

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

### COVID-19 General:

- Day 212
- 52,936 tests reported
- 834 positive cases (1.5% infection rate)
- 11 fatalities yesterday
- 543 hospitalizations
- 57 intubations
- Brooklyn, Orange and Rockland are driving up the numbers
- Brooklyn is at a 2.6% infection rate
- Mid-Hudson is at 3%, but the cluster is centered on Orange County
- Residential Tenant Eviction Protection (Safe Harbor) will be extended to Jan 1, 2021
- Western NY is below the 1% infection rate threshold

### Federal:

- There has been a global spike in COVID-19 cases
- Gov will sign an executive order directing the DOH to notify travellers from Level 2 + 3 countries of quarantine procedures

### NYC Schools:

- The NYC Principals union has taken a vote and decided to let the state take control of schools reopening
- Gov: numbers in NYC already pose challenges

### Q&A:

#### NYC Schools:

- Should the state take control of a local school district?
- All reopenings are subject to scrutiny by the DOH, making sure they are reopening safely
- Gov intends to get to the bottom of the Brooklyn cluster
- "If there is a health concern, the state will act"

#### Budget:

- Gov reiterates anything the state does to address the deficit will have a negative effect on the economy
- We would have to raise taxes, make cuts, and borrow

#### COVID-19 Clusters:

- Can we pinpoint areas in Rockland or Orange County that might be driving the spike in cases?
- Gov is doing a zip code analysis to determine the sources
- What is driving the Brooklyn cluster and how will we enforce masks?
- Gov suggests that higher numbers are a result of more testing
- Gov recognizes that compliance fatigue is a challenge, but local governments need to stick to enforcement

#### Key Bank:

- Have there been complaints and is Key Bank back on track?
- DeRosa: there have been no updates on the situation

## Notes from Governor Cuomo's Conference Call II:

- Gov. providing update in numbers by zip code:
- Top 20 zip codes in state with highest infection rates have combined rate of approx. 10%
- Outside those zip codes, statewide rate is about 1%
- In top 10 zip codes, rate is about 15%, 2.9% of state's population and 25% of total positive cases
- Gov. said the state is targeting those top 10 zip codes
- Rapid testing machines will be made available today
- Gov. strongly encouraged schools in these areas to request rapid testing machines and to start testing students
- Turn around time for rapid testing is about 15 minutes
- Gov. said state will provide tests and staff
- Same offer to local governments in those zip codes, state will deploy machines and staff, 200 machines earmarked for this cluster
- Local governments need to focus compliance enforcement efforts in these zip codes as well
- Gov. stated a number of homeless encampments being complained about
- Gov. called encampments a "violation of homeless person's dignity", and are also a public health threat
- State putting out guidance to reopen shelters early this week

## Q&A:

- On Onondaga County mall issuing eviction notices to tenants, filed for bankruptcy prior to pandemic:
- Gov. cited commercial eviction protection in place, but it is a legal issue if landlord is in bankruptcy
- Beth Garvey will look into it further and provide response
  
- If local governments cannot open shelters due to lack of funding:
- Gov. said these were closed due to COVID, staff should not have been laid off
- Shelters can now be opened safely, guidance will come out tomorrow
  
- On restrictions for religious gatherings:
- Gov. stated restrictions apply to all religious events and establishments equally
- Gov. reiterated local governments need to improve compliance enforcement regardless of the circumstances of the event