Notes from Governor Cuomo's Briefing:

COVID:

- 1.49% statewide positivity, lowest since October 28
- 2,458 hospitalizations
- 31 deaths
- 610 ICU patients
- 379 intubations

Positivity Rate by Region:

- Finger Lakes: 2.84%
- Western NY: 3.12%
- Southern Tier: 0.75%
- Central NY: 1.51%
- Mid Hudson: 1.71%
- NYC: 1.61%
- Long Island: 1.67%
- Mohawk Valley: 1.44%
- Capital Region: 1.49%
- North Country: 2.09%
- Brooklyn: 1.98%
- Staten Island: 1.91%
- Bronx: 1.67%
- Queens: 1.68%
- Manhattan: 0.93%

Vaccinations:

- 45% of eligible population have been fully vaccinated
- Gov. repeated that vaccination rate is slowing due to resistance

Reopening:

- Gov. repeated "major reopening" reducing capacity restrictions effective May 19
- Gov. said Broadway will be allowed to operate at 100% capacity, shows will open September 14
- Major League Baseball will reopen May 19 at regular capacity for those who are vaccinated, those 16 and under can be seated with family
- For those not vaccinated, 6ft social distancing rules will apply, masks will be required

Announcement:

- NY Mets, NY Yankees, and DOH are partnering to offer vaccines at baseball games
- Free tickets to Mets or Yankees games will be offered for those who get vaccines at a game

Q&A:

On why 100% capacity is not being allowed at games:
- Gov. said 100% capacity could be allowed if all fans attending were vaccinated
- Gov. noted testing is not going to be required at games, as it was "too burdensome" to implement

On how the teams will handle increased capacity and ensure safety:
- Yankees and Mets both said there will be separate sections for those vaccinated
- Yankees added they are polling fans, and the majority are vaccinated
- Mets said some social distancing will still be required to address concerns fans have, and the team is content with a gradual reopening

On how many players have been vaccinated and how the team is approaching getting all players vaccinated:

- Yankees said their team is over 85% vaccinated
- Mets said their team is at 77% vaccinated, and they working to get all players vaccinated, but they do see some resistance

On how second doses will be handled for vaccines being administered at baseball games:

- Gov. said the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be used, and there should be enough supply for this

On NY Times report that Gov. senior aide obstructed DOH reports on nursing homes:

- Zucker said the Gov. has addressed this previously, he will not comment further on ongoing investigations

On whether the Gov. will testify before Congress on nursing homes:

- Gov. reiterated that the nursing home investigation by DOJ is politically-motivated, started by Trump

Follow-up on Gov.’s previous comment that he feared nursing home data would be used against him:

- Gov. said he did not say this, repeated that the White House was targeting democratic governors

On report that de Blasio is canceling Columbus Day:

- Gov. said the city cannot do this, as it is a state holiday
- Gov. said indigenous people deserve more than a holiday, pointed to poor conditions on Native American reservations
- However, Gov. said he still supports Columbus Day, as it celebrates the Italian-American contributions to the state
- Gov. asserted celebrating Columbus Day does not detract from Indigenous Peoples Day

Details on Broadway reopening:

- Gov. said tickets go on sale tomorrow
- Mujica said there will be dozens of shows, and will be opening on a rolling basis beginning in September
- Mujica said Broadway cannot afford to operate at reduced capacity, so ticket sales now will dictate which shows will open

Follow up on whether vaccinations will be required at Broadway shows:

- Mujica said the details are not finalized, pilot programs will be done prior to September, but it is likely vaccination or testing will be required
- Mujica added it depends on the public's comfort level, which will be indicated by sales

On Gov.’s previous comments on the MTA, and whether the Gov. rides the MTA, and what the state plans to do to help the homeless:

- Gov. indicated there is an improvement in the cleanliness and the number of homeless on the subway

Follow-up comment that there are the same number of homeless on the subway as previously:

- Gov. pointed to surveys from New Yorkers indicating there are fewer homeless, increased cleanliness
- Gov. acknowledged the homeless in the subways is still a problem, but again asserted it has improved
- Gov. said the pandemic was used as an opportunity to get the homeless out of the subways and get services they need
- Gov. added the shelter system needs to be improved, many homeless claim the shelters are not safe
- Gov. said the state has the funding and the programs to address the problem, and needs to further, but there have been improvements
On the last time the Gov. rode the subway, he says he generally does not, as it doesn't go to Albany

- Gov. said most politicians use the subway as a photo-op, but as governor, he has spent more time in the subways than any other governor

On how to ensure separation at baseball games is legal and isn't "segregation":

- Gov. denied this is segregation, said it is a necessary public health requirement
- Mujica added that fans can choose where they sit based on their decision to either get vaccinated or not
- Gov. said this is about keeping people safe, and no resident has a right to sit next to someone if they can jeopardize the others' health
- Mujica and the Gov. stressed that this is based on CDC guidance

On the early prison release for Sheldon Silver:

- Gov. declined to comment

On how the state is addressing vaccine resistance, and the White House's comments that sites need to be community-based:

- Gov. said the state is looking at reduction in demand for vaccines, is concerned over this
- Gov. said there are many community based sites, and the state sites have seen high volume and have been effective, so they will continue for now

On why the state does not mandate vaccinations:

- Gov. said they cannot be mandated because the COVID vaccine is under an emergency use authorization by the FDA

On whether Broadway theaters will determine their own capacity:

- Gov. said theaters will have "a range of options" in September, but will determine whether they can afford to operate depending on capacity
- Gov. added it will depend on the circumstances in September