

Deaths: 474 (total 15,302)

COVID-19 Tracker Site: <https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov>

Wednesday

- Day 53 since we closed down NY
- Disorientating period
- Looking at other crises this is not that long but it feels very long
- Tremendous economic anxiety and insecurity, pressure of family together
- We have to deal with it
- Reality, we are in a better place, not home yet
- Bad news would have been if we couldn't control the spread
- Hospitalizations are down
- In downstate, curve is on the decent, how long is that decent?
- Better to be going down than going up
- Intubations are down
- New COVID admissions is still troublingly high
- Deaths, 474 (28 in nursing homes)
- Our actions shape our future
- If we are reckless today, we will see numbers go up in 4-5 days
- Every decision we make will affect how we come out of this and how quickly we come out of this
- Only the truth matters
- Productive visit at the White House yesterday
- We spoke truth and facts, made decisions and have a plan going forward
- These are people in the White House who politically don't like me, you see the presidents tweets, can be unkind but we sat with him and his team and that was put aside, because who cares how I feel or how he feels, just do the job, politics doesn't matter
- Discussed testing and state funding
- Need funding from Washington, state and local governments fund police, fire, teachers, schools
- President gets it, says he will work hard to get it in next bill
- Funded small business, and testing which is important but Congress needs to fund state and local governments
- President also agreed to waive state match for FEMA (25%)
- Testing: Test-Trace-Isolate
- Set as goal to double number of state tests, that is about max capacity for all the labs in the state
- If you ran all those machines 24/7 and had all the supplies you need you could do 40k tests, set goal at max potential, may be unrealistic but would rather set bar high
- Once you trace and find more positives, you isolate
- This has never been done before, intimidating but so what, that is irrelevant
- We need a tracing army,
- Will work with NJ and CT (Murphy and Lamont) to start a nation-leading contact tracing program, it will be a huge undertaking
- Mayor Bloomberg has volunteered to help us develop a first-ever testing/tracing/isolation program
- Also working with Johns Hopkins and Vital Strategies will partner in this effort

- Will be a coordinated downstate and tri-state effort
- Currently NYS: 225, Westchester: 50, Rockland: 40, NYC: 200, Nassau: 60, Suffolk: 140 (current tracers)
- We will also work with SUNY and CUNY to draw from 35,000 students in medical fields who can serve as tracers
- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day
- Neighborhoods with high concentration of COVID cases are also location with polluting plants
- Asthma and respiratory illnesses are 3x more likely among African American Communities
- This is one of the lessons we have to learn from, there is no problem we can't solve
- Talking to many local officials what are feeling pressure to re-open, understand different regions have different sets of facts, also must think of consequences
- Will not make decision because of political pressure, get the pressure local officials are under, we can't make a bad decision, we can't be stupid about it
- This is not going to be over any time soon
- This is a marathon not a sprint
- More people will die if we are not smart
- Have to look at facts, 1918 flu, there can be waves, don't be cocky because the first wave didn't knock you down
- To local officials and politicians, blame me (it is me) local officials can't do anything about them anyway, not the time for confusion between governments
- "when the freedom they wished for most was freedom from responsibility, then [they] ceased to be free" Edith Hamilton/Edward Gibbon, *The History of the decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*
- You don't have right to act irresponsible

What is Michal Bloomberg going to be doing? Funding? Will he be hiring people? Also, DeBlasio also announced a tracing effort, how will that work?

- All efforts will be coordinated
- There are not boundaries to tracing
- Monumental undertaking, we are all going to do it
- Bloomberg will design program, will make financial contribution, will coordinate entire effort
- Have weeks to get this up and running

How much \$

- Upwards of 10M, through John Hopkins, create online curriculum

Are you planning on tracing those who have already tested positive?

