



NEW YORK STATE COVID-19 UPDATE

May 22, 2020

As of May 22nd, New York has over 350,000 positive COVID cases and an additional 109 related deaths. This week, Governor Cuomo relaxed some guidelines which allows NYS beaches to open and permits small social gatherings to take place in light of Memorial Day weekend. However, the Governor reiterated the importance of adhering to social distancing measures to reduce the risk of infection spread due to increased activity.

Reopening:

- If COVID-related deaths continue to decline and contact tracing mechanisms are operational, the Long Island and mid-Hudson regions could begin Phase I of reopening next week;
- In preparation for the beginning of Phase I in these regions, construction "staging" will be permitted in both regions;
- Governor Cuomo announced that beginning today, NY will launch a \$100M+ NY Forward Loan Fund which will provide flexible and affordable loans to help small businesses (20 or fewer employees and less than \$3M in gross revenue) that did not receive federal COVID-19 assistance

Testing & Tracing:

- NYS is launching a new pilot program with 52 independent pharmacies to conduct 7,000 COVID tests per week;
- NY now has 750 total testing sites throughout the state;
- New Yorkers who wish to get tested can visit www.coronavirus.health.ny.gov for more information;
- Contact tracing is underway in 7 regions. NYS and Mayor Bloomberg have developed a contact tracing program and will share best practices with other states through a partnership with the National Governor's Association.

May 21, 2020

As of May 21st, New York has over 350,000 positive COVID cases and an additional 105 deaths. Today, Governor Cuomo gave his daily briefing from NYC, where he reiterated his point that increased activity will lead to increased cases, if precautions are not taken. The Governor urged New Yorkers to think about their roles and responsibilities in mitigating the crisis. NY has implemented a Coronavirus Hotline for employees to report employers who are not following proper reopening procedures.

Reopening:

- Rockland County will join the other 50 counties in resuming elective and ambulatory surgery;
- State beaches will open tomorrow and be restricted to 50% capacity. Beach-goers must follow social distancing protocols, wear masks when social distancing is not possible, and avoid contact sports. Concessions will remain closed;
- The sales tax filing deadline for small businesses has been extended again to June 22nd.

Testing & Tracing:

- Governor Cuomo reiterated that the NYC general population has had a higher rate of COVID-positive tests than NYC frontline workers, suggesting that PPE is helping;
- Test results showed that NYSP, DOCCS, Office of Court Administration have a lower percentage of COVID-positive tests than the NYS general population;
- NYS tracers will soon begin to call those who have tested positive for COVID and ask for contact information for people whom they've been in contact with;
- Governor Cuomo says the caller-ID will read "NYS Contact Tracing" and is urging people who receive these calls to answer the call.

Children & COVID:

- NYSDOH is investigating 157 cases of a COVID-related illness in children;
- 25 states, including Washington D.C., and 13 countries have reported cases;
- Cuomo reiterated that it is still too early to determine whether schools will reopen in the fall;
- NY will issue guidelines to schools in June and schools will be required to submit reopening plans to the State in July;
- Summer schools will be conducted via distance learning.

May 19, 2020

As of 5/20, New York has over 350,000 positive COVID cases and an additional 112 deaths. Once again, hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and intubation rates are down. Today, the Capital Region begins Phase I of the NYS's reopening plan.

Testing:

- In partnership with NY Congressional delegation members, NY has prioritized antibody testing in minority communities;
- Testing sites were located at NYC church sites and results showed that ~27% of the 8,000 people tested, tested positive for COVID antibodies. The Bronx had the highest percentage of positive tests: 34%;
- Data shows a continued high community spread in NYC, which is due to a lack of PPE, hand sanitizer, social distancing, and education;
- Now that NY has the facts, the state will implement targeted strategies to positively impact the communities;
 - Northwell Health will double the testing sites to 44 churches;
 - SOMOS will open 28 additional testing sites;
 - and, NY will expand testing to 40 public housing developments (from 8).

Reopening:

- Beginning on Thursday, 5/21, NYS will permit religious gatherings of no more than 10 people. Governor Cuomo is encouraging these gatherings to be held in a drive-in fashion;
- NYS will convene the Interfaith Advisory Council to discuss proposals to bring back religious services using best practices;
- Governor Cuomo reiterated that wearing masks, adherence to social distancing protocols, and common sense will help make the reopening process safe and successful.

Wear a Mask Campaign:

- On May 5th, the Governor launched a contest asking New Yorkers to create and share videos on why they wear masks;
- The winning video will be used as a public service ad;
- Today, Governor Cuomo's daughter who is heading up this initiative, Mariah Kennedy-Cuomo announced that there are five finalists for the contest. The five finalist ads were shown live during the briefing and can be viewed here: www.wearamask.ny.gov

May 19, 2020

As of May 19th, New York has over 352,000 positive COVID cases and an additional 117 deaths; the NY COVID death toll has climbed above 22,000. New hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and intubations continue to slowly decline. Governor Cuomo again advocated for his proposed American's First Law which will prevent corporations from getting federal assistance if they do not re-hire the same number of workers that they had laid off due to COVID. Governor Cuomo and Governor Hogan, on behalf of the NGA, are calling upon the Federal government to pass a \$500B package to provide state fiscal relief.

