

7.23.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

- Day 145 of COVID
- 706 Hospitalizations
- 13 lives lost on 7/22: 12 in hospitals, 1 in nursing homes
- 69,000 tests conducted yesterday: 811 positive, 1.1% positive rate
- Gov. stated 30 positive tests resulted from one party on July 4th

REOPENING:

- Gov. again stressed importance of "smart reopening"
- 39 states now with increasing infection rates
- Gov. called quarantine enforcement "serious"
- Gov. said state is focusing on monitoring cases in young people ages 21-30, as uptick in cases is seen in this demographic
- Gov. again called on local governments to enforce safety protocols
- SLA and state police to increase enforcement
- Gov. announced launch of "Mask Up America" ad campaign targeting young people

FEDERAL:

- Gov. stated data evidences a lack of funding to state and local governments will continue to stall economy
- Gov. reiterated President will not be sending troops to NYC
- Gov. referred to federal interference as being "unconstitutional" and "inflammatory", but Pres. agreed he would not proceed unless circumstances worsen

TESTING:

- Gov. discussed "aggressive testing", and focus on essential workers and Dept. of Corrections facilities
- Gov. stated focus has been on incarcerated individuals 55 and over, found 1.9% positive of 3,900 tests

Q&A:

- Asked about "crisis point" of crime in NYC
- Gov. stated he does not believe an emergency declaration either federally or statewide is required at this time, but acknowledged there are several "growing problems"

- Asked if homelessness and graffiti are preventing economic resurgence in NYC
- Gov. said this can't be ascertained right now. Many simultaneous factors but many city residents left due to COVID
- Gov. said remote-work contributing to lack of need for commercial space could be troubling

- Asked about lack of testing for inmates, any plans to increase testing
- Gov. said earlier tests referenced were for antibodies, was approximately 10%
- Recent test referenced earlier were diagnostic
- DeRosa added inmates were previously tested according to same parameters as general public. Recent testing was done on asymptomatic incarcerated individuals

- Asked about delays in unemployment benefits, responses
- Gov. called this a national problem, but argued state has handled this appropriately
- Gov. stated certain federal requirements need to be met, many people file and don't receive benefits. Fraud also a concern
- DeRosa added 1,259 claims that are three weeks or older, will follow up on long wait times on phones

- Follow-up that there are complaints of people who can't get through on phones
- Gov. said 3.2 million claims have been processed, there is inevitably a percentage that will take longer to sort out

- Asked about backlog of testing results
- Gov. responded that national labs are experiencing delays, but private labs that process within the state are processing 70% of tests. The delays in testing are the 30% going through national labs
- Rhodes added that of 69,000 tests completed yesterday, over 50,000 processed within 2-3 days

- Asked about how SLA and state police will be increasing enforcement
- Gov. stated restaurants were opened for outdoor dining only, not for outdoor bars

- Asked about PSA for young people and how it will reach them -DeRosa said it will be ran primarily on social media and news sites trafficked by 20 to 30 year-olds

- Asked about new restrictions mandating bars and restaurants serve food with drinks
- Gov. responded that open container laws prohibit consumption of alcohol on sidewalks, so in addition to SLA requirements, there are enforceable laws municipalities can focus on

- Follow-up that alcoholic beverages are served on sidewalks for outdoor dining, as well
- Gov. stated that alcoholic beverages can be served, but food must be available

- Asked about absentee ballots for upcoming election
- Gov. said issues will be studied and improvements made to the process

- Asked about increase in graffiti in NYC, 311 no longer taking complaints on graffiti
- Gov. said handling graffiti is necessary to cleaning up the city and there is money to do so

- Asked about "cuomo chips"
- Gov. said he "enjoys them", but they aren't sufficient for restaurants to serve with alcoholic beverages