- Will trace as many positives as possible
- Believe there will be more positives than can be traced
- Have to do the best you can

State is broke, 250K people have tested positive, that spirals out of control

- Data comes from testing
- All you know if hospitalization rate, testing will give data on how fast it is spreading and where
- From there you are trying to, to the extent possible, trace is back and isolate it
- If you wind up with a 10% infection rate, that is 1M people in NYC infected, you can't possibly trace all of them

Isn't there an argument it is already endemic, how much is this going to costs?

- If you were at 50-60% that is heard immunity
- It is not going to be 50-60%
- A lot of people die with that strategy
- Think it will be 10% in high infection areas

What are you going with convulsant treatment?

- There have been patients who have received it, waiting to see results

- Regeneron has been looking at monoclonal antibodies

Upstate tracing? Also, announcement for nursing home inspections?

- Nursing home announcement will be tomorrow
- Testing and tracing will be statewide

You talk about re-opening businesses upstate what about schools?

- When you say you are not going to open schools, you might as well say you aren't opening businesses.
- They are very connected
- School year is over in June, to say we aren't going to open businesses until June
- Changes coming week to week
- Schools will not open until we day they will open
- Opening schools is very difficult, disinfected, protocols for social distancing and very big undertaking

could you open schools regionally?

- You could
- That will be part of discussions
- Need all the gears to turn at the same time

On anti-body testing at grocery stores, how is that going?

- Taking random surveys at stores and street corners
- Largest study in country
- What percent has been infected?

What is the state doing to help nursing homes comply with EO about patients cannot be turned away after testing positive?

- We are working with leadership at nursing homes to get more staff and how they can cohort patients within nursing homes
- Also looking at what happened with space doesn't allow
- Trying to maintain balance they are comfortable with and safety
- State doesn't run the nursing homes, states regulate them
- They get paid for their service, they are supposed to provide those services, we set regulatory framework
- If they can do it, they shouldn't be taking the patient, they have to do the job they are getting paid to do and they are violating regulations, they should lose their license

State is mandating they have to take back these patients?

- It is their patient, you have to take care of that patient
- If you can't take care of your patients we will make other accommodations
- If you can't run your business you can't run your businesses

Timeline with tracing will be operational or 40k tests?

- No timeline on either
- Tracing starting now
- Has to be built on
- This will be all new and will be ramped up

Protesters outside, spoke to a few and they are regular people who are not getting paycheck saying they don't have time to wait to feed families, point is cure can't be worse than the illness

- Death is the illness
- How can the cure be worse?
- Economic hardship is bad, not death
- Emotional stress, bad, not death
- And not death of someone else
- It's your life, do what you want, but now it is my life, you have a responsibility to others
- It is not me; it is we

- We get the economic anxiety; how do you respond to it? Do you do it in a way that jeopardizes public health
- When it is your family, nothing comes before public risk of someone else's life

What if people are out of money?

- We are talking about a couple day lag, will be from date of unemployment
- Get that the UI benefit might not be enough
- What do you do about it? Do you put public health at risk?
- Is there a fundamental right to work?
- Go take a job as an essential worker

How much will tracing cost, is there funding?

- 1.3B available from feds for tracing

Hearing nursing homes are not getting PPE's who is responsible?

- The private entity is responsible
- If you are not providing your staff with PPE, that is an issue
- We have been helping them but that is not our job
- Why are we not putting them out of business, that is a question

What if someone is not sick, but that nursing homes has to allow back infected?

- This virus attacks nursing homes, vulnerable people under one roof
- Virtually impossible to keep out
- Once it get in, it is vicious, now is not the best time to put them in nursing home

What department will these tracers work for?

- Tracers will be concentrated downstate but will be statewide and coordinated on tri-state basis
- When we see hotspot, will send tracers and testing

EMT's and firefighters also saying they don't have PPE

- Giving out what we have, when we get our head above water, it needs to change that the PPES and other equipment is made in China, needs to be made here
- Supply chain has to be brought back

What is estimate of what state has paid? Anti-body testing is it also asymptomatic

- If you are symptomatic you would get diagnostic test
- \$2.8 Billion is estimate at this time