5.8.20 Notes from the Governor’s Briefing:

- Hospitalizations down to 8,196.
- Intubations down (-330).
- New hospitalizations flat (604), have been flat for a few days.
- IHME Projection model show cases decreasing over time, but still expects a few hundred in June.
- Deaths since May 7: 216. 171 in hospitals, 45 in nursing homes. Gov says there is a possibility deaths will flatten at some point.

AIRPORTS:

- 3 Million Europeans flew into NY from December to March, none were screened for the virus.
- Reiterated argument that an outbreak in one nation can be assumed to exist in other regions as well.

UPDATES ON COVID-19:

- There are doubts of immunity despite the existence of antibodies, though information continues to be updated.
- 73 reported cases of children with symptoms similar to Kawasaki disease.
- On Thursday, a 5-year old boy passed away from COVID-related complications and other cases are being investigated as well.
- Gov urged parents to seek care if their child has a prolonged fever, difficulty feeding, severe abdominal pain/diarrhea/vomiting, change in skin color (pale, patchy, or blue), trouble breathing, chest pain, decreased amount or frequency of urine, lethargy, irritability, or confusion.
- Infection rate is higher in minorities, affecting Hispanic/Latinos and African-Americans the most.
- Have asked hospitals to provide information on new cases as a way to better target state efforts.
- Majority of new cases are coming from minority communities. Gov says this inequity will be addressed immediately, with new information to be released in a couple of days.

CHILD VICTIMS ACT:

- Because of reduction in court services, window will be extended an additional five months (Jan. 14).

PERSONAL OPINION:

- Gov feels we are ahead of the virus and "in control of our own destiny."
Attributes success to distancing protocols. Again, urged for responsible reopenings to ensure numbers continue to go down.

Q&A:

REOPENING:

- Gov says "nicest surprise" when reopening would be acting responsibly.
Reiterated a focus on factual data to best determine reopening and the actions to be taken. Doesn't believe downstate numbers will change enough in the next few days to reopen.
- Gov wants to avoid any potential deaths from "responding to politics."

UNEMPLOYMENT:

- On a remark that many jobs were lost, Gov claimed to understand the struggles many NYers are facing now. "We have to get through," he said. Gov reiterated previous statement that health is most important.
- Said we will "figure out" the economics once the situation becomes more manageable.
- DeRosa urged applicants to take matters online and only use the phone system if there is a lack of access to internet. Granted $6.8 billion to 1.6 million people in the last seven weeks.
- DeRosa reiterated that upgrades to the system were not necessary prior to the outbreak, as well as the point that NYS has done more than other states to help the unemployed.
- "Unemployment forfeit" days: DeRosa said this has come to their attention in the last week and the state is working to fix the issue.
TESTING:

- Antibody testing is used as an indicator of infection rates. No action is being taken after testing, Gov says data is used for statistical purposes.
- Zucker: Working with hospitals to develop tests and confirm quality of tests. Also added that NYS’s antibody test stands six standard deviations out, making it more accurate.