

Deaths 195 (total 21,640)

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

From Binghamton University School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

- Pleasure to be in Binghamton
- Wanted to hear senate briefing, so we are getting a late start
- Total hospitalizations down
- Intubations down
- New Hospitalizations is down
- 195 deaths (142 in hospitals 53 in nursing homes) (up a bit from yesterday but trending down)
- Making progress but no time to get arrogant or cocky
- Virus has deceived us every step of the way
- NYS DOH is investigating 100 cases of COVID related illness in children
- Illness has killed a 5 year old, 7 year old and 18 year old
- Probably in other states and not yet diagnosed, not usual COVID symptoms
- NYS DOH is telling hospitals to prioritize tests for children with these symptoms
- NY has been smart, Reopening smart...
 - Follow the CDC guidelines, follow data and science
 - Have to learn from mistakes of others and inform actions by what happened in other places, many rushed and had to backtrack
 - Regional management and citizen participation
 - Transparency, wants every New Yorker to know the facts
- Facts are on the website, regional facts are available at: <https://forward.ny.gov/regional-monitoring-dashboard>
- Opening valve and calibrating/controlling, have to test and watch testing rate day to day (diagnostic and antibody), hospitalization rate/capacity, they will give you infection rate.
- Local regions manage this system, have built in circuit breaker, worst case, you turn off valve
- No other state had this accurate or transparent monitoring, you are the ones determining what happens in your community
- We are doing this because the secret of success has been communication to people and trueing people to make the right decisions
- Washington must act smartly, time to pass a federal bill, it has to be smart, now handouts to greedy corporation, no pork and no partisanship
- Need to fund state and local governments, working families, testing and tracing, a real economic stimulus
- Federal funds became state pork, Alabama had 100 cases of COVID-19 and received \$1.8 Billion
- How ludicrous is that?
- Understand businesses need to recover, doesn't have to be a giveaway to big business
- Instead of bailing out corporate America, save working Americans; Police officers, fire, nurses, school teachers and food banks
- NY needs \$61 billion alone in federal support or we have to reduce spending; reduce schools, local governments and hospitals by 20% if no federal funding
- This is not a red or blue issue; Governor Hogan & I will issue a joint statement today saying states need funding
- Federal bill must be responsive to working families;

- Landlord and renter's assistance
- Payroll protection
- Funeral costs
- Repeal SALT
- Fund tracing and testing:
 - Bringing state testing to scale and tracing, need funding to make that happen
- This bill should reimagine America, need to stimulate economy
 - Invest in airports, bridges, mass transit, public health infrastructure
 - This is long overdue, every president has said the same thing, need to invest in public infrastructure
- No bailout boondoggles, don't betray Americans again
- Propose the Americans first law; corporations want money, they must re-hire the same number of employees, give the money back
- NY congressional delegation will propose lay
- Also spoke to them about what we need in this bill, believe delegation will be leading the way

Q&A:

You mentioned that Southern Tier will be reopening on May 15, timeline on phase two?

- Start reopening valve, watching gages, if they stay low, you can start phase 2

When you talk about closing the valve, do you go back to phase 1 or close all together

- If you want everything closely, you should never get to place where needed get to the red
- Calibrate actively to keep margins

Businesses in Southern Tier have issued warn notice, what can state do to help?

- Will work with any employer to figure out social distancing, your local leaders will work with employers, anything we can do we will do

Talked about staying smart? Will there be fines for opening too soon?

- That will be up to local health departments to enforce, who should be open and who should not be open, also if they are in compliance

In NY setting up system in case of second wave?

- We live in fear of second wave, not even sure what that means
- Could be a mutation or because of opening too soon
- It is a possibility because you reopen too quickly or people get too casual too quickly

Talk about monitoring metrics, minimum time between phases?

- 14 days is preliminary estimate between phases
- If rates are low, you could accelerate the 14 days

As far as nursing homes, employees need to be tested 2x a week, where will tests come from?

- Nursing homes are top priority, put in many restrictions
- We now have more testing capacity and need to prioritize nursing homes
- Will work with any region who says they don't have capacity
- Many nursing homes are saying it is burdensome and unnecessary
- Will work on capacity
- We said that nursing homes have to turn in plans, will be evaluated

EO that allows pharmacies to do testing will you consider allowing pharmacists to do vaccinations?

- Don't know enough on specifics to give an answer
- Pharmacies make tremendous difference

What if nursing home worker refuses the test?

- That's a problem, if staff person just doesn't want to take the test, would have to check with the lawyers, then the person shouldn't work in a nursing home
- If test is available and at no cost, why wouldn't you take it?