

Deaths 166 (total: 22,011)

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

From Jefferson Community College, Watertown NY

- Pleasure to be in North County
- Thank Dr. Ty Stone for having us
- Hospitalizations down
- Intubation is down
- New cases per day is up slightly but overall down
- Went up very fast, decline has been slower
- Getting control was slower and harder
- Deaths 166 (122 in hospitals and 44 in nesting homes)
- We owe our essential workers, asked them to show up when others stayed home, made a tremendous sacrifice
- Have been doing testing of essential workers, good news has been the frontline workers are testing at lower rates than general population, PPE works
- We also samples NYS Police (2,750 and only 3.1% tested positive)
- Tested Correction officers; over 3k samples and 7.5% positive (also below average)
- Update on elective surgeries, will start in 12 more counties: Albany, Cayuga, Chemung, Columbia, Clinton, Cortland, Montgomery, Orange, Otsego, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Warren
- Attention on reopening, doing the most transparent reopening discussion and operation in any state
- Best thing to do is to give information to the public, they will then do the right thing
- If you open too soon you will see spikes and cases in deaths, what is too soon
- Need to make sure hospital system can handle and people are doing the right things
- Must calibrate and control, watch the numbers there is a science to this
- Regional control group, watch numbers, make sure there is compliance from businesses and people and you will know if rate of transmission is increasing
- With this virus we must stay alert because we are still learning
- Thought it was coming from China, thought antibodies would give immunity, thought it didn't affect children
- Now, we are seeing COVID related illnesses in children; 102 cases are being investigated
  - Have lost 3 children
  - 60% tested positive for virus, 40% tested positive for antibodies
  - Children may have been exposed to the virus weeks before
  - 71% went into ICU
  - 19% intubated
  - 43% still hospitalized
  - 14 other states are now investigation cases in their states 5 other countries
- DOH is hospital a webinar tomorrow for healthcare providers
- If your child has been exposed to COVID-19 you should take heightened precautions
- Hospitals have been directed to prioritize testing for these cases
- Washington must act smart, we need help to make this happen
- Need state and local aid, have significant funding gap
- \$61B gap for police firefighters, schools, local governments
- Need funding for testing and tracing; public infrastructure as an economic stimulus
- Bill that was introduced yesterday has the repeal of SALT; costs NY 29B a year; single best piece of action for the state of NY, this needs to be in the final bill

- Issued joint statement with Governor Hogan on federal assistance
- No corporate giveaways or layoffs
- Op-ed in Washington Post today
- NY Delegation will introduce legislation Americans First Act

Q&A:

What is the future of state prisons? In this fiscal climate many are worried about their jobs. You were given authority to close.

- Thank them for their service
- They showed up when we needed them
- State budget will purely be reliant on federal government
- Can't make up 61B, if they act responsibly then we will proceed with budget plan that we had, but if they do not, we will have a serious problem and can't say what actions we will need to take

Unemployment; still a problem, Richie's office is getting calls, and set up website calling on

Commissioner to resign, your spokesperson called it cheap shots from cheap politicians, are they cheap politicians?

- Is it a cheap shot? Yes
- It is easy to pander
- Washington passed a law implementing new UI benefits, state has to figure out how to administer; we have to certify things before we can send money
- This crashes website, google comes in to redesign, every state is going through this, our response rate is better than any other state
- Understand that if you haven't received your check, that doesn't matter
- Made tremendous progress in a short period of time
- No one saw this coming, never expected it to happen
- Reduced wait and response time dramatically
- DOL will announce later today that \$7.4B; has gone out
- DOL will have announcement late today about forfeiture days
- A few months from now they will find someone who got the benefits who didn't deserve it, that's the tension, you want to get everyone processed but don't give funds that don't meet criteria

North County hit requirements to reopen now, can you tell what changed?

- Testing parameters came from Dr. Brix; North Country was just below but has now hit that testing criteria
- There is also the danger of reopening too soon, we hit all the metrics but that doesn't mean we are done, we have to monitor every day, that is the regional responsibility
- Has to be watched every day and calibrate every day, you are reopening as long as it is not too soon and done right
- People get cocky and arrogant we will be right back
- Once you have testing capacity you won't lose that, now have to see what those tests say

North Country houses a large portion of inmates, have outbreak at one facility, is there a plan to test more inmates?

- Yes, we are ramping up testing across the board
- Also need to test vulnerable populations, nursing homes, COVID children, essential workers, prison population
- Need more tests across the board; as we get more, we can expand
- Testing with same criteria as the general public
- 445 cases within system 306 have recovered
- Will look into outbreak, if more testing needed, we will make sure to get that
- CO's have done tremendous job in a very difficult situation

Fort Drum is relaxing a little quicker than NY, does that undermine the reopening?

- I hope they are right and careful, understand the pressure

- State is taking a beating every day
- Don't know what Ft. Drum is doing in particular
- Federal government came up with these guidelines
- Don't understand the rationale of opening until you meet the CDC guidelines

CA announced start colleges will not open in the fall, given NY's similar structure with SUNY?

- I don't know, situation changes so fast, facts change, assumptions change
- Don't know where we will be in August or even June
- Told them to plan to reopen with the new normal
- Want to get more information, not ready to say what we will do in September

Nursing home testing for employees, worried about not having enough tests to do that, will state supply?

- I know they are not happy about testing, some people are not happy about anything
- This is the most vulnerable population
- Twice a week is not that dramatic, no cost to the employees
- It is an inconvenience; we will help them get the tests
- We have to be able to say we did everything we can, that's the only way to put your head on the pillow
- I can say today we did everything we could, want to make sure we can say the same until this is over
- Understand it is a pain, will help them get the tests if they can't get them