Notes from Governor Cuomo’s Briefing:

COVID:
- 1.9% statewide positivity rate
- 37 deaths
- 2,539 hospitalizations
- 613 ICU patients
- 379 intubations

Positivity Rate by Region:
- Western NY: 3.38%
- Southern Tier: 0.71%
- Mid-Hudson: 1.77%
- NYC: 1.72%
- Long Island: 1.79%
- Central NY: 1.55%
- Mohawk Valley: 1.44%
- Capital Region: 1.43%
- North Country: 2.07%
- Finger Lakes: 2.85%
- Staten Island: 2.05%
- Brooklyn: 2.09%
- Bronx: 1.70%
- Queens: 1.80%
- Manhattan: 1.04%

Vaccinations:
- Over 7 million fully vaccinated, 35% of the population
- Gov. repeated the need to target youths and those refusing the vaccine

Announcements:
- Gov. announced “major reopening” on May 19th
- The reopening will be coordinated among the tri-state area
- Gov. said most capacity restrictions will end on the 19th
- In NY, outdoor dining curfew will be lifted on May 17
- Indoor dining curfews will be lifted on May 31
- Indoor catered events will increase to 250 capacity on May 19, 500 capacity limit with testing protocol
- Outdoor stadiums will go to 33% capacity May 19th
- State is working with NJ and CT on a joint protocol for stadiums with testing and vaccinations
- NY will continue to align with CDC guidance on 6ft social distancing until changed by CDC
- Capacity restrictions will be subject to 6ft social distancing restrictions
- 6ft rule will not apply if proof of vaccination or negative test available
- MTA will resume 24-hour service on May 17
- Gov. said MTA will continue cleaning and quality of service

Q&A:

On whether the Gov. has confidence in the AG investigation:
- Gov. said he will comment once the investigations are over

On why the Gov. will not release his tax returns now:
- Gov. said he has released them every year when they’re done

On hate crime perpetrator whose bail was reversed and who was released:

- Gov. said he has not heard of this particular incident, but will look into it and comment then

On why MTA service is not being restored until May 17th, when it has been known for awhile that COVID does not spread via surfaces:

- Gov. said initially, surface transmission was a significant problem according to experts
- Gov. said guidance never indicated that surface transmission should be ignored altogether, so cleaning was still a concern, particularly to ensure safety to passengers
- Gov. added he believes these measures have helped ridership
- Gov. said the NYPD needs to continue to assist the MTA with the homeless on trains to ensure this problem does not regress, and homeless get the services they need

On clarification of 6ft rule and how it applies:

- Gov. said this is CDC guidance, and capacity can only increase if 6ft distancing can be maintained
- Mujica added if physical barriers are in place, restaurants can allow less than 6ft
- Gov. added vaccination plan would also allow increased capacity without 6ft rule

On veterans nursing home in Stonybrook and low vaccination rate among staff there, and whether incentives can be provided:

- Gov. said the state is looking at incentives
- Gov. said mandatory vaccinations for healthcare workers has been suggested by some, but would be "highly controversial", and he believes unions would strongly oppose this
- Mujica said activities vaccinated people can participate in are being considered as incentives

Follow-up on whether monetary or time off incentives are being considered:

- Gov. said the state and organizations have provided time off as incentives already, but monetary incentives have not been done, outside of providing the vaccine at no cost
- Zucker said DOH is continuing to work with facilities on this issue

On whether the Gov. will not make any decisions on his future until all investigations are completed:

- Gov. said he "has not done anything wrong", and repeated that he will not be resigning

On whether the Gov. will support AG investigation specific to nursing homes:

- Gov. said the DOJ is looking into nursing homes
- Gov. called this a "politicized" investigation initiated by Trump

On when rent relief program will begin and whether it is necessary to extend moratoriums until August, as Legislature has proposed:

- Mujica said applications will be ready by end of May, then there will be a 30-day process and 60-day process for landlords and tenants
- Mujica explained that extending moratoriums through August gives sufficient time to process applications after they are due

On why the Gov. ceased open-press briefings, and why press were allowed in his offices today:

- Gov. said press were allowed today because the announcement is lifting COVID-restrictions, which is why the press were restricted previously
Follow up on whether press restrictions were not related to the Gov.'s recent controversies:

- Gov. denied this, repeated that press were restricted due to COVID concerns

On MTA officials’ criticism of the system:

- Gov. said the reasons residents avoid subways cannot be ignored
- MTA is getting safety complaints from riders, which need to be addressed
- Mujica said MTA is launching a campaign to increase ridership, but surveys have indicated that riders are still concerned over safety of subways
- Mujica added police presence will still be needed, homeless problem needs to continue to be worked on