GENERAL:

- Hospitalizations continue to drop, intrubations down, 3-day average of new hospitalizations now at lowest level ever.
- In regards to testing, less than 1k people tested positive. Gov says 2% of tests are returning positive.
- Deaths on 5/31: 54. 44 in hospitals, 10 in nursing homes.

REOPENING:

- Five regions in upstate have begun Phase II.
- WNY expected to join them tomorrow. A final announcement on the matter will be held later today.
- Capital Region moving to enter Phase II on Wednesday.
- NYC opening June 8, but Gov questioned if that would be a smart move due to large gatherings over the weekend.

PROTESTS:

- Gov worried mass gatherings of the several nights could exacerbate COVID-19 spread.
- Gov commended state police on actions taken in upstate protests, mentioning only a few arrests made. Also thanked protesters for remaining peaceful.
- Gov says he supports protests, agreeing that the public should be angry and naming multiple platforms that deserve outrage over institutionalized discrimination.
- Gov proposed a Positive Reform Agenda to resolve tensions:
  - National ban on excessive force and choke-holds
  - Independent investigations of police abuse, suggested AG investigate
  - Disciplinary records disclosed of police officers being investigated
  - Education equity
  - Anti-poverty agenda
  - A real national affordable housing plan

- Suggested protesters avoid violence, claiming looting is a criminal action that demeans a fight for change.
- Believes many of the looters are people taking advantage of the movement to steal; an outside group.

Q&A:

PROTESTS:

- Gov believes protests have been counterproductive to NYC, as the city is still balancing COVID-19 and violence reduces the credibility of the protest. Says we must articulate what we want done to actually change the system.
- Gov will be speaking to Mayor de Blasio about imposing a curfew to help reduce tensions, as well as discuss police tactics.
- National Guard is on stand-by to help deal with potentially violent protests. Gov says they should have personnel within the NYPD.
- In response to concerns of an increase in COVID cases due to protests, Gov said recent low infection rates show not many people currently infected and celebrated the use of masks.
- Zucker urged protesters to stay smart and continue socially distancing. Additionally, DOH will be tracking daily COVID data to monitor effects.
- On concerns that imposing a curfew in NYC won’t be sufficient action, Gov stated something must be done while the state awaits results from AG James’ investigation into NYPD response to protests.
- Gov said Civil Rights Law 50-a doesn’t stop local gov’s from publicly releasing disciplinary records, however, local officials choose not to. Believes it is a political decision to conceal them.
- If local leaders continue to conceal records, legislative action is required to amend the law.

OTHER:

- De Rosa claimed DOH is working to provide more specific demographics on people affected by COVID-19 following a reporter’s inquiry on Friday.