Reopening Update:

- On 5/20, the Capital Region is expected to begin Phase I of NYS's reopening plan now that 430 contact tracers have been identified and are currently being trained (the Capital Region only needed 383 contact tracers);
- Nassau County is now eligible to join the other 49/60 counties allowed to resume elective surgeries;
- GNYHA and HANYS are implementing a 2-week pilot program that will allow increased hospital visitations for family and loved ones
 - As part of this pilot program, visitors will be time-limited, must wear PPE, and are subject to symptom and temperature checks
 - Various hospitals in Nassau, Suffolk, Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Erie, Onondaga, Westchester, Otsego, and Albany counties will participate
- Governor Cuomo announced that on Memorial Day, ceremonies will be allowed with 10 people or less.

To view H&L's updated guidance on NYS's reopening, click [here](#).

May 18, 2020

As of May 18th, New York has nearly 350,000 positive COVID cases and an additional 106 deaths. During his Sunday briefing, Governor Cuomo took a COVID swab test on air. In today's briefing, he announced that he had tested negative for COVID. Testing eligibility has been expanded to anyone who has flu-like symptoms and employees returning to the workplace in phase one of the state's reopening plan. Tomorrow, the Western NY region will be among those regions permitted to reopen.

New Yorkers eligible for diagnostic testing now include:

- Any individual who has COVID-19 symptoms;
- Any individual who has had contact with a person known to be positive with COVID-19;
- Any individual who is subject to a precautionary or mandatory quarantine;
- Any individual who is employed as a health care worker, nursing home worker or first responder;
- Any essential worker who directly interacts with the public while working; and
- Any individual who would return to the workplace in phase one of the state's reopening plan.

Reopening:

- Governor Cuomo is encouraging major sports teams to develop plans for reopening, without spectators;
- NYS DOH has granted Erie County Medical Center a waiver to perform elective procedures;
- Judges and staff are returning to 30 upstate courthouses this week.

Monitoring Data:

- International experts will advise NY based on data (hospitalizations, infection rate, etc.);
- Governor Cuomo has enlisted the help of Dr. Osterholm of the University of Minnesota and Dr. Bhatt of the Imperial College of London to monitor infection trends in NY and make recommendations;
- Dr. Bhatt commended NY for its data collection, but reiterated that no country is out of the woods yet.

May 15, 2020

As of May 15th, the Finger Lakes, North Country, Southern Tier, Central NY, and Mohawk Valley regions of New York will begin Phase I of the State's reopening plan. Governor Cuomo has extended the NY PAUSE order to May 28th for regions that do not meet the criteria for reopening today. If within that time a region meets all 7 criteria, they can begin Phase I immediately. The Governor also announced that beaches around the state will be permitted to open prior to Memorial Day weekend providing they adhere to certain conditions.

Highlights of Guidance for 5 Regions Opening Today:

Residential and Commercial Construction:

- Indoor/outdoor construction will open;
- Masks must be worn by employees when within 6 feet of another employee;
- Employer must provide masks;
- No congregate meetings

Retail Business Owners:

- Curbside pickup:
 - Employer and purchaser in vehicle must wear a mask, gloves are preferred.
Employers must make hand sanitizer available for employees;
- In-store pickup:
 - Requires ordering ahead
 - Social distancing required in-store
 - No more than 50% of maximum occupancy
 - Patrons and employees must wear a mask
 - Employers must make hand sanitizer available for patrons and employees

Local Officials/Regional Control Center:

- Enforce business compliance and social distancing;
- Each individual Regional Control Center will have daily morning meetings to review and monitor infection/testing/hospitalization rates;
- Coordinate and track testing/tracing methods.

Beaches for Memorial Day:

- Governor Cuomo discussed the importance of working with neighboring states including NJ, DE, and CT in coordinating the reopening of beaches in light of warmer weather approaching;
- NY, NJ, DE, and CT have reached an agreement stating that state and local beaches/lakeshores may open on 5/22 pending they meet the following conditions:
 - No more than 50% occupancy, by controlling exits/entrances/parking
 - Prohibiting group contact activities like volleyball and football
 - Keeping areas of social gathering closed (picnic areas, playgrounds, etc.)
 - Enforcing social distancing measures
 - Requiring masks to be worn by all employees/visitors when social distancing is not possible
 - Closing concessions
- City/Town/County beaches may open on same conditions subject to local government "home rule":
 - Local government must fully enforce minimum rules and may impose additional conditions
 - If local governments do not enforce minimum rules, beach will be closed
 - Local governments must publicly notify by 5/20 what local beaches will open and remain closed so the State can properly staff state beaches

May 14, 2020

As of May 14th, New York has over 350,000 positive COVID cases and an additional 157 related deaths. Intubation, ICU admissions, hospitalizations, and death rates are all slightly down. Governor Cuomo reiterated the need for reopening the state in a collaborative, calibrated, and intelligent way that is based on science, data, and metrics. Tomorrow, the Finger Lakes, Mohawk Valley, Southern Tier, North Country, and Central NY regions will begin Phase I of the State's reopening plan. For up-to-date information on NYS's reopening guidance, please click [here](#).

