

## **7.24.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:**

- Day 146 of COVID
- 650 hospitalizations, 56 lower than yesterday
- 156 total ICU COVID patients
- 9 lives lost on 7/23: 7 in hospitals, 2 in nursing homes
- 76,000 tests completed yesterday, 0.98% positive
- Gov. stated enforcement of safety protocols is improving
- SLA and State Police Task Force conducted compliance checks in NYC yesterday, 37 violations were issued

### RESPONSE TO DHS

- Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) recently issued statement they are dropping opposition to NY's lawsuit for stopping the Trusted Traveler Program
- This statement cited the amendment of Green Light Law being the reason
- Dept. of Justice (DOJ) then filed a brief stating DHS position was not truthful
- It was found that other states also have Green Light Laws and action taken toward NY to cease Trusted Traveler Program was "punitive" and unjustified
- Gov. stated DHS Secretary Wolf "violated his oath of office" by claiming it was unknown that other states besides NY had Green Light Laws
- Gov. called on U.S. AG Barr to launch an investigation
- Gov. also called for a congressional investigation
- Gov. stated he believes NY entitled to damages

### Q&A

- Asked about battle over 50-a
- Gov. stated law is being litigated and courts will decide
  
- Asked about potential damages from DHS issue
- Gov. stated NY can seek civil damages, discussing amount with ESD
- Gov. stated stopping TTP hurt NY economy
  
- Asked if Gov. is asserting stopping TTP contributed to spread of COVID
- Gov. stated it's possible stopping the program caused backlogs which contributed to COVID spread
- Gov. again discussed inadequate federal response allowing COVID to reach NY
  
- Asked if CDC guidelines are consulted for school reopenings
- Gov. stated he looks at CDC guidelines but will open schools if it is safe
  
- Asked about deadline for budget, potential bill in Congress
- Gov. said Congress is saying August, which is acceptable
  
- Asked about DOH internal report on nursing homes and why an independent investigation isn't being conducted
- Gov. said this issue is politically motivated, and facts do not support those politically-charged claims
  
- Asked about municipal departments of health claiming to be "usurped"
- Gov. said local departments of health can issue guidelines, and counties have "primary responsibility"
  
- Asked about NY children who go to overnight camps in other states
- Gov. stated some states subject to mandatory quarantine, those states who do not have high infection rate will not have to quarantine
  
- Asked why the state is comfortable with Blue Jays playing in Buffalo
- Gov. said as long as there is no audience, it can be done safely, DOH has been working on this
  
- Asked about immunity law for hospitals and nursing homes passed earlier this year

- Gov. stated we asked hospitals to take on burden during COVID, that law made sure they had no liability as a result of those burdens. Law passed yesterday is consistent with that, but specifies they are not relieved of liability for non-COVID related issues
- Asked whether COVID in children is still a concern, no recent updates
- Gov. said there has not been any information to indicate these cases have increased, but he will provide an update when he has more information