

Deaths: 232 (total 19,877)

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

From Manhasset, NY, Northwell Health

Also in attendance: Michael Dowling

- One of the most challenging times this state has faced
- Lots of opinions out there
- Interested in opinions but let's start with facts
- Hospitalizations are down, gradually decline
- Intubations are down
- Also new hospitalizations are down again (~600)
- 232 Deaths, 207 in hospitals and 25 in nursing homes
- Caution in the number of deaths, we aren't even sure with it came to NYC, think the numbers will be very different than we thought they were (CDC now says it came from Europe)
- We aren't even sure when the virus arrived (some say it came in late 2019)
- Think it will be worse when the final number are tallied
- This is a time of unprecedented anxiety and stress and people want answers now
- But let's understand the questions: question is not Open vs. Reopen, we have to reopen the society
- The question is how do we reopen?
- Answer is facts and data not emotion and politics
- Calibrate by: # of hospitalizations, infection rate, number of deaths, hospital capacity, antibody tests, diagnostic tests, tracking data
- New York numbers are going down, the rest of the country is going up
- We are reducing the hospitalization rate
- Next level is analysis, need to figure out where new cases are coming from
- We asked hospitals to provide information about who was coming into hospitals as a way to better target efforts (113 hospitals, preliminary results over 3 days)
- Where are they from: 9% Bronx, 13% Kings, 21% New York, 13% Queens, 1% Richmond, 18% LI, 11% Rockland/Westchester, 14% All other
- 21% African American, 5% Asian, 17% Hispanic/Latino, 1% Native Hawaiian, 38% White, 17% other (statewide)
- 48% Female, 52% Male
- 96% with Comorbidities, 4% without
- 66% came from home, 18% nursing homes
- Most were older (51+)
- Most did not use public transit
- Most were unemployed/retired
- Initial findings:
 - Not working,
 - Not traveling,
 - Predominantly downstate,
 - Predominantly minority

- Predominantly older
- Predominantly non-essential employees
- Predominantly at home
- Reaffirms our precautionary measures for personal safety and public health
- Also, what is happening in hot spots, happening in meat packing plants
- We have a hot spot in Oneida and Madison at greenhouse/farm
- What does that tell you, it's not about meat or vegetables, it's about worker density and large gatherings?
- Like in New Rochelle, super spread in dense gatherings
- That is something we have to watch and keep in mind
- We must not lose the opportunity to build back better
- Set bar and goal high
- It's about reopening, rebuilding and re-imagining
- Better transportation, better healthcare, social justice, better education etc.
- Hospitals must be reorganized to operate as one system in a public health emergency
- We implemented a surge and flex to manage our healthcare system during the crisis, now we must reimagine our healthcare system
 - How can we ensure tele-medicine is available to all?
 - How can we do better to allocate healthcare resources statewide
 - How do we harden the healthcare system against future challenges?
 - How do we better protect/support our healthcare workers?
- Have asked Michael Dowling to do that, will lead the effort, will be working with Dr. Zucker
- Another area is Education: had to go to remote learning, teachers and parents did a phenomenal job
- Working with the Gates Foundation to do that
- Create a testing and tracing system for now and the future, working with Mayor Bloomberg to help develop that
- How do we use new technologies in our economy of tomorrow?
- Eric Schmitt former CEO and Executive Chairman of Google and founder of Schmidt Futures has agreed to serve as a chair of this 15-member blue ribbon committee

Eric Schmitt:

- You have been doing an incredible job for our state and nation
- Telehealth, remote learning and broadband
- Solutions have to help those most in need
- Need to consider everyone's situation
- Need to look for solutions that can be presented now and accelerated
- Have systems that need to be updated and reviewed
- NYS/NYC has to come out stronger
- Public private partnerships

Cuomo:

- Thank you for the help, looking forward to working with you
- National Nurses Day, our frontline healthcare workers has been extraordinary
- Jet Blue has donated round trip flights to 100k medical personnel, 10k to NY medical professionals

Q&A:

About reopening, you have rubber stamped some businesses, if businesses have ways to stay safe, do you move forward piecemeal?

- We have a very detailed plan, regionally
- Numbers are dramatically different in regions
- There are specific factual data points that each region has to assess

- If you meet those criteria, business that are most essential and able to social distance
- Drive in theater, you can make those decisions, may be business by business
- Want to make sure you have the virus on retreat

In regard to spike in homeless population, do you think cutting programs is to blame?

- Have increased funding across the board, local governments decide what programs
- It is not just money, have to know what you are doing

With the presidential primary back on what are you doing for BOE who will receive large influx of Absentee ballots

- Have to run election, don't want people waiting on line to vote, that makes no sense
- To the extent we can do absentee ballots and make that easy that is the best way
- If they have to show up, must social distance

BOE's may not be prepared, are you working with them?

- Been working with the, haven't heard that they can't send them out
- Making sure everyone is prepared
- Likely results won't be available on election night
- Need to have confidence in elections
- Have discussed possibility of using national guard where necessary

You have said east coast strain that west coast strain, do you have understanding about if people can be re-infected and if anti-body test shows immunity?

- No one told us it would be coming from Europe, no one was screening those travelers
- Can't speak to strains
- The initial thought was antibodies gave immunity, that is being questioned
- CDC is looking at genetic fingerprint
- All of the information is not our yet
- We continue to learn more about this every day
- Also, how long antibody protection would last
- Also looking back to deaths in November and December

Contact tracing needs to be a big challenge, also software is not available

- We have to do thousands of tests, have brought testing on line faster than anyone
- Has to be in every region and then an army of tracers, and then isolate those people
- That has to be in every regional, working to get that up and running
- I don't know about counties software system
- We are working with county on testing and tracing
- Data we discussed today will help target and isolate to overall infection rate
- Never been done before, and have to institutionalize it
- This this is going to be the first real public health emergency but don't believe this is the last time we will do it

Social distancing, saying lower income areas are having more enforcement than wealthier areas

- Local governments have discretion in how to enforce, should be done in a non-discriminatory way
- It is so easy to wear the mask, look at what people have had to do to save lives