Local Government Management:

- Daily monitoring of numbers (new infections, new hospitalizations, etc.);
- Business compliance (develop safety and disinfecting protocols to minimize infection spread);
- Individual compliance (continue social distancing protocols, continue to wear masks in public, etc.);
- React immediately if numbers change.

Federal Funding

- \$3.9B federal funding will be expedited to the MTA to assist with the sharp decline in ridership. The first installment will be made today;
- Governor Cuomo is supportive of the House-proposed bill that provides state and local aid, testing funding, repeals the SALT act to help states most affected by COVID;
- The Governor restated his case for the Americans First Act;
- Yesterday, Governor Hogan and Governor Cuomo called upon Congress to pass \$500B in state fiscal assistance.

Re-Imagining a Better New York:

- Governor Cuomo said this pandemic shed light on areas that need to be improved including:
 - Education
 - Telecommuting
 - Telemedicine
 - Better transportation
 - Better public health system

- Cuomo said that it is critical for manufacturers in the U.S. to make emergency medical equipment (masks, gowns, drugs, ventilators, and tests) so that we do experience the same procurement challenges during a future emergency;
- NY will lead the nation by committing \$3M in grants to NY businesses who want to manufacture supplies and equipment;
- Those who are interested should contact Empire State Development at www.esd.ny.gov.

COVID & Children:

- DOH is investigating over 100 cases of a COVID-like illness in children ages 1-21. The illness is mirroring the Kawasaki disease and toxic shock syndrome;
- 16 other states, including Washington D.C., and 6 other countries have reported similar cases;
- NY has issued first-in-the-nation criteria to healthcare professionals defining this syndrome;
- DOH is directing hospitals to prioritize testing for children with symptoms.

May 13, 2020

As of May 13th, New York has over 345,000 positive COVID cases and an additional 166 deaths. Governor Cuomo announced that most counties will be able to resume elective and ambulatory surgeries. The North Country region has officially met all [7 criteria](#) for reopening and will join the Southern Tier, Mohawk Valley, and Finger Lakes regions in beginning Phase I of the Governor's reopening plan on Friday.

Testing for Essential Workers:

- NY is prioritizing antibody testing for essential workers and preliminary results are showing that essential workers are testing positive at lower rates than the general public.
- Testing results:
 - Downstate transit workers: 14.2%
 - Downstate healthcare workers: 12.2%
 - NYPD: 10.5%
 - FDNY/EMT: 17.1%
 - 3,00 members of DOCCS: 7.5%
 - NYC general population: 19.9%

Reopening:

- The Finger Lakes, Mohawk Valley, Southern Tier, and North Country regions meet metrics for reopening and will begin Phase I of reopening on Friday;
- Governor Cuomo reiterated Dr. Fauci's warning about reopening too soon and says that the best strategy for reopening is one that is calibrated and controlled by monitoring diagnostic testing, antibody testing, and hospitalization, capacity, and infection rates;
- Regional control groups should manage, monitor, and ensure compliance with safety precautions.

COVID & Children:

- NYS DOH is investigating 102 cases of what may be a rare COVID-related illness in children. They are also investigating 3 related deaths;
- 60% of children with symptoms tested positive for COVID and 40% tested positive for the antibodies. 14% test positive for both. 71% of cases were admitted to the ICU;

- DOH alerted the 49 other state health departments and Commissioner Zucker held a nationwide call with health commissioners as part of NY's role as leading national effort on the new syndrome;
- 14 other states (CA, CT, DE, GA, IL, KY, LA, MA, MS, NJ, OH, PA, UT, and WA) have reported cases, as well as Spain, France, England, Italy, and Switzerland.

May 12, 2020

As of May 12th, New York has over 345,000 positive COVID cases and an additional 195 related deaths. The 3-day average of hospitalization, ICU admissions, and intubation rates continue to tick downward. The Governor gave his daily update from the Binghamton University School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences where he continued to outline his reopening plan for New York. Today, on behalf of the National Governors' Association, Gov. Cuomo and Gov. Hogan will issue a joint statement that makes the case for providing states with federal funding.

Emerging Issues:

- DOH is investigating approximately 100 cases of what may be a COVID-related illness in children with symptoms similar to Kawasaki disease and toxic shock-like syndrome. They're also investigating 3 related deaths;
- Predominately affecting children ages between 1-19;
- DOH is advising hospitals to prioritize COVID testing for children.

Reopening:

- Governor Cuomo said that the State needs to calibrate and control the state's reopening efforts to minimize negative effects;
- To do so, the State will continue to monitor the diagnostic testing rate, antibody testing, hospitalization rates vs. capacity, and the infection rate;
- Regional Control Groups will manage and monitor these metrics and act as the “circuit breaker;”
- Should there be negative impacts to those metrics, the reopening plan will adjust to mitigate further risk;
- Governor Cuomo referenced the Regional Monitoring Dashboard that will be updated regularly: <https://forward.ny.gov/regional-monitoring-dashboard>.

