

9.30.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

COVID:

- Day 214
- 97,000 tests conducted yesterday
- 9 fatalities yesterday
- 605 hospitalizations
- 144 ICU patients
- 67 intubations
- Two infection rates to consider: statewide and cluster
- About 20 hotspot zip codes comprising cluster
- Zips with highest infection rates:
 - 10952 17%
 - 10977 14%
 - 11230 8%
 - 11204 6%
 - 11219 5%
 - 11223 4%
 - 11229 4%
 - 11210 4%
- Overall 5.5% infection rate for cluster, 5 times infection rate statewide
- Outside cluster, 0.82% rate statewide
- Including oversample of cluster in statewide number, 1.02% statewide

Infection Rates by Region:

- Capital Region 0.5%
- Central NY 0.4%
- Finger Lakes 0.3%
- Long Island 1.3%
- NYC 1.2%
- Hudson Valley 2.4%
- Mohawk Valley 0.3%
- North Country 0.2%
- Southern Tier 0.6%
- Western NY 1.1%
- Rockland 6.5%
- Orange 4.9%
- Brooklyn 1.8%

Orthodox Jewish Communities:

- Gov. stated he had a "good exchange" with community leaders
- Community leaders understand and will take action
- Another meeting will take place 3:00 p.m. today with Dr. Zucker also attending
- Gov. stated we're "nowhere near herd immunity", which would be 50-60% infection rate

Enforcement:

- Gov. reiterated local governments need to improve enforcement
- Gov. said localities can create a task force and state will enforce and issue fines for those not wearing masks, if needed

Presidential Debate:

- Gov. referred to debate as "disrespectful, chaotic" and "frightening"
- Gov. discussed Trump's comments about mail-in ballot fraud, said this implies Trump is expecting to lose election and will not accept results
- Will result in a "constitutional crisis"

Q&A:

- On discussion with Orthodox Jewish leaders, and why they do not engage in safety protocols:
 - Gov. stated communities have variety of sects, some believe in herd immunity, some believe Trump's comments
 - Gov. stated there was no discussion of religious opposition to masks
 - Gov. stated communities should not be responsible for their own compliance, local governments need to be
- On allowing fans at Buffalo Bills games:
 - Gov. cited high infection rate in Western NY, infection rate needs to be brought down first
 - Gov. will tour stadium, meet with team leadership and discuss ways to allow fans socially-distanced
- On what Gov. would say to those who lost loved ones in nursing homes:
 - Gov. stated loved ones in nursing homes not lost due to his mandate
 - Staff, visitors brought in virus before it was known to be spreading
 - DeRosa added clusters occurring now show staff and visitors bringing virus into facilities in those regions
 - Gov. cited CDC guidance, argued mandate was to prevent discrimination against COVID patients
- On public school closures in zips with high infection rates:
 - Gov. stated principals' union and de Blasio have agreed to reopening plans, but teachers' union has not
 - Gov.: "it's between Mulgrew and the Mayor"
- On why not pause indoor dining, gyms to prevent spread from clusters:
 - Gov. said first, local governments need to enforce compliance, closing businesses would come at a later stage, if warranted
- On Gov.'s opinion on how vaccine should be administered:
 - Gov. said committee will address this, but stated it is "hard" to prioritize lives and is a complicated issue