

Deaths: 540 (total: 13,362)

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

- Today is Saturday
- Hospitalizations are down once again
- Been down for several days, are we past apex? Hit plateau and starting to descend?
- ER's have fewer people in them, were at max capacity for a long period of time, even with the increased capacity
- Intubations are down which is very good news
- New hospitalizations per day are still hovering around 2k, still an overwhelming number, if it wasn't for relative context this would be devastating news
- 540 lives lost yesterday (504 hospitals and 36 in nursing homes)
- Testing: is the single most important topic to understand
 - Testing is key to monitoring rate of infection
- Re-Open tension
 - How fast can you re-open without increasing infection rate?
 - Now rate is .9, when that is happening the virus is stable (we were at 1.4, that is epidemic)
 - Reduced with NY PAUSE (social distancing, masks)
 - When you start to open businesses, have gatherings, you will see infection rate rise
- Calibration is all about testing, it is a very tight window
 - Testing informs calibration
 - When you find a positive you trace (requires an army)
 - Then you isolate positives
 - We need thousands of tracing investigators for our state
- How do we bring to scale?
 - Been testing more than any other state, state has played a pivotal role in that
 - We know how important, New Rochelle was hottest cluster, jumped on it and it worked
 - The more you test, the more information you have the more you can re-open
 - There are about 30 large private companies make equipment to test, they all have their own test
 - They have been selling their tests to local labs (machine and tests), sell to local labs and the public (about 300 labs licensed in NYS)
 - For a test to be performed, local labs much have the necessary testing chemicals known as "reagents"
 - There are different reagents for different manufactures tests
- In NYS we called 50 labs and asked what they would need to double production
 - They all said the reagents were the issues
- Asked manufactures why not send more reagents, they said they feds are telling them who to give them to, or they can't get them from China
 - They are regulated by federal government
- We need help from feds on supply chain, need federal partnership and coordination
- Also need funding, need to fund state governments, also funding small businesses and hospitals and schools
 - Republican used to be states' rights and limited governments
- NGA did a press release yesterday to say we need 500B for the states to do re-opening

- Feds sent 1.5 Million cloth masks to NYS that can be distributed to the public (not surgical mask), produced by Hanes (I believe)
- Emotion in this country is as high as I can recall, frustrated, scared, angry, this is a terrible experience
 - There is no time for politics, this gets worse if you politicize this emotion
 - Not going anywhere, will be governor until people kick me out and then I will go spend time with my family
 - No possibility of political distortion
 - Need unity now more than before

Mask order took effect last night but you are not wearing one, do you see that there is a do at I say not as I do?

- When I am in public, and I cannot maintain social distancing, wear a mask in public if you are in a situation where you can encroach on other people
- Not violating now but also not in public
- You want to walk the dog with me, I wear a mask (dog does not wear a mask)

You are talking about unity, there are states re-opening, what do you make of the piecemeal approach?

- Think no one should inject politics
- Can't speak for others
- Think the president point of there are states in different positions, when you say it is up to the governors there may be 50 different paths forward
- Can people drive from NY to FL now or vice versa
- Trying to do it as a region because I think it is better
- When you do individual strategies, you have different problems in different states
- Leaving it to the states is right and constitutional
- There may be different strategies in different parts of the state
- Trying to balance people traveling

How soon could you consider regional approach in upstate?

- That will be a factor for sure, let's not get ahead of ourselves, we are barely stabilizing public health system now
- First priority is public health, life and death
- In planning phase, different numbers suggest different strategy
- Balanced by mobility of people, could create unintended consequences
- Have to factor all of this in very complicated

State legislature and Heastie said they should continue session, what are your thoughts and would that mean something like recreational marijuana might be on the table?

- I think it is totally up to them
- Spoke to the Speaker yesterday, he is working
- They are working, just because they are not here does not mean they are not working
- Talking more than usual
- They can pass legislation remotely
- As far as getting into complex issue, doesn't know that is the best way but up to them

Marriage bureaus what are we doing about them?

- We are today signing EO to allow people to get their licenses remotely and allow clerks to do ceremonies by video

Releasing prisoners, how many are they going to release?

- Earlier in the week DOCS said that prisoners over 55 that have 90 days or less on their sentence and not a threat to public safety
- Think it is about 200
- It will roll forward through emergency

How many tests are being performed on prisoners?

- There are not enough tests being performed on any group in the State, not prisoners, black and brown people, healthcare worker's, first responders

Communication yesterday on nursing homes, what is expectation to loved ones about staffers testing positive?

- Nursing homes are mostly privately run, they have rules of operation
- We don't get into fine detail in their policy of communication, who they communicate with etc.
- We release more data than any other state, I don't know what else we could release that doesn't violate healthcare privacy
- If there is a complaint that nursing home is non-responsive
- Are working on issue
- Any nursing home that thinks the information is not going to come out is kidding themselves
- They are overwhelmed, they are trying to take care of lives, you have to see dynamic

Status of antibody testing?

- Working with private sector and our own lab
- Sent info to FDA

How many nursing home residents have been testing, how would we increase?

- Don't know that we would know, we would have to survey them
- Not a question we would ask
- Nursing homes do their own testing, they contract for tests

How can you be sure we are at .9?

- This is from hospital data and is extrapolated

Asked about re-infection-

- Think it is small sample and looking into it