Calling Upon the Federal Government for Assistance:

- Governor Cuomo continues to request Federal funding to help NY's economy recover from COVID;
- He is advocating for Federal funding for state and local governments, working families, and state testing and tracing;
- He is also calling upon Congress to pass a more substantive economic stimulus package;

- Governor Cuomo says that NY needs \$61B alone in federal support or NY will have to reduce spending for schools, local governments, and hospitals by 20%.

"Reimagine" America

- Funding should not only stimulate the economy, but also invest in public infrastructure (airports, bridges, mass transit, public health infrastructure);
- Governor Cuomo advocated for his proposed "Americans First Law" – which would prevent corporations from receiving federal funding if they do not hire the same number of employees back after the emergency ends;
- Cuomo says a number of NY Congressional delegation will lead the way and propose the "Americans First Law" in the House of Representatives.

Nursing Homes:

- NY is now requiring all nursing home and adult care facility staff to be COVID tested twice a week;
- Nursing homes and ACFs are required to submit a plan to the DOH by this Wednesday;
- The State will work with regions who do not have the testing capacity to conduct 2 tests/week.

May 11, 2020

As of May 11th, New York has over 340,000 positive COVID cases and an additional 161 related deaths. Intubation, ICU admissions, and hospitalization rates continue to gradually decline. Governor Cuomo says that the NY PAUSE order, which closed down all nonessential businesses statewide, is set to expire on Friday, May 15th. As the State begins to roll out its reopening plan, the focus will be shifted to localities. Currently, the Southern tier, Mohawk Valley, and Finger Lakes Regions meet metrics for reopening. Today, the Governor announced the members of the "Regional Control Rooms" who will be responsible for monitoring the rate of infection in their assigned regions as business and social activity begins to increase. We will post the list when it becomes available.

7 Reopening Requirements:

1. Regions must see a 14-day decline in hospitalizations or under 15 new cases a day (3-day average)
2. Regions must see a 14-day decline in hospitalized deaths or under 5 new deaths per day (3-day average)
3. New daily hospitalizations in regions must remain under 2 per 100k residents (2 day rolling average)
4. Hospitals in a given region must have a bed vacancy of at least 30%
5. Hospitals in a given region must have an ICU bed vacancy of at least 30%
6. Regions must continue to test at least 30 people per 1k residents monthly
7. Regions must have at least 30 contact tracers per 100k residents

Regional Control Rooms:

- In his daily press briefings, Governor Cuomo consistently made reference to "regional control rooms", which is his coined term for those local officials who will be responsible for collecting and analyzing regional metrics and slowing down the economic re-opening if need be;
- Today, he announced the members of each "control room," which include many County Executives and Administrators;
- Businesses will have to submit a plan outlining their new operational plan (PPE requirements, social distancing protocols, etc.) and be approved by their regional "control room" in order to reopen.

Phased Reopening of Businesses:

- Businesses will reopen on a risk vs. reward basis;
- Phase 1 of reopening will include: construction; manufacturing and wholesale supply chain; retail with curbside pickup; and agriculture, forestry, and fishing;
- NY will also reopen certain low-risk businesses and recreational activities as of May 15th including landscaping and gardening; outdoor, low risk recreational activities (like tennis); and drive-in movie theaters;
- Businesses will have to consider:
 - Adjusting workplace hours and shift design
 - Social distancing protocols
 - Non-essential travel restrictions
 - Wearing masks if in frequent contact with others
 - Strict cleaning and sanitation standards
 - Continuous health screenings
 - Continuous tracing, tracking, and reporting
 - Liability for maintaining processes

May 10, 2020

As of May 10th, New York has over 340,000 positive COVID cases and an additional 433 related deaths over the weekend; the NY death toll has reached 27,627. New COVID hospitalizations per day is down to 521, which is the same number of new hospitalizations on March 20th- the first day of the NY PAUSE.

Nursing Homes:

- Governor Cuomo announced a new rule directing all nursing homes and adult care facilities to test staff for COVID twice a week;
- Hospitals cannot discharge a patient to a nursing home or an adult care facility unless the patient tests negative for COVID;
- The Governor further stressed that nursing homes and adult care facilities must abide by all NYS regulations or face losing their operating licenses.

Government Federal Aid:

- Over the weeks, Governor Cuomo has consistently called upon the Federal government for \$35B in financial aid in light of the \$10.1 COVID price tag, along with declining state revenues;
- Cuomo pointed out that if the State doesn't receive federal funding, schools, local governments, and hospitals face 20% funding cuts;
- On Sunday, Cuomo proposed the Americans First Law, which would prevent corporations who do not rehire the same number of employees pre-pandemic from receiving federal funding.

Children:

- There's increasing concern around how COVID affects young children after 85 children have been reported to have Kawasaki disease-/toxic shock syndrome- like symptoms. 5 deaths in NY are under investigation;
- Most of these cases are toddlers to elementary school age;
- The CDC has asked NY to develop national criteria for identifying and responding to the syndrome;
- The DOH will work with NY Genome Center and Rockefeller University to conduct a genome and RNA sequencing study to determine the disease's genetic basis.

