5.6.20 Notes from the Governor’s Briefing:

- Total hospitalization rate is down.
- Net change in intubations down.
- Number of new cases daily also going down (around 600).
- Deaths since May 5: 232. 207 in hospitals, 25 in nursing homes.
  - Gov cautioned that numbers may be much different with continuous updates in data, such as: new findings on origins of the virus, information on when the virus actually arrived in the U.S., documenting at-home deaths.
  - Reiterated that reopening will be based on following facts and data, not emotion and politics.
  - Number of hospitalizations, infection rate, death rate, antibody and diagnostic testing, tracing efforts, etc.

NEW CASES:

- Gov has been focusing on number of new cases, has been asking hospitals to report where people were coming from.
  - Found new cases mostly coming from downstate, disproportionately affecting minorities.
  - Also found that majority of people were at home (66%), mostly affecting 51-90 year-olds.
  - 84% of cases were home, WFH/retired (non-essential employees).
- Reiterated importance of wearing a mask, using hand sanitizer, and staying away from vulnerable individuals.
- Seen a hotspot in Madison/Oneida counties, with dozens of cases coming from a greenhouse/farm. Gov argues outbreak was due to worker density and large gatherings.

REIMAGINE:

- Reiterated point to "build back better," believes change will be more readily embraced due to the crisis.
- Gov wants to focus improvements on the hospital system, says they must be reorganized to operate as a single system in a public health emergency.
- Have asked Michael Dowling to help institutionalize improvements made during the pandemic.
- NYS will be working with the Gates Foundation on reimagining the education system.
- Reiterated that NYS will be working with Mayor Bloomberg to develop a testing and tracing army.
- Need to learn how to use new technologies in the future economy. Eric Schmidt, founder of Schmidt Futures, has agreed to serve as chair of 15-member blue-ribbon commission to do so.
  - Schmidt made a virtual appearance, in which he clarified priorities would first focus on telehealth and how to improve interactions with those who need it most. Emphasized a focus on public-private partnerships.

OTHER:

  - JetBlue is donating a pair of round-trip flights to 100k medical personnel and nurses to honor their efforts, beginning with 10k NY medical professionals.

Q&A:

REOPENING:

- Gov said NYS has detailed reopening plan for different regions throughout the state, have to focus on regions meeting guidelines set by the state to reopen. Once a region is set to reopen, businesses must open in order of most essential and safe first. Then, can review businesses individually to determine which have developed plans that meet social distancing requirements.
- Malatras said he has been working with Nassau county to develop testing and tracing software. Added that tracking demographic data will also help deal with the crisis going forward and locating potential hotspots.

HOMELESS:

- Have increased funding for homeless services all across the board, it is up to localities to use funds appropriately.

ELECTIONS:

- When asked on whether County BOEs would be prepared for an influx of absentee ballots, the Gov said he had not heard of any counties struggling to send out ballot applications. DeRosa added that discussions are being held with local BOEs on a consistent basis.
VIRUS:

- On question whether East Coast strain of COVID-19 was more contagious than the West Coast, Zucker explained CDC is reviewing the genetic fingerprint of the virus. Not all information has been released.

OTHER:

- A reporter highlighted stricter enforcement of social distancing in lower income areas. In response, Gov Cuomo said enforcement was necessary to ensure people follow social distancing protocols and commented on the simplicity of wearing a mask.
- Gov said the state had an adequate PPE stockpile and urged any facilities facing a shortage to contact the state.