

8.7.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

- Day 160
- 70,000 tests conducted yesterday, 1.0% positive rate
- 5 lives lost on 8/6
- 579 hospitalizations
- 139 ICU patients
- 66 intubations

MISCELLANEOUS:

- SLA and State Police issued 14 violations yesterday
- Blackout in Manhattan at 5:00 a.m. today, about 200,000 outages
- CON ED said likely due to transmission issue, no fire or explosion detected
- Outages briefly affected Metro North and subway lines, MTA working to correct
- Gov. sending letter to congressional delegation along with Speaker Heastie and Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins requesting federal assistance
- If federal aid not received, construction at JFK and LaGuardia may be halted

SCHOOLS:

- Based on infection rate, all school districts can open, all regions below infection rate threshold established
- 127 School districts have not submitted plans to DOH as of yet and 50 plans incomplete
- DOH still reviewing plans, can disapprove those which do not meet guidelines
- If infection rate spikes, reopenings will be .revisited.
- Gov. requesting school districts post remote learning plans to address concerns of parents, teachers
- In regard to testing, a student will be tested if found to have a temperature
- Faculty testing will be addressed by individual school districts, which districts need to include when they post plans
- School districts must also address how contact tracing will be implemented if a student or faculty member tests positive
- Gov. requesting all districts have a minimum of three online discussions with parents
- The Big 5 school districts need to hold a minimum of five discussions
- Gov. also requesting districts set up one discussion with just teachers and administrators to review plans

Q&A:

- Asked about testing for students
- Gov. stated students will be tested if they have a temperature, but this does not address asymptomatic students
- Gov. stated school districts will be required to address this individually

- Asked about need for statewide policies on contact tracing, closings, etc.
- Gov. stated there is a statewide policy for infection rate, but needs of school districts vary

- Follow up if school districts can delay reopening if they choose
- Gov. said yes, if districts decide that is needed

- Asked about guidance on masks and PPE in schools, discrepancy between SED and DOH
- Malatras stated that masks must be worn whenever social distancing cannot occur, districts must provide masks for students who do not have them
- No approval for school sports yet

- Asked if DOH does not approve a plan, is reopening delayed, how to address this
- Gov. stated it would prevent reopening, plans need to be submitted or completed to DOH by Monday

- Follow up on outdoor learning
- Gov. stated .it.s a lot safer,. acceptable if it works for school districts

- Asked whether NYC plans need to be addressed in more detail by locality
- Gov. stated plans should address each school within district, especially in NYC where hotspots exist

- Follow up on if teachers are uncomfortable returning
- Gov.: teachers have to feel safe, they can't be forced to work, so districts need to work with teachers to make sure they're comfortable

- Asked why testing was not part of initial guidance to districts, how districts would address this
- Gov. stated SED and DOH have different guidance, Gov. can't speak to SED guidance
- DOH did address testing in guidance, required districts to include this in their plans
- Malatras added DOH requires a testing plan be in place for symptomatic students, screenings are a minimum requirement

- Follow up on HIPAA concerns over contact tracing in classrooms
- Malatras added that contact tracing, quarantining can be done without violating privacy of students/teachers