Testing:

- Antibody tests results for transit workers: 14.2% (average infection rate 19.9%)

- Station workers: 17%
 - Bus operators: 14%
 - Conductors: 11%
- Governor Cuomo reiterated the disproportionate effect on minority communities. Further research will happen on minority and lower income communities;
- NY will be partnering with Northwell Health to establish 22 temporary testing sites at churches in predominantly minority communities. These sites will open in waves over staggering weeks in May;
- US Representatives Valazquez, Jeffries, Clark, and Reverend Dr. Ray Rivera and Reverend David Brawley for their efforts in setting up and organizing new testing sites.

May 8, 2020

As of May 8th, there are 338,485 positive COVID cases and an additional 216 deaths. In today's press briefing, Governor Cuomo reiterated the fact that the eastern US strains of COVID originated from Europe and not China, as initially thought. The NYS Department of Health is compiling and analyzing evidence that suggests COVID can cause severe illness in children. There are 73 reported cases in NY, with 1 fatality. The reported symptoms are similar to Kawasaki disease and toxic shock-like syndrome. Governor Cuomo is asking New Yorkers to remain vigilant and adhere to fact-based guidance to reduce the infection rate.

Testing:

- According to DOH Commissioner Zucker, the State's current antibody test that was developed by the Wadsworth Lab is "6 standard deviations" making it "incredibly accurate;"
- The DOH is working closely with hospitals who are developing their own tests to identify accuracy and precision.

Child Victims Act - Expanded

- According to the Governor, the window to bring cases under the 2019 Child Victims Act will be extended to January 14, 2021;
- This is an effort to remediate some challenges that COVID has imposed on the court system.

Unemployment

- Unemployment has reached an unprecedented high in New York and throughout the country. 1.6 million New Yorkers have completed unemployment applications and the NYS Dept. of Labor has distributed over \$4.6B in unemployment benefits since the pandemic began in early March;
- Governor Cuomo says that the closest comparison to the current situation is the Great Depression. Secretary DeRosa assures that the State is directing all necessary resources to fulfilling unemployment claims.

May 7, 2020

As of May 7th, New York has 334,499 positive COVID cases and an additional 231 deaths; the death toll in NY has reached 26,978. Governor Cuomo reiterated the focus on testing and taking care of NY's frontline workers, as they have been risking their health to take care of the public. The Governor says that there is no doubt that NY will reopen, but we will do so based on facts and data to maximize safety.

Testing:

- NY has been aggressively testing essential workers and has so far tested over 27k employees within 25 downstate healthcare facilities;
- Results show that 12% of NYC healthcare workers tested positive for COVID, which is lower than the general population, 19.9%;
- Experts suggest that the use of masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer is working.

Rent Relief:

- Governor Cuomo announced the extension of his Executive Order that prohibits evictions due to lack of rent payment through August 20;
- He will be banning late payment fees and allow renters to use their security deposit as a payment. Security payments will have to be repaid "over a period of time;"
- The State is looking at ways to help landlords and banks that hold mortgages on rental properties.

Nourish NY Initiative:

- Although the majority of positive COVID cases are in NYC, many upstate farms have been particularly impacted by the virus and face large amounts of waste and financial loss;
- The State has launched a \$25M Initiative that will provide relief by purchasing food and products from farms and directing them to food banks;
- For reference, over the next six months, Nourish NY will produce 2.8 million gallons of milk, 8.2 million units of yogurt, 10.1 million pounds of apples, and 10 million pounds of cabbage;
- Gov. Cuomo is encouraging philanthropic institutions and foundations to contribute.

May 6, 2020

As of May 6th, New York has 330,979 positive COVID cases and 232 new related deaths. Governor Cuomo says that New York likely had many COVID cases in late December which were thought to be the seasonal flu. The Governor reiterated the extensive research that is being done to better understand the origins of the virus, the impact it has already had on the state, and what further impacts it could have.

Demographics:

- Governor Cuomo asked hospitals to provide information about who was coming into the hospitals as a way to better target efforts
 - Preliminary results: 113 hospitals produced 1,269 survey responses in 3 days;
- Hospitals have reported that most of the new COVID cases are coming from the downstate region, and is disproportionately prevalent in minority residents;
- The majority of cases affected people between 51-90 years of age and were people who were staying home (retired, working from home, unemployed)
- Summary of initial findings:
 - Not working
 - Not traveling
 - Predominately downstate
 - Predominately minority
 - Predominately older
 - Predominately non-essential employees
 - and predominately at home

Reopening and "Reimagining:"

- Gov. Cuomo reiterated his point to "build back better," and believes that change will be more readily embraced due to the crisis;
- He is calling for significant improvements to be made within the hospital system. Michael Dowling will help institutionalize these improvements that were pioneered during the pandemic;
- Eric Schmidt, founder of Schmidt Futures and former CEO of Google will serve as chair of a 15-member blue ribbon commission that will be charged with identifying applications for technology in the future economy. Schmidt made a virtual appearance on Cuomo's briefing today and said his priorities include telehealth and how to improve integrations with those who need it most.

