

Deaths 437 (total 16,599)

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

- Happy Saturday
- Going to go hiking at Thatcher park today
- Hospitalizations again down, we are back where we were 21 days ago
- We need to find out when we will be back to the point where only several 100 people show up at the hospital with COVID
- All the evidence says we say we are on the decline
- Even number of new cases ticked down to 1100, would like to see that in the 2, 3 4 hundred
- 437 deaths yesterday, 418 in hospitals, 19 in nursing homes
- Testing (diagnostic and antibody)
- We do about 20k tests a day average
- Partnership with Feds, goal is 40k tests a day
- States get labs ready
- Feds make sure national manufacturers have what they need to send to labs
- The partnership is working in NY (have discussed with other states regionally)
- NYS is already doing more tests than anyone (country or states)
- Diagnostic testing:
 - We need to build a collection network to meet this new laboratory capacity
 - Today I am signing an EO allowing independent pharmacists to conduct diagnostic coronavirus tests, people can go to their local drug stores
 - Because we are rapidly increasing diagnostic capacity, today we are expanding testing criteria to include more New Yorkers
 - First responders, healthcare workers and essential workers
 - These are the people on the frontlines who are interacting with the public
 - Testing criteria will continue to expand as capacity increases, have to prioritize but opening that up
- Today we are conducting antibody testing for frontline healthcare workers at four hospitals and healthcare systems in NYC (Bellevue, Montefiore, Elmhurst and SUNY downstate-COVID only facility)
- Also, comprehensive testing next week with MTA, Transit workers, NYS Police and NYC Police department
- Thank you to the first responders, that is a good start, but actions speak louder than words, show me you are thankful, get me the help I need, show me support, testing on priority basis
- People are feeling the stress on a number of levels
- Today is day 56, need to have perspective, it is hard but these experiences will make us who we are
- You are saving lives, everyone had projected 100k more serious infections, we did what we had to do, it was hard and is hard, that is a heck of an accomplishment
- “Life is better than death...even when it is not your own.” A.J Parkinson

Q&A:

You mentioned we may take a regional approach to opening does that undermine the tri-state approach?

- Yes, that is why it has to be balanced with the tri-state approach
- Understanding the individuality of the region and also that you could trigger a reaction in the tri-state area
- That is the balance

Has that been figured out?

- Discussion is pre-mature but working on it now
- Discussions with border states and sensitive to regions
- Consensus on principles, do not undermine success
- No timeline yet

Asked about state workers going back to work:

- Will have an announcement about that next week

Five weeks since NY on PAUSE any research on who is getting infected? Essential workers?

- You know who is coming in to the hospitals and where
- Don't have broad demographic information
- You don't know where they are getting sick, they don't know where they are getting sick
- Patient data gets submitted on a lag, will be much more retrospective
- This is why contact tracing is so important

Nursing homes had problems with staffing and care before the pandemic, do you think DOH did enough before?

- We did investigations, did video checks, a lot of this is was the nursing homes needed to reach out if they had concerns
- There is a constant tension with nursing homes, they are providing a service, constant tension as to if they are providing the service
- This has been a field of scrutiny that goes back for decades
- This crisis overwhelmed the nursing homes
- Virus prays on vulnerable but regulations still apply
- If you cannot provide appropriate care, you must transfer patient
- That rule does not change
- There will be additional investigations

If we are offering testing at pharmacies why not at nursing homes?

- We have done 28 sites for nursing homes and expanding by another 15

You said yesterday that you would be making a decision on PAUSE next week, can we anticipate that would be also an announcement on regional reopening?

- Does not think this will necessarily be linked
- How essential is your business vs how safe is your business?