

7.1.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

Pair of highlights:

- Gov announced that the state will create an enforcement department to supplement local enforcement of COVID directives.
- Gov stated that he thinks the Feds will act on next round of COVID relief/actions by the end of July.

COVID:

- Gov. stressed COVID is a national crisis
- 35 states with increasing infection rates
- Gov. discussed increase in cases and hospitalizations in states that were "in denial"
- Gov. called on the President to acknowledge the reality of the virus
- Gov. stated NY numbers still "great"
- 879 hospitalizations currently
- Lives lost on 6/30: 11, 8 in hospitals, 3 in nursing homes
- Gov stated 4 million tests completed in NY since March
- Testing criteria being expanded to all residents, Gov. urged everyone to get tested

REOPENING:

- Capital Region entering Phase IV today
- Gov. said compliance with safety measures is "slipping" in NYC -Gov. emphasized localities do not determine reopenings, but must enforce compliance
- Gov. said state will create enforcement department to supplement local enforcement
- 16 states now listed on travel advisory
- Phase III indoor dining in NYC postponed

Q&A:

- Asked about air conditioning & indoor dining
- Gov. said air conditioning filtration "can't hurt" but isn't sufficient to allow indoor dining at this time
- Asked about stability of restaurants unable to reopen
- Gov. stated main concern is public health, adding that enforcement and compliance are necessary, and businesses can help with this
- Asked about effectiveness of quarantine for out-of-state visitors -Gov. said he will get numbers on that, but current numbers are showing new cases are still down
- Follow up on whether out-of-state visitors are actually being tracked
- Gov. said state is working with airlines to get contact info for travelers. This is added to a database, and random checks being completed to follow-up
- Asked about which facts needed for indoor dining to be allowed
- Gov. said there needs to be better compliance by citizens and better enforcement by local govts.
- Follow up on if indoor dining ban applies to NYC only and why not applicable to other localities
- Gov. confirmed only NYC. Gov. said compliance issues across the state but indoor dining decision is based upon the density of NYC
- Gov. added that we cannot be 100% effective at quarantining people from other states. Emphasized need for other states to control the virus
- Asked about NYC budget shifting \$1 billion away from NYPD
- Gov. questioned where \$1 billion was taken from, stating he "doesn't know what it means" for public safety

- Gov. stated more needs to be done to actually effect change, arguing the "problem is bigger" than removing funding from police
- Gov. again stressed importance of communities redesigning their police departments by next year

- Follow up as to whether this "immediate change" is a starting point
- Gov. said change can be done sooner than aligning with next year's budget, he's requiring it be completed by that date

- Asked about de Blasio requesting funding from state
- Gov. reiterated federal government needs to provide aid to state and local governments

- Asked about lidless toilets promoting COVID
- Dr. Zucker recommended closing the lid on toilets, as well as practicing social distancing in restrooms