May 5, 2020

As of May 5th, New York has 321,192 positive COVID cases and an additional 230 related deaths. Data from hospitals is showing that the curve is basically flat, as hospitalization, intubation, and ICU rates continue to gradually tick downwards. The number of new cases daily is also slightly down. Governor Cuomo says the key to progress is the continuation of smart social distancing protocols and effective testing, tracing, and isolation procedures to monitor the rate of infection. The Governor reiterated that New York's re-opening is contingent on meeting the guidelines developed by the CDC. He also focused on improvements to be made to public health, transportation and education as we "re-image" better systems.

CDC Guidelines for Re-Opening:

- For a region of NY to re-open, the area:
 - Must have at least 14 days of decline in total hospitalizations and deaths on a 3-day rolling basis;
 - Cannot exceed 15 total new cases or 5 deaths on a 3-day rolling basis;
 - Must have fewer than 2 new cases per 100k residents;
 - Regions must have at least 30% of total hospital and ICU beds available;
 - Hospitals must have a 90-day stockpile of PPE; at the rate it is currently being used.

Creating a Better, Safer New York:

- With New York over the projected apex, new projection models are being developed to estimate the effect that re-opening will have on the rate of infection and public health. FEMA has projected an increased number of daily cases from 20k to 200k by June and the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation projects a total 134k deaths by early May;
- Governor Cuomo spoke to "learning the lessons" from COVID and improving society going forward. As the State looks towards creating a "new normal," there will be an emphasis on improving the public health system, telehealth, education, transit, and sanitation;
- NY will partner with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop a blueprint to re-imagine and revolutionize education. The partnership will identify ways to better leverage technology, increase access to technology, and provide more tools to educators.

May 4, 2020

As of May 4th, New York has 316,415 positive COVID cases and an additional 226 deaths in the past 24 hours. Now that data is clearly reflecting the positive effects of social distancing protocols and the healthcare system is better managing the crisis, Governor Cuomo is beginning to outline the particulars of a phased in reopening. This phasing-in plan will be dependent on data and is contingent on the state, and each region, meeting CDC guidelines for reopening. The core regional factors that must be in place in order to initiate a regional re-opening are the ability to closely monitor, on a daily basis: new infections, healthcare capacity, diagnostic testing capacity and results, and contact tracing capacity and results.

Following CDC Guidelines, regions who will be permitted to begin reopening once they satisfy the following:

- Must have at least 14 days of decline in total hospitalizations and deaths on a 3-day rolling basis;
- Cannot exceed 15 total new cases or 5 deaths on a 3-day rolling basis;
- Must have fewer than 2 new cases per 100k residents;
- Regions must have at least 30% of total hospital and ICU beds available;
- Hospitals must have a 90 day stockpile of PPE, at the rate it is currently being used.

New York Re-opening Phases:

- Phase I: construction/manufacturing/some retailers with curbside pick-up;
- Phase II: professional services, finance/insurance, real estate, etc.;
- Phase III: restaurants and hotels;
- Phase IV: arts/entertainment/recreation, education;
- All businesses must develop their own safety precautions and protocols in compliance with new social distancing standards;
- Regions must have a "control room" of regional decision makers and public health officials monitoring all data on a real-time basis and ready to respond should infection rates increase.

Testing:

- 1 million New Yorkers have now been tested;
- CDC recommends 30 tests for every 1k residents in regions in order to reopen;
- The National Guard has assembled 30k testing kits and will be issuing a total of 60k kits;

- Regions must have a baseline of 30 contact tracers for every 100k residents. Additional tracers will be required based on the number of cases in a given region. This "army of tracers" is being built in partnership with Mayor Bloomberg.

May 3, 2020

Over the weekend, the number of positive COVID cases has climbed to 312,997 and, while deaths are on the decline, another 579 people lost their lives this weekend. Although intubation, ICU admissions, and hospitalization rates continue to decline, Governor Cuomo says that we are still in "uncharted waters" and must learn from the available data to make decisions. As the healthcare system begins to stabilize, Cuomo stresses the importance of learning lessons along the way; especially when there's the possibility of a second wave or a virus mutation. In Sunday's press briefing, Governor Cuomo was joined via videocast by Governors from NJ, CT, PA, and DE to announce the Northeast Consortium - which will hopefully position the states for more competitive pricing and reliable access to medical supplies and equipment in the interstate and global market.

Northeast Consortium:

- Gov. Cuomo in partnership with Governors in PA, NJ, DE, CT, RI, and MA will come together in partnership to increase their purchasing power to better secure PPE, tests, ventilators, and other necessary equipment;
- The consortium will purchase \$5B in supplies and will seek to buy American and prioritize in-state suppliers;
- To date, NY has spent ~2B in COVID-related healthcare supplies.

