

Deaths 106 (total 22.725)

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

Regional Dashboard: <https://forward.ny.gov/regional-monitoring-dashboard>

- Good to be in Buffalo
- Pleasure to be a Roswell
- Pleasure to be with Byron Brown and Mark Poloncarz
- Took test, happy to say I am negative
- Expanded eligibility for testing
- Anyone who has any symptom can get a test
- If you were exposed to a person you find out is positive, get a test
- Hospitalizations are down, not a lot but down
- Intubations down
- New hospitalizations, down by 1
- 106 deaths (83 in hospitals, 23 in nursing homes)
- We have done a phenomenal job in reducing the spike, we had no idea where and if the incline would stop
- Want to avoid spike, takes a long
- Priority to protect nursing home residents and seniors
- Introduced to virus in Washington at nursing home
- Last week we put in place requirement to test nursing home staff twice per week
- To help nursing homes meet this requirement, NYS is connecting facilities that have reserved at least 35k tests a day for that purpose.
- Sending 320k test kits to nursing homes
- I know the nursing home precautions are hard, operational issues
- They are the most aggressive precautions in the nation...
- But also know they are necessary, have to do what we can to protect lives
- This is our family that are in nursing homes, owe them gratitude and respect, have to be able to say we did everything we could
- Reopening-We are opening regions that have met metrics
- Western NY-preparing for Western NY to open tomorrow, training tracers
- NY DOH has also granted Erie County Medical Center a waiver to restart elective surgeries
- I encourage major sports teams to plan reopening without fans
- NYS will help those franchises
- Judges and staff will be returning to courthouses in 30 upstate counties starting this week
- Reopening is not a political exercise, not about personal opinion, not an ideological opinion, not a geographic opinion, not an opinion at all
- It is math, it is numbers, facts
- Make sure you don't go above 70% capacity in hospital beds and ICU beds, you have testing up and running 30 tests/100 residents, 30 tracers for every 100k residents and watch infection rate
- This is science and math, go look at data and what is happening
- We are going to bring in advisors who are international experts who have dealt with these kind of diseases
 - Dr. Michael Osterholm, Director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, University of Minnesota agreed to review our data
 - Dr. Samir Bhatt Senior lecturer at Imperial College of London, geo-statistics

Dr. Bhatt:

- Honor to work with you
- Sacrifices people have made deserve an applause
- NY has successfully contained the virus for now
- Must continue to watch data and follow signs
- NY is leading the way with data collection
- This can be used for decision making
- Need the best data and the most data
- Relied on data from Google as well
- As reopening begins, we will see cases rise, have to follow the data

Cuomo:

- Thank the doctor and the college
- This is a global pandemic; we are not the first to deal with this
- Others have learned lessons, want to make sure we have the best-informed approach
- What is impact of reopening? We don't know what road ahead will look like
- Employer responsibility? Safety guidelines must be followed
- Storeowner responsibility?
- Employee responsibility?
- Individual responsibility?
- Local governments responsibility?
- Nothing is pre-determined, function of what we do
- Liberating that that is driven by math and science
- It is up to us and you
- We should set our goal high
- We are smart enough to learn and strong enough to get back up
- We will come back stronger, better, smarter

Q&A

Appears metrics were re-set to allow for opening can you explain?

- They are a three-day rolling average, have to compute from a date
- It was either rolling average or 14-day decline
- Take the last three days and average

Many NYers frustrated about comments on unemployment many say they still can't get through-

- Commissioner will do a call today to address this
- Not everyone has been paid, some haven't been certified, some information is incomplete and some is suspected fraud
- We are getting very close, that is the exception not the rule
- People are angry with good reason, this has overwhelmed every state
- We have 3k employees on phones, get the money out the door
- Then also have the pressures of this being taxpayer money, make sure there is no fraud, money is going to people who qualify
- Worried about computer fraud, have to be careful

Local law firm has filed suit ordering people to work off site is abuse of power, have you seen this?

- Have not seen it
- A lot of people say a lot of things

How do we get tourists back to NYS, what about boats at Niagara Falls?

- This is an international question, when will people get back on planes, when will people have money?
- Questions of Niagara Falls boats, questions is when crowds will be ok again.

Sports without fans, is that for foreseeable future, how much should governments be invoiced?

- My opinion is they have to do a ramp up anyway

- If they can economically have games with no fans and it works for them
- State will work with them to come back
- We will help in any way we can
- And when we can fill a stadium again, we will fill a stadium
- I'd rather watch current sports

What about houses of worship? Libraries?

- Anywhere you have concentration and gatherings that is the issue
- Let's not make the same mistakes twice
- New Rochelle was started by one person at a religious gathering
- These places all come in that same category
- Answer is everyone will know, have to follow the numbers and see trajectory of progress
- Houses of worship would be in last phase; question is if you can do something less than that

Spoke to nursing home that said they didn't know the state was sending kits, procured their own, what is communication?

- Speaking to them daily, secured tests to help them
- Also, staff can go to drive in testing sites, any other testing sites, 700 sites around the state
- Understand they don't want to do it but I want to be able to say we did everything we could
- If we do once a week, you have 6 days of spreading virus in the nursing homes, you know how many people you could hurt?

Said how important it is to listen to experts, experts say we had some of the worst conditions and worst care, did this happen because of that?

- Don't believe experts would say that
- We are doing more and now you are complaining about that

Thought given to county breakdown for reopening? How much time between reopening phases?

- 14 days is the guideline because it is incubation period of virus
- If economic activity rate is increasing but other metrics are not, you could say we would get more aggressive and increase faster
- Pure function of management of numbers
- Let's keep it on facts and numbers
- When your breakdown the numbers too far, don't know how reliable they are
- This is all a new system
- Fear is if you get too granular, wouldn't feel comfortable in accuracy, that isn't my field that is geo-statistics

Talk about individual responsibility, business responsibility who will police and who will be watchdog?

- The guidelines are the guidelines and think they are clear
- Local governments will be responsible for enforcement and New Yorker should enforce

Metrics from earlier, state moved date of spike, and that changes date that Western NY would qualify, what moved and what changed?

- A three-day rolling average is 3 days going back from today
- We have numbers for what that three-day rolling average
- Once we hit May 15, Western NY could reopen as soon as metrics were met

How did we find the tracers?

- The great work of our County Exec
- We have enlisted the public servants they have stepped up and will be ready to launch