

8.17.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

COVID-19 General:

- Day 170
- Infection rate (Sunday) 0.71% / Averaging 1% or under since June
- Hospitalizations 534
- ICU 133
- 6 lives lost
- SLA issuing violations to 66 businesses
 - Governor again states that local police depts in certain places are not enforcing. SLA and NYS Police will supplement

Gyms:

- 33% capacity
- Ventilation / filtration guidance
- Masks will be mandated at all times
- Can open on 8/24, localities must open them by 9/2
- Localities can determine whether indoor classes can be held
- Local elected will make decision, local health dept will verify compliance and perform inspections
- guidance will come out today

Schools:

- Reiterates parents and teachers will decide
- Gov says local school districts are not doing parents and teachers a favor by talking to them
- Reiterates mandated public sessions with parents and teachers
- If there is a COVID spread, the state will close the school. Looking to avoid that scenario / plans are important to prevent

Democratic Convention speech themes:

- National Crisis: "It takes a strong body to resist the virus" as a metaphor for national body politic. We're weak; we're divided
- Government matters: "When was the last time that government was as essential as it is today" as a rhetorical question to highlight his point
- Leadership matters
- Performance matters
- Social unity matters: "How did NYers bend the curve"
- Thank you on behalf of all NYers to the people across the country who helped: recognition of the 30k volunteers

The "Other Crisis": Police/Community tensions

- NYC murders up 29% year to date
- 90% of victims are "black and brown"
- Upstate: shooting injuries up 70%. "it's not just NYC."
- Police Reform and Reinvention: Gov sending letter to 500 jurisdictions today.
 - It is "imperative that we address this urgent crisis"
 - No reform plan? No state funding for that jurisdiction
- Time for leadership and action. Acknowledge and resolve tensions
 - Acknowledge issues on both sides and "reimagine and reinvent"
 - Need to make adjustments in order to address police concerns as well as community concerns
- "This is designed to force attention and action"

Q&A:

Asked about gym reopening difficulties

- Gyms are an area "where you have to be very careful"
- Health and physical space officials helped develop all criteria that will be issued in guidelines.
- "It's an area of concern, and that's why we went slow on it"
- Reiterates that enforcement and compliance is a local gov't responsibility

- DeRosa: recommending sign-ins for tracing, and health checks at the door

Asked about NYC schools plan:

- Gov would like to see more. "I would have questions"
- Gov states that re-closing schools is not inevitable, references infection rate during economic reopening
- "Aggressively conservative will be our posture" on spread numbers requiring school closures

Elections package of bills:

- We're looking that now, and we'll have an answer this week. Same for additional EOs.

Businesses not yet open (movie theaters):

- Movie theaters are less essential and high risk. Today we're saying that for NYers, gyms are more essential than movie theaters.

Risk of dual pandemic in the Fall:

- 20% of an infection rate, no where near herd immunity
- Concerned about COVID meets the Flu season, avoiding dual pandemic language
 - Additional stresses on hospitals and labs, which are being maxed out for COVID
 - Will also stress precautionary measures at schools, etc., as kids get colds, flus, sneezes, coughs

Pressure from Father's Legacy:

- Jokes: "Only every day"
- Feels no pressure from address / remarks. No comparison between his address and his father's DNC speech.
- "What am I going to do in five minutes?"

Asked about CA numbers rising in comparison to NY's falling:

- New Yorkers behaved better than any expert thought they would
- Again credits providing the information during daily briefings
 - Credits daily briefings as creating community around the issue

At the close of the briefing, someone asked the Governor to sign one of the "Mountain" posters. According to City & State's Zach Williams, it was a Turkish journalist.