

9.29.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

INFECTION SPIKES:

- Day 213 of COVID
- Statewide infection rate breakdown:
 - Western NY 1.3%
 - Finger Lakes 0.9%
 - North Country 0.2%
 - Capital Region 0.9%
 - Long Island 1.2%
 - NYC 1.3%
- Brooklyn, Orange, Rockland have targeted clusters
- Top 20 zip codes have infection rates well over 1%
- Gov. said state will "aggressively" target these areas, local governments need to respond and enforce compliance
- Public and private schools have been provided with rapid testing in these areas
- Gov. warned clusters can quickly result in community spread
- Gov. meeting with religious leaders of Orthodox Jewish communities, clusters evident in areas with large population
- Gov. reiterated masks are mandated by law

COVID NUMBERS:

- Top 20 hotspot zip codes at 5% average, some zip codes are as high as 18%
- Statewide rate at 1.1%
- 2 fatalities
- 571 hospitalizations
- 147 ICU patients
- 61 intubations
- Gov. stated he understands the anxiety and disruption of COVID
- Gov. called facts, logic, and action "treatment for anxiety"

NYC:

- Gov. announced "stabilization and recovery" strategy
- Schools:
 - Gov. said conflicting statements on safety of reopening increases anxiety
 - Schools must report data to state, numbers will determine if schools stay open
- Crime:
 - NYC shootings with victims are up over 100%
 - 86% of shooting victims are black and brown
 - Gov. reiterated localities need to redesign police force or those localities will not receive state funding
 - 146 jurisdictions have begun to form committees
 - Mayors, heads of council, public advocates, comptrollers are all capable of leading this process
- Economy:
 - Gov. said state is "not accepting liability" for COVID, feds need to pay
 - Gov. said he spoke with Speaker Pelosi, she is speaking to White House about relief package
 - Response to close deficit depends on outcome of election
 - Gov. said financial control board would be required before allowing any locality to borrow
- Cleanliness:
 - Gov. said he has offered for National Guard to assist

with trash collection

- Homelessness:

- Gov.: "no reason" for homelessness
- Homeless need safe shelter with services, shelters need to be reopened
- State is issuing guidance for reopening shelters today

- NYC Recovery:

- Assessing changes that are short-term and long-term
- Economic development plan
- Safe vaccine for COVID and effective administration of vaccine
- Gov. announced clinical advisory task force of doctors to review FDA recommendation on vaccine to ensure safety
- Gov. referred to President's comment NY will be last to receive COVID vaccine, called it "illegal" and "unethical"

Q&A:

- On potential delay of indoor dining/additional shutdowns as result of infection spikes

- Gov. stated these are clusters due to lack of compliance
- If local governments do not improve enforcement, additional spread will occur, may result in shutdowns down the road

- On meeting with Orthodox leaders

- Being conducted virtually to meet with whole community in variety of localities
- Gov. stated will be meeting either today or tomorrow

- On de Blasio's comments on closing down establishments if needed:

- Gov. stated by law, the state can mandate closures, local governments cannot

- Follow up on how localities can enforce without having that authority:

- Gov. stated localities should be enforcing current laws mandating masks, restrictions on capacity at events, dining, etc.

- Clarification on closing of schools

- Gov. stated there are benchmarks for school closings, but there are other factors involved in determining closures
- 5% is the current benchmark, but depends on circumstances
- Testing should be happening in schools so state can review numbers

- On whether vaccine distribution task force has gaps in expertise:

- Gov. stated one task force for safety to review FDA protocol
- Second task force for distribution/implementation, still being formed and will take all relevant issues into account

- Follow-up on why experts, such as epidemiologists, are not being included on distribution task force

- Gov. reiterated still in formation, still reviewing all potential issues

- Follow-up on when task forces will meet:

- Gov.: Only internal meetings so far, will depend on availability of vaccine

- On reports of absentee ballots being incorrectly delivered in NYC:

- DeRosa: "troubled is an understatement"
- Aware of about 100,000 people in Brooklyn affected so far
- One error was that ballots were labeled as Military Absentee as opposed

to Military/Absentee

- Another error is printer mismatched application and envelope, so correct ballot was delivered but with incorrect envelope
- DeRosa added state BOE has been contacted and asked to rectify this immediately
- BOE is looking at sending new envelopes, not ballots

- On calls to reform NYC BOE, which says it can only do through the state
- Gov. said NYC Council can pass law to reform NYC BOE and ask state to pass it

- On reports of people openly injecting drugs on NYC streets:
- Gov.: "not specifically aware of this", but city needs to stabilization across multiple factors right now