Notes from Governor Cuomo's Announcement:

COVID:

- 0.52% statewide positivity rate
- 617 hospitalizations
- 163 ICU patients
- 92 intubations
- 7 deaths

Positivity Rate by Region:

- Finger Lakes: 0.62%
- Western NY: 0.38%
- Southern Tier: 0.41%
- Mid Hudson: 0.39%
- NYC: 0.39%
- Central NY: 0.64%
- Mohawk Valley: 0.40%
- Long Island: 0.41%
- Capital Region: 0.33%
- North Country: 0.58%

Vaccinations:

- 69.9% of New Yorkers have been vaccinated
- Gov. said the bottom 10% of zip codes have vaccination rate of 38%, so the state will be focusing on those areas
- Those aged 12-17 will also be a focus, and the state is offering a weekly raffle for a full four-year scholarship to a state university
- All upstate public transit systems will offer an unlimited seven day pass to those who receive a vaccination

Announcements:

- Gov. announced NYS Fair will reopen this year at full capacity
- Gov. also announced effective today, $2.2 billion in food assistance will be made available to 2.5 million families in the state who were eligible for school meals but did not receive them due to the pandemic
- Gov. announced a $40 million international I Love NY campaign to encourage tourism

Comments from Assemblymember Magnarelli, also in attendance:

- Magnarelli thanked Gov. Cuomo for his leadership during the pandemic
- Magnarelli stressed the importance of the NYS Fair to the state's recovery

Comments from Assemblymember Al Stirpe, also in attendance:

- Stirpe also discussed the importance and symbolism of the reopening of the NYS Fair
- Stirpe discussed the legislature's work during the budget and throughout session to help the state recover

Q&A:

On whether there will be any COVID restrictions at the NYS Fair:
- Gov. said social distancing will be encouraged when possible
- Those who are not vaccinated are asked to wear masks
- NYS Fair Director Troy Waffner said the Fair will be "bigger and better"

On whether the fairgrounds will continue to operate as a vaccination site:
- Waffner said that is possible if there is a need for it, and if there is space available
- Gov. said the state will continue to utilize every available option to encourage vaccinations
- NYSDAM Commissioner Ball added the fair has such high attendance, it is an opportunity to educate on the vaccine

On whether restrictions will be implemented at the fair if numbers were to increase:
- Gov. confirmed this would be the case

On potential hesitation to attend the fair due to the presence of unvaccinated people:
- Gov. stated that those who are vaccinated should not be concerned

On whether proof of vaccination will be required at the Fair:
- Gov. stated proof will not be required, and he believes most people will honor mask mandate if unvaccinated

On whether vaccination sites will start to close:
- Gov. confirmed some sites will be closed due to low demand, but did not specify which sites

On the future of I-81:
- NYSDOT Commissioner Dominguez said "hundreds of meetings" have been held, and input is being put toward a final review
- NYS DOT is working with the federal government on the issue
- Gov. stressed this is a major project, and opposition is expected