

8.26.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

COVID:

- Day 179 of COVID
- 71,000 tests conducted yesterday, 0.79% infection rate
- 3 deaths yesterday
- 492 hospitalizations
- 136 ICU patients
- 54 intubations
- Still concern over Western NY 1.4% infection rate
- SLA and state police still conducting compliance checks
- Local governments still need to step up enforcement efforts

FEDERAL:

- Gov. criticized President Trump for designating Chad Wolf as Secretary of DHS permanently, based on Wolf's "false allegations" in regard to NY's Green Light Law and Trusted Traveler Program
- Gov. called this "contempt for the rule of law" if Wolf is confirmed
- CDC issued guidance on Monday that if in close contact with someone infected with COVID, a test is not needed, reversing previous guidance
- Gov. stated this is a politically-motivated attempt to portray reduced COVID numbers
- Gov. discussed California wildfires, will be sending forest rangers to help fight fires
- Zucker on CDC guidance: "This is indefensible from a public health point of view"
- Zucker stated he spoke with scientists at CDC who agree this is politically-motivated

Q&A:

- On Gov.'s opinion on weddings across the state, especially in Hasidic communities
- Gov. stated this is speculation, but asked that specific incidents be reported to local governments
- Gov. reiterated local governments have primary responsibility to enforce

- On MTA announcement that service will be cut 40%, 7,000 workers laid off.
Are there options other than federal funding
- Gov.: "not mathematically possible" without federal aid
- Gov. stated even if taxes were increased to highest level possible, would still not be enough to make up deficit

- On what parameters would allow high school football to resume in Fall
- Mujica stated high-risk high school sports have resulted in clusters of infection spread
- Guidelines will continue to be updated as infection rate continues to decrease, extended period of time with a low infection rate is needed

- On whether new CDC guidance will influence NY's guidance
- Gov. stated NY will not be following CDC guidance, calling it "propaganda"
- Experts Gov. spoke with do not recommend following CDC