5.5.20 Notes from the Governor’s Briefing:

- Total hospitalizations down to 9,600 (basically flat). Net change also down.
- Intubations down.
- Number of new cases daily also down.
- Lives lost since yesterday slightly up: 230. 203 in hospitals, 27 in nursing homes.
- Key to keeping the curve going down is to continue distancing protocols, testing/tracing/isolating procedures to monitor infection rate.

REOPENING:

- Outlined a specific plan in yesterday's briefing. Gov is confident in his plan due to it being strictly data-driven.
- Gov spoke on "learning the lessons" from COVID and not allowing difficulties to hold us back. Wants to improve society, "build back better."
- Reiterated making improvements in telehealth, education, transit, sanitation.
- Gov says a question is being debated, "How much is a human life worth?"
  - Cost of staying closed vs Cost of reopening quickly
  - Faster reopening, lower economic costs, but higher human cost
- Projection models have doubled the number of expected deaths due to reopening acceleration: FEMA increased number of daily cases by June to 200k, IHME projects 134k deaths by early May.
  - Gov's plan monitors transmission/hospitalization/death rates to lessen the human cost of reopening. Considers human life priceless.

FEDERAL:

- Gov says Federal govt must work now better than ever to pass bipartisan legislation.
- Gov spoke on partisan statements made by the President and reiterated that federal funding is necessary for reopening and dealing with the virus. Argued all states are facing economic downfalls from the virus, thus this is not a Blue vs Red situation.
- Urged for financial assistance from Federal govt, blamed years of mismanagement on continuous underfunding.
  - "Stop the partisanship and politics," urged the Gov. Says it is counter-productive and would "lead to defeat for all of us."

TRANSIT:

- Tonight will be the first night of shutting down subways between 1:00-5:00 a.m..

EDUCATION:

- Due to COVID-19, schools have been exploring online teaching and the use of technology. Gov says to learn from this.
- Still working on providing some students with necessary technology and training teachers. Gov says this is something actively being worked on.
- Bill & Melinda Gates Fdtn. will partner with state to develop a blueprint to reimagine education in the "new normal." Would like to revolutionize education.

MASKS:

- Gov urged the public to continue mask use in public areas. "It's the right thing to do."
- Says his daughters suggested asking NYers to produce an ad for the state to run explaining the importance of mask use. Say this is a better way to communicate and persuade use. Mariah Cuomo will be an unofficial advisor with DOH to pick what ad to run.
  - Visit www.wearamask.ny.gov for more information

Q&A:

NURSING HOMES:

- Gov commented on nursing home deaths reported earlier today, explained confirmed and presumed deaths are sometimes reported separately or together.
Malatras added that we are now differentiating between confirmed and presumed deaths.
- Asked facilities to update their numbers. Gov says to take these numbers with a "grain of salt," thinks they'll change over time.
- Nursing home patients that died in hospitals are counted in hospital reports.
- On questions on why the state did not protect the elderly earlier, Gov explained he took harsh measures to attempt to protect them. Reiterated argument that nursing homes are responsible for reporting when they are unable to care for COVID-19 positive residents or follow safety guidelines.
- Malatras stated "hundreds of thousands" of PPE was provided to all nursing homes throughout the state thus there should be no nurses without equipment.

REOPENING:

- On comments of reopening plans being "unrealistic," Gov says metrics are based on CDC requirements and determined by experts. Understands urgency to reopen but argued in favor of public safety.
- Ideal is to reopen in a controlled format that when cases begin to increase, reopening can be adjusted and slowed to lessen the impact.
- Unknown when NYC will meet metrics needed to reopen.

FEDERAL:

- NYS not in a position to provide any more subsidies without Federal funding. Gov understands partisan politics but emphasized importance of compromising.
- Says nation will suffer without Presidential compromise.
- Gov says NY was "doing great" prior to COVID-19, meaning mismanagement could not have been an issue. Believes Senate Republicans are the ones driving the Presidential comments, building division.
- Urged NY Congressional Delegation not pass a bill that does not benefit the state.

OTHER:

- Kawasaki Syndrome: DeRosa says Zucker has been looking into this, an update will be provided tomorrow.
- Transit: 24 hour service will resume when "the pandemic is not problematic to this extent," according to Gov Cuomo.
- Today will be issuing Executive Order saying out-of-state nurses do not need a NYS license to help with COVID-19 cases.