Lessons Learned & Improvements to be Made:

- Initially, all cases of COVID-19 in the US were thought to have come from China; but in fact, the strains found in NY and some other regions have origins in parts of Europe;
- With the flu season and a potential second wave of COVID just months away, NY is looking to improve hospital capacity, equipment, and system management;
- Governor Cuomo says that the healthcare system needs to become a unified, cohesive, and cooperative system that codifies the "surge and flex" policy;
- Going forward, the DOH will issue regulations to require all hospitals to have a 90-day supply of PPE at the rate of COVID-19 usage.

Ongoing Antibody Testing:

- The latest round of antibody testing involved 15,103 in NYC resulting in positive results for 12.3% of those tested- lower than the previous survey, ~14%;
- The State will be prioritizing testing efforts for transit workers in NYC, in partnership with AFL-CIO;
- In terms of demographics, the study found that more Latino and Hispanic individuals test positive compared to other races;

- Starting this weekend, hospitals will collect more demographic information on residence, age, gender, race, ethnicity, and job.

May 1, 2020

As of May 1, New York has 308,314 new positive COVID cases and an additional 289 related deaths. In today's press briefing, Governor Cuomo made a highly anticipated announcement regarding the future of schools in New York. All NY K-12 schools, colleges, and universities will remain closed for the rest of the academic year. Students will continue to learn through distance learning through June. A decision regarding the possibility of summer school will be made at the end of May.

Schools:

- Schools must submit a reopening plan to the State for approval prior to the beginning of the fall academic year in order to be considered for re-opening;
- Among other criteria, the plans should include metrics in which the school intends to use to monitor the spread of COVID; plans for instilling parent confidence and reinforcing student safety, and steps to be taken to ensure positive mental health.

Mental Health:

- Governor Cuomo pointed out that 50% Americans have said that their mental health has been negatively impacted by the current COVID-19 crisis. This has translated into an increased number of domestic violence related incidences and therefore adding another challenge to the administration;
- The Governor encouraged New Yorkers in domestic violence situations to call the **NYS Domestic Violence Help Line at 1-844-997-2121**.
- In partnership with the Kate Spade NY Foundation and the NYS Crisis Text Line, the state has developed a new **NYS Emotional Support Hotline: 1-844-997-2121/www.headspace.com/NY**;
- NYS is directing insurers to waive cost sharing, copays, and deductibles for mental health services for essential workers.

Re-Opening:

- Whether or not the NY PAUSES order will definitively end or be extended will be a decision made before its expiration on May 15;
- NY, CT, and NJ are in the midst of developing a plan to coordinate re-opening strategies and policies;

- Governor Cuomo said that due to child care concerns, it is unrealistic to release the "valve" and let people go back to work until schools reopen. If schools are not reopened in September, then businesses can not reopen entirely either.

April 30, 2020

As of April 30th, New York has a total of 304,372 positive COVID cases and 306 new related deaths since yesterday. In today's press briefing, Governor Cuomo emphasized the State's efforts in testing, tracing, and isolating. Last week, Cuomo announced a first-ever tracing program to be led by former NYC Mayor Bloomberg and in partnership with Johns Hopkins University and the NYS Department of Health. Mayor Bloomberg joined the Governor's press briefing via video conference and gave some insight into the logistics and operations of the tracing program. Current NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio also participated via video conference in support of the NYC Transit cleaning and disinfection program.

Mayor Bloomberg's Tracing Program:

- The program involves mass testing for COVID, tracking down anyone who has recently come in contact with an infected person, and asking them to self-isolate for 14 days;
- Johns Hopkins University, Vital Strategies, Resolve to Save Lives, staffing organizations, and SUNY & CUNY will help with the recruitment, hiring, and training of tracers as well as mobile app development;
- "Tracers" will be responsible for tracking and contacting people in a region who have had contact with a COVID-positive person to encourage them to self-isolate and reduce the infections rate of spread;
- An estimated 30 contact tracers are needed for every 100,000 cases - which means NY will need about 6,000 tracers;
- Governor Cuomo says that these program guidelines, as well as best- and worst-practices will be made public so that they can serve as a model for other states;

Transit:

- Mayor DeBlasio joined Governor Cuomo via video conference to discuss a new plan to sanitize the city's main transportation system, the MTA;
- NYC Subway conditions have rapidly deteriorated as a result of COVID as more and more MTA employees and NYPD officers fall ill;
- The MTA announced its plan to disinfect the trains every 24 hours and will partner with the State, city, and local governments to do so;

- The trains will not operate during the hours of 1am-5am (the least busy commuter time) to be thoroughly disinfected;
- NY and the MTA recognizes the need for transportation services to be available around-the-clock, particularly for front line workers. The MTA will provide free transportation (via buses, Lyft, Uber, etc.) for frontline workers from 1 am- 5am;
- The MTA will also disinfect the Metro North and LIRR without service disruptions.

April 29, 2020

As of April 29th, New York has 299,691 positive cases of COVID-19 and 330 new related deaths. Hospitalization, ICU admission, and intubations rates continue to be on an average 3-day decline. Today's briefing began with a strong message to heed caution signs from other countries as NY looks towards re-opening parts of the state. Countries including Singapore, Japan, and Germany are seeing new spikes in COVID cases after relaxing social distancing protocols and re-opening the countries and some of those countries could be approaching a second wave. Governor Cuomo assures that NY is not working on conceptual ideas to re-open the state, but developing a detailed and fact-based strategy. He also announced today that he will issue an Executive Order allowing elective surgeries to resume in select areas - primarily upstate.

