

6.29.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

FEDERAL RESPONSE TO COVID:

- White House "in denial" over virus, federal response has been "wrong"
- Increase in other states not due to increased testing, is due to increased hospitalizations
- Rushing reopening has further hurt economy
- New projections showing increase of 10,000 in deaths from previous projections
- Federal govt. has only established 41 testing sites compared to NY's 750

COVID DATA:

- Hospitalizations currently at 853
- Lives lost on 6/28: 8
- Infection rate: 0.8
- Have seen consistent numbers since reopening
- Evidence shows contact tracing is working
- Gov. stressed data-driven reopening

REOPENING:

- Western NY enters Phase IV tomorrow
- NYC shows lack of compliance with social distancing -Complications for NYC entering Phase III:
 1. Lack of compliance
 2. Spread from other states
- Indoor dining has been found to be "problematic", outdoor dining working well
- State will review data in NYC to determine risk of indoor dining, will have decision on Wednesday
- Gov. said NY will offer help to any state with equipment, testing needs

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Video Music Awards (VMAs) will be held at Barclay's Center in August
- HEPA air filters can filter out COVID, large malls will be required to have air filtration systems in place to reopen
- State recommending all businesses look into HEPA filters
- Fireworks Enforcement Detail being put in place by State Police to prevent fireworks being brought into the state
- Gov. to President: tell the country the truth about COVID
- Gov. requested President sign executive order requiring use of face masks

Q&A:

- Asked about how many out-of-state visitors are subject to quarantine
- Gov. reiterated quarantine is based upon infection rate.
Said he has no numbers currently, will provide once they have them
- Asked about those who don't follow COVID protocols -Gov. said compliance rate in NY has been "fantastic", guesses that 95% of residents are wearing masks -Gov. said localities need to enforce compliance for the 5% not wearing masks, social distancing
- Asked about indoor dining
- Gov. said concern is not just indoor dining, but in NYC, combined with spread from outside NY. Gov. emphasized decision will come on Wednesday
- Asked about municipalities & MTA borrowing funds
- Gov. said if cities are in financial trouble, state will step in. Gov. said concern is how money would be paid back.
- Gov. stressed that financial impact of COVID will be long-lasting & feds need to provide funding
- De Rosa added that funds borrowed by state is short-term & will be paid by end of fiscal year
- De Rosa stated MTA borrowing funds is a different situation, and oversight is provided
- Asked about a regional coalition on pharmaceuticals

- Gov. said no current regional coalition on drugs.

Purchasing is done within the state, distributed to localities but this is a national problem, includes drugs & PPE

- Asked about return to 24-hour subway service

- Gov. said they have planned on bringing service back once subways no longer need to be disinfected every night

- Asked what de Blasio and NYPD should be doing for enforcement of protocols

- Gov. said phased reopenings have been on schedule.

Indoor dining is only one component, but on track for Phase III otherwise

- Asked if reevaluating decisions related to COVID spread

- Gov. said main driver in NYC was the virus coming in from Europe, which feds neglected to act on

- Asked about NYC borrowing funds:

- Gov. said concern is about what the loan is and how it's being paid back

- Gov. stated that the state would have to step in

- Gov. said also based on uncertainty of how quickly economy will come back. Gov. said what can be paid can't be reasonably judged with that uncertainty