

On Middle East Conflict and Recent Antisemitic attacks:

- Gov. said hate crimes will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law
- Gov. said additional state troopers will be provided to Jewish communities, specifically at religious and educational facilities

Q&A:

On the purpose of the Grand Central project if traffic in Midtown Manhattan does not return after the pandemic:

- Gov. said he "does not accept" that Manhattan will not rebound after pandemic

On potential for MTA fare discount:

- MTA President Janno Lieber stated a pilot is underway purposed at testing discounts for NYC residents in Queens using the LIRR on weekends
- He added they are working on discounts in order to increase ridership

On when other large scale infrastructure projects can be expected:

- Gov. pointed to the Tappan Zee bridge, highlighted that the project was completed within four years

On increasing capacity at Penn Station:

- Gov. said currently, LIRR trains can only go to Penn, but Grand Central will begin accepting LIRR trains, which will reduce number of trains into Penn
- Gov. added that obtaining the block south of Penn Station will also build more tracks
- Lieber added that East Side Access Project also provides backup capacity out of Manhattan to Long Island

On the Gateway Tunnel Project:

- Gov. said 50% of this project is paid by the state

- Gov. said he will not be spending tax payer money "inefficiently", he expects the federal government to step up and produce their share
- Lieber added that there are more efficient ways to renovate the tunnels, and they are working with AmTrack to adopt those methods
- Gov. said new terminal and tracks being built in Midtown also benefit AmTrack, which is owned by the federal government
- Gov. acknowledged infrastructure projects were a risk, but said they are worthwhile, though some projects he said he "inherited"