

8.19.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

COVID-19 General:

- Day 172
- 80k tests
- 631 positive / .7%
- 12 straight days under 1%
- 6 fatalities
- 548 hospitalized
- Numbers have been great, but... "COVID is not over by any stretch of the imagination." Rails against "feelings of complacency." "I understand the duality of the truth here."
- SLA found 5 establishments in violation last night.
- Again calls on local gov't to "do their job."

Book:

- Says the book is about what we have learned and how to handle in the future. "We are still in the midst of it, my friends."
- "We need to prepare for the second wave".
- "There's a lot yet to be written" ... "I'm not writing history".

COVID & Flu:

- Reiterates the problems associated with lab capacity and COVID testing during the Flu season. "There is no flex in the system."
 - DOH letter to county health depts: "what plans have you made to perform the necessary flu tests... and COVID tests simultaneously?"
 - Letter goes out today. "No easy answer to that riddle."

Schools:

- References Notre Dame and UNC opening, COVID spread, and closures.
 - described spread as failure of contact tracing
- Gov suggests school districts look to above examples as lessons to be learned
- Lack of compliance in bars and restaurants will be trans

Dept. of Public Service:

- Notice of violation to ConEd / Orange & Rockland / Altice Optimum / PSEG
- PSEG (not receiving incentive bonus, \$10M)
- DFS will work with DPS on forensic audits in storm response
- Governor will propose bill on process for utility to lose franchise: redefine franchise revocation
- Much faster and more thorough investigation than before

Q&A:

NYC Indoor Dining vs. Upstate:

- with Fall approaching, the City restaurants are worried that they'll be put out of business.
- "I understand that many businesses feel that they're under economic hard- ship."
- "That's in the Fall," and Gov insinuates that there's time yet to make provide businesses guidance on how to operate come Fall.
- "NYC is different than Westchester."

Federal Benefits:

- Will NY apply for FEMA dollars for \$300 in Fed benefits
- Governor reiterates doubts as to legality of Executive Orders
- If Feds change distribution mechanism: "It will be weeks or months before anyone gets a check" / "None of it is real"
- Gov states that FEMA is now refusing to waive the 25% state match that had been announced months ago. Gov says he'd rather do business with a bookie than with FEMA.

Schools Reopening:

- Allowing high school sports in the Fall? (NJ / CT given OK)
 - Mujica: Guidance provided on youth sports generally, no tournament play.
- No approval for competing between schools yet
- Gov says answer within the week

Book Deal:

- Where the profits are going / timing
- Gov reiterates above points he lead with prior to Q&A
- Gov adds: it's only a matter of time before we have the COVID successor
- Gov references other books that have already been written on the subject
- Finances will be disclosed on his financial disclosure
 - Will make a contribution to a COVID-19 related entity
 - Compensation dependent upon sales, "so I hope you guys buy it."