5.9.20 Notes from the Governor’s Briefing:

- Hospitalizations / new cases dropped again.
- 226 lives lost on May 8 (173 in hospitals / 53 in nursing homes)
- Priority: How COVID effects young children. 73 cases with Kawasaki disease and toxic shock-like syndrome.
  - 3 young NYers have died.
  - The CDC asked NY to develop national criteria for identifying and responding to the syndrome.
  - DOH will work with NY Genome Center and Rockefeller Univ. on conducting a genome and RNA sequencing study to determine genetic basis.
  - Governor commits to keeping public updated on study progress.

Priority 2: Protecting frontline workers, healthcare, first response, transit workers.
- Antibody from Transit worker: 14.2%, below average infection rate (19.9%).
  - Station workers: 17%
  - Bus Operators: 14%
  - Conductors: 11%
- Frame of reference: Healthcare: 12.2% / NYPD: 10.5% / FDNY & EMT: 17.1%
- Gov reiterates acknowledgement of disproportionate effect on minority communities. Further research into those communities displays that the communities are also lower income communities. "Why is it that during a disaster, the poorest and most vulnerable always pay the highest price?"
  - Testing in low-income / communities of color
  - Testing in public housing
  - Delivering PPE to communities
  - ANNOUNCEMENT: Expanding testing access in low-income communities
  - Northwell Health partnership to establish 22 temp. testing sites at churches in predominantly minority communities.
  - 24 testing sites at churches shown on map. Opening in two waves over staggered weeks in May.
- Governor states that, when combined with other sites of testing, there is widespread coverage for testing and encourages NYers to get tested.
- Governor thanking US Reps Velazquez, Jeffries, Clarke and Rev. Dr. Ray Rivera & Rev. David Brawley for their efforts in setting up and organizing new testing sites.
- US Rep. Jeffries: Applauds efforts of church communities to bring help to their communities, and thanks Governor for leadership and cooperation.

Q&A:

REGIONAL APPROACH:
- Question on variances between inter-state approaches, should they differ from NY: "How does that make you feel?"
- Governor responded that being aware other state plans and coordinating with them is important, and anticipates that there will be differences. He noted that he's in regular communication with the other governor's about their plans.
  "There will be mobility. We can't align every action. If it becomes a problem, then we'll adjust it."
- Question on small businesses that rely on summer business and services in tourist season areas, if a neighboring state is open and NY is closed.
- Gov states that these areas are in consideration and that he's in contact with the other states.

PLAN TO ADDRESS OVERDOSES:
- Suffolk County mentioned by reporter.
- Governor refers to need for Federal funding in order allow for additional funding to be allocated to arising needs.
- Gov mentioned that many areas of need (including domestic violence and substance abuse) are seeing increases above normal levels.

THE HOMELESS:
- Question on homeless are moving off subways during shutdown, and moving onto buses.
- Gov describes this policy as an opportunity to engage with the homeless population. According to Gov, 2,000 homeless people were taking off the trains, and that it's an opportunity to engage them and connect them with services.
- Question on whether federal funding will be used for homeless outreach.
- Gov states that the issue is primarily a NYC issue, and that he wants to see the bill before he comments on it, but also noted that he will have something to say on the subject tomorrow (Sunday).

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS:
- If you leave your job because of concerns of COVID safety, should it be covered?
- Governor states that these are federal regulations, and thinks this scenario is covered.

TRACING PROGRAM:
- Gov states that metro area approach is required, and credits fmr. Mayor Bloomberg with doing a great job. Regional approach is required, and Gov reiterates that political boundaries do not make sense in light of virus.

Running Time for Both Briefing and Q&A: About 50 mins.