

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

### COVID:

- Day 130 of COVID
- 841 Hospitalizations
- 97 Intubations - at lowest since March 16
- Lives lost on 7/7: 11, 9 in hospitals, 2 in nursing homes
- 57,000 tests completed yesterday, 1.2% positive cases

### REOPENING:

- Long Island entering Phase IV today
- 36 states increasing in infection rate
- Gov. called it a "myth" that cases are increasing due to increased testing, as hospitalizations are also increasing
- Expanding list of quarantine states to 19: adding Delaware, Kansas, Oklahoma
- Gov. said all County Fairs cancelled until further notice
- Malls can begin re-opening in Phase IV on July 10th, provided air filtration system is in place
- Gov. stated school reopenings still being examined, finalized guidance will be provided on July 13th
- Schools will submit reopening plans by July 31st
- State will announce decision on school reopenings between Aug. 1-7

### FEDERAL RESPONSE:

- Gov. stated school reopenings are not determined by the President and are a state decision
- Gov. said projections now show an additional 15,000 deaths nationwide by October
- Projections suggest an additional 45,000 deaths nationwide without use of masks

### Q&A:

- Asked about school reopenings and de Blasio's comments regarding school plans
- Gov. said plans will be submitted, alterations made accordingly, and then will be either accepted or declined

- Follow-up: if based on today's data would a decision to reopen be made?
- Gov. stated decision cannot be made based upon current data, will be made first week in August
- Gov. said decision may differ based upon region and infection rates
- Gov. stated we are "better than we hoped to be" currently, but infection rate can change before August

- Asked about how state can decide on thousands of school plans by August
- Gov. stated a committee has been in place for weeks, and models exist based upon regional variations. State expects certain regions to have similar plans, but infection rate will be a factor

- Asked about unions' concerns for teachers' working conditions if schools reopen
- Gov. stated if reopening is deemed unsafe for teachers or students, schools won't reopen

- Asked about President's tweet about cutting off aid to states
- Gov. stated President's claim is "not constitutional"
- Maltras added that a commission is discussing reopening with labor relations, superintendents, school transportation to make a determination

- Asked about Delaware being added to quarantine list
- Gov. stated decision based upon infection rate, but they are continuing to work with Delaware

- DeRosa added that some states, such as VT, have blanket quarantines for visitors from any state, NY has opted to use a formula based upon infection rate

- Asked about administering tests to all incoming visitors from out-of-state
- Gov. said testing on that scale is "difficult to administer"
- DeRosa said about 12,000 people coming into the state daily from other states
- DeRosa added that testing is only a "snapshot in time" if one is infected

- Asked about backlog in federal laboratories in testing
- Gov. stated national laboratories are getting overwhelmed, and provide back-up testing for NYS, but they process only 30% of NY's testing
- DeRosa added that NY has network of 215 labs, turn-around time is 2-3 days for tests, patients can opt to utilize these labs instead

- Asked about correlation between inmate release from Rikers due to COVID and spike in violence
- Gov. said it may be a "contributing factor", but there are many of those likely leading to increase in crime
- Gov. reiterated need to change relationship between police and communities

- Follow-up on increased backlog in labs and if can state increase capacity
- Gov. responded that he does not believe there is any avenue to increasing testing further
- Gov noted capacity went from 400 maximum per day at beginning of pandemic to current 57,000

- Asked is there is any collaboration with de Blasio and contradictions between NYC and state
- Gov. reiterated that localities do not have "legal authority" to determine school reopenings

- Follow-up on how much contact between NYC and state, how much of the plan submitted by Mayor de Blasio state was aware of
- Gov. stated plans from schools will be examined from a variety of perspectives, all stakeholders are being consulted

- Asked how private schools will handle reopening
- Malatras said private and charter schools will also submit plans. Public schools often provide transportation to private schools, he expects public schools to work with private schools on plans
- Malatras stated when collaboration is not occurring, the state will assist in facilitating cooperation

- Follow-up on religious schools
- Malatras said individual plans will be received to ensure compliance with safety protocols
- Gov. added that the state wants schools to reopen, and is seeking to do so as soon as possible, so long as it is able to be done safely and without increasing infection

- Asked about AG report on recent protests and police action
- DeRosa stated preliminary report will be released shortly, and a follow-up report will likely follow

- Asked about air filtration in HVAC systems in schools
- Gov. stated this is also being looked at. It depends on the type of HVAC system a school has and if it can utilize the right type of filter