

8.31.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

- Day 184 of COVID
- 66,000 tests done on Sunday
- 418 hospitalizations
- 109 ICU patients
- 52 intubations
- 0.9% positive rate
- 1 death on 8/30
- Gov. discussed initial projections, NY "didn't get anywhere near this" due to level of compliance
- Conducting rapid testing in western NY, infection rate still at 2%
- Gov. discussed SWAT team deployment to SUNY Oneonta for testing efforts, said colleges will "be the canary in the coalmine" for school reopenings and infection spread

REOPENING:

- 1,000 establishments observed, 5 violations issued by SLA, violations were in Queens
- Letter being sent today to congressional delegation on need for federal funding
- NJ has gone to 25% indoor dining across the state, NY has already been allowing except for NYC
- Gov. stated he is aware of competition this brings for NYC restaurants, will continue to consider this, but infection rate and upcoming flu season are priority

Q&A:

- On kids coming home from out-of-state sleep away camps and potential infection spike
- Gov. stated they are not anticipating significant number of these instances, but quarantine requirement still in place for states still on travel advisory list

- On whether Gov. will visit SUNY Oneonta personally to address non-compliance:
- Gov. stated he has no plans to visit Oneonta, but he believes students will "get the message" after Chancellor Malatras' decision to close the campus and go to full remote learning

- On testing results in Western NY
- Rhodes stated that eight rapid testing sites did 1,200 tests, 3.1% positive rate overall, with Buffalo at 4.8%
- Total of 4,200 tests conducted for all of western NY, 2.0% positive overall

- On indoor dining in NYC and if there's a specific metric being used
- Gov. stated this is monitored daily, no separate metrics, but compliance is a concern
- Mujica added bars & restaurants in NYC are licensed together, bar activity has higher rate of transmission
- Mujica stated density in NYC a major factor, putting together guidelines which take this risk into account

- On NYC schools and will Gov. take more proactive role in decision making
- NYC is one of 700 school districts, will work the same way as the rest of state, districts must follow state-issued guidance
- State will mandate closures when needed if infection rate surges

- On Gov.'s reaction to United Federation of Teachers looking at strike vote
- Gov.: "no specific knowledge on UFT, but government dictation will not work in this instance", decision on reopenings will be made by teachers and parents
- Gov. stated he hopes a "responsible resolution" is found soon
- De Rosa added that this is "unfair to children", urged a quick resolution so parents can plan

Diagnostic Time Stamp: 12:51 p.m.