

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

- Day 180 of COVID
- 83,000 tests yesterday, 0.9% positive rate
- 4 deaths yesterday
- 490 hospitalizations
- 126 patients in ICU
- 52 intubations

### REOPENING:

- SLA and State Police conducted 1,000 enforcement visits, 2 violations issued
- Gov. stated compliance is improving, violations decreasing
- Western NY still a concern, infection rate is at 2%
- Team from DOH will conduct additional testing at eight sites with same-day results
- For colleges: A threshold is set of 100 cases or number of cases equal to 5% of population, whichever is less
- If threshold exceeded, school must go to full remote learning for two weeks
- Indoor dining in NYC, casinos, malls, movie theaters: monitoring situation, will make a determination "at the appropriate time"

### STORMS:

- Gov. stated he offered national guard assistance to states impacted by hurricane
- Gov. discussed monitoring of incoming storms, said utility companies have been contacted

### SCHOOLS:

- Gov. clarified schools do not have to incorporate sports in the Fall if they choose not to, guidance allows for sports, does not require it

### FEDERAL:

- Gov. discussed CDC guidance again, said he believes Dr. Fauci was not involved in new guidance
- Gov. reiterated NY will not be following new CDC guidance on testing

### Q&A:

- On whether college students will have to return home if full remote learning needs to be adopted
- Gov. said students can remain on campus
- On letter from school superintendents and whether sports programs can be pushed back
- Gov. stated he is unaware of the letter, but guidance does not require schools offer sports programs
- On whether PSEG and other utility companies are ready for storms:
- Gov. said he is "not confident" companies are prepared
- Gov. argued for changes to the law, allowing legal authority to penalize companies
- On what state will do if FDA approves COVID vaccine:
- Gov. said Trump administration has "no credibility", DOH will review at that time
- On contributing factors to COVID increase in Western NY:
- Rhodes stated clusters in Chautauqua county from food processing plant and community spread
- Gov. stated additional rapid-testing sites will provide a clearer picture
- On letter from DOJ asking for data on nursing home deaths
- Gov. stated information has already been provided to DOJ, will be submitted again
- Gov. explained 14 states followed same CDC guidance, but DOJ letter only went to four democratic states
- Gov. asserting this is another political move by feds
- DeRosa added that DOJ press release was "hyper-political", information is publicly available and is on DOH website currently

- On Nassau County decision to put sports off until January, and what would allow them to
- Gov. reiterated they already can play sports, it's up to schools to decide to offer programs and when