

9.8.20 Notes from the Governor's Briefing:

COVID-19 General:

- Day 192: "Post-Labor Day phase..." "Now it gets more serious" with increased activity and Flu season
- 445 new hospitalizations
- 114 new ICU
- 52 new intubations
- 5 Deaths on Sunday
- Infection rate 0.96% yesterday (under 1% for 32 straight days)
- WNY positive rates down on Monday to 1%
- Gov continues criticism of local government compliance enforcement
 - SLA / State Police to issue new violations to 37 establishments
- Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, WV added to travel advisory list
- Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands removed from travel advisory list

COLLEGES:

- Governor criticizes colleges for lack of compliance.
- Any school going over 100 cases, schools might have to transition to remote learning
 - DOH is going to issue regulations on above

K-12 SCHOOLS:

- Gov on school districts: "Plans are only as good as your ability to implement the plan."
- The state will publicly disclose a COVID Report Card for every school. Will be located on the DOH website
 - The website will provide positive cases of students and staff
 - School district's situation: remote, in-person or hybrid
 - Number of students / staff on site
 - Percentage positive for onsite students and staff
 - Number of tests administered by school, test type, lab used and lag time
- EXEC ORDER on local health depts and testing site to properly collect data
- www.schoolcovidreportcard.healthy.ny.gov

VOTING:

- Gov mentions absentee ballot availability, and "temporary illness" box on application as an excuse
- Drop off ballot now at County Board of Elections or at early voting site starting 10/24. "This is our way of developing a drop-box system".
 - ny.gov/early vote to locate early voting location

RESTAURANTS IN NYC:

- Opening NYC indoor dining would double the number of sites that require compliance
- Local gov't would need to provide an enforcement mechanism
- No firm news provided; reiterated associated issues.

GENERAL / DC:

- Gov states that Washington is hanging cities out to dry.
- Bad news is crime is on the rise in cities, mentions NYC.
- Reiterates criticisms of the Federal Government's response to helping out states and local governments. Also reiterates criticisms of President Trump
- Reprises the NYS specific issues with the Feds / Trump. Amtrak, LaGuardia, 2nd Ave Subway, FEMA funds to be used for cleaning
 - "Donald Trump caused the COVID outbreak in New York... That is a fact."
- "There must be a federal response. The national economy depends upon it."

Q&A:

Question on new taxes (Billionaire's):

- Gov: "let's first focus on the better options":
 - Best option: Federal gov't response and aid
 - Next best option? "I don't want to go there."

- Hypothetical second best option: Best to raise revenues nationally
- Hypothetical third: Numbers will be so devastating need additional revenues, cuts and borrowing. Caveat: "The worst is next year and the year after, because the revenues are falling."
- This year is an easier year than next year.

Question on protests vs. college gatherings:

- Gov and DeRosa state that the out-of-state / country travel to colleges is the "X factor" as DeRosa noted.

Question on Daniel Prude and state oversight on local police (mentions Mt. Vernon):

- Gov states that release of D. Prude video expedited the AG's process
- On Mt. Vernon, Gov states that the investigatory authorities are prosecutors and AG's, and he doesn't know where they are in thought on the matter.

Question on schools and testing in NYC mandatory only from October on:

- DeRosa: labs will require children to answer which school districts they attend when tested, information will be provided
- Gov states that facts of situation must be provided in order to empower parents to make decisions.

Question on late submission of school plans in reference to late submission of testing:

- Gov reiterates that facts must be provided, and compliance with the plan is mandatory.

Question on college closure metrics:

- Gov states that extenuating circumstances may enable certain colleges to stay open, such as multiple campuses. Close a campus, not the entire college
- Assume 100 positive cases will result in a move to remote.

Questions on NYC Restaurants and Other Cultural Attractions:

- Gov refers to opening bars, stating "egregious" violations of the rules
 - Gov returns to criticism of local gov't compliance enforcement
 - Gov refers to NYC's use of solely the Sheriff's office, noting it's not enough local enforcement
 - Gov states that local gov'ts can use his name in compliance enforcement.
- Returned to "blame me" if local gov't enforces compliance