

7.6.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

COVID DATA:

- Day 128 of pandemic
- 817 hospitalizations
- Number of lives lost on 7/5: 9, 8 in hospitals, 1 in nursing home
- About 60,000 tests on average per day
- 0.95% percent positive cases
- Data suggests airborne transmission bigger concern than surface transmission
- Effectiveness of air filtration systems to filter out COVID being examined
- Gov. stated he believed this would be a "positive contribution"

REOPENING:

- Numbers declining since reopening
- NYC entering Phase III today, without indoor dining
- Tomorrow Westchester, Rockland counties enter Phase IV
- Schools, including in NYC have been directed to provide reopening plans
- Gov. stressed no decision has been made yet as to whether schools will open in the Fall
- Guidance on school reopening is being drafted by DOH for students and parents
- Casinos, theaters remaining closed
- NYS Fair will be cancelled this year
- Gov. reminded residents to not become complacent, stressed need for masks
- 38 states with increasing infection rate still pose a threat

FEDERAL RESPONSE:

- Gov. criticized the President's claim that increased testing is leading to increase in cases
- Gov. suggested other states should use NY as an example in phased reopening
- Gov. called President a "co-conspirator" in COVID, arguing that he is facilitating the virus

Q&A:

- Asked about President's claim that virus is "not as lethal" as in NY
- Gov. said President is denying the facts, and increase in 38 states is a result of his denial
- Asked about DOH report on nursing homes and finding that staff brought virus into facilities
- Gov. said visitors were not initially barred from facilities, were barred in mid-March and virus was in nursing homes by that time
- Gov. said testing was not being conducted at that time
- De Rosa stated that Mount Sinai study found antibodies as early as beginning of February, contrary to CDC guidance at that time
- De Rosa added that it should be assumed that visitors also brought virus in since it was in general population before first confirmed case in NY
- Gov. stressed conflicting guidance from CDC and a lack of information early on
- Asked about re-admission of nursing home patients from hospitals and why a change occurred in this policy
- De Rosa stated on May 10th, changes were put in place in testing staff, and hospitals could not release patients unless patients tested negative twice
- Follow-up on what could have been done differently
- Gov. stated CDC should have acted when virus was first found in China and Europe
- Follow-up on measures state could have taken
- Gov. said global pandemic outside scope of state's responsibility, federal government should have stepped up
- Gov. added that lack of testing capacity compounded this

- Asked about concern over rising number of shootings in NYC
- Gov. said he is "very concerned", and is speaking with NYPD, Mayor, and DAs
- Gov. said he is concerned with the city in terms of COVID, economic impacts on businesses

- Asked about progress in pandemic, can state of emergency be ended
- Gov. said state of emergency is federal
- Gov. added that to reduce Governors' powers during state of emergency is "stupid"
- Gov. pointed out state legislature has ability to reverse executive orders and they have not

- Follow-up on when state of emergency ends
- Gov.: "when does COVID end?"
- De Rosa added that it is "ignorant" to think that the progress made throughout pandemic could have been done without power of executive order
- Gov. accused good-government groups of being politically motivated

- Asked about bail reform and spike in shootings in recent months
- Gov. said bail reform has been reformed since enacted and is not the cause

- Follow-up about disbanding of major crimes unit
- Gov. reiterated bail reform is not the cause
- NYPD suggested choke-hold law is the cause. Gov. said new policy is that it is a crime to utilize choke-holds
- Release of inmates from Rikers due to COVID is Mayor's responsibility

- Follow-up for his opinion on the cause of increase in shootings
- Gov. said he will give his opinion once he has the facts