"Remember... To Reopen..."

- Governor Cuomo reiterated the guidelines that must be followed and the data that will be monitored once the state begins to re-open to mitigate chances of a second COVID wave:
 - At least 30% of hospital beds must be available after elective surgeries resume;
 - 30% of ICU beds must be available after elective surgeries resume;
 - Hospitalizations and diagnostic testing must show no statistically significant increases;
 - and, the rate of infection has to remain at 1.1 or less.

Testing:

- Last week, Governor Cuomo announced that the State will be doubling its testing capacity from 20k per day to 40k per day. As of today, NY has achieved 30k testing per day and will continue to work towards reaching its goal;
- Testing has been prioritized for frontline workers including healthcare workers and first responders. The results show that 17.1% of FDNY and 10.5% of NYPD tested positive;
- The state will begin testing transit workers today at an average of 1,000 workers/week.

Transit:

- Throughout the COVID crisis, there has been issues with homeless people staying on trains with no PPE;
- Governor Cuomo announced today that the MTA is expected to submit a plan by tomorrow outlining how they plan to disinfect all trains on a 24-hour basis.

April 28, 2020

As of April 28th, there are 298,413 positive COVID cases and 335 related deaths in New York State. Hospitalization, intubation, and ICU admission rates continue to tick down, and for the first time, new cases are below 1,000. Today, Governor Cuomo gave his daily press briefing from SUNY Upstate Medical Center.

NY Forward Reopening Advisory Board:

- Today, Governor Cuomo announced the "NY Forward Reopening Advisory Board" which will be made up of business officials, community and civic leaders, and experts to help plan the reopening of the state;
- While planning, experts will monitor two signs of "danger:" hospitals reaching/exceeding 70% capacity and the rate of infection reaching "outbreak" levels.

Re-opening to a *New New York*:

- NY will begin to re-open some businesses regionally and in phases on May 15th, following a 12 point "smart" re-opening plan, reliant on data;
- The first threshold is meeting the CDC-recommended guideline of a 14-day decline in hospitalizations;
- Phase one will be the opening of construction and manufacturing jobs;
- Phase two other low-risk businesses;
- No businesses that will attract people from outside the region will open- no State Fair, car shows, etc..;
- Businesses must create and adopt plans of re-opening that include protocols and precautions that will keep employees and customers safe while reducing the risk of infection spread;
- Healthcare system data must be monitored and not exceed hospital and ICU capacity over 70% and continue to stockpile equipment to prepare for a possible future COVID wave as well as flu season;
- Governor Cuomo said that COVID-19 has exposed flaws in the system. Going forward, the State will reimagine the role and efficacy of tele-medicine, tele-education, and transportation;
- Cuomo stated that the State expects to announce a plan by the end of the week for schools and whether they will be permitted to reopen;
- Hospitals who have been given the green light to resume elective surgeries will receive guidance from the Department of Health today.

Testing:

- The State will work to further increase testing capacity (recommendations are that there be 30 tests/per 1k people/month), launch Mayor Bloomberg's tracing system (at least 30 tracers/100k people), and identify isolation facilities where people can quarantine without going home;
- Frontline workers including healthcare workers and first responders will be prioritized.

April 27, 2020

As of April 27th, New York has 294,491 positive COVID cases and 337 new related deaths. Although new cases continue to increase, hospitalizations, intubations, and ICU admission rates are continuing to decline, albeit slowly. Social distancing guidelines are being credited for slowing the rate of infection. As the State's COVID-related metrics show improvement, Governor Cuomo is shifting towards creating a safe and effective strategy to gradually re-open the State without jeopardizing public health.

This plan to re-open will happen in targeted industries and in phases, with at least two weeks in-between to monitor the effect on the spread of the virus. Certain construction and manufacturing businesses are among those in the first wave of businesses allowed to reopen, with the caveat that they provide a plan that addresses a number of criteria and that the business will not draw visitors from outside the local area. NY will look to begin Phase I when the NY PAUSE order expires on May 15.

COVID Update:

- The overall hospitalization and intubation rates continue to drop;
- NY has tested 7,500 people for COVID antibodies. Of that, 14.9% tested positive. The survey will be expanded to test FDNY, NYPD, healthcare workers, and transit workers;
- Additional drive-thru testing sites will open for essential workers by appointment only.

May 15th - Un-PAUSE Regional Analysis:

- Governor Cuomo announced that he will continue the PAUSE order for parts of the State that are still experiencing high numbers of COVID cases. Areas that are considered "low risk," will be allowed to slowly reopen;
- The regional analysis will take into consideration the capacity of the area's local healthcare facilities in case of a sudden outbreak, while keeping in mind that we will soon be approaching flu season;
- As the State begins to re-open, there are four factors that will be regularly monitored: hospitalization rates, antibody testing, diagnostic testing, and the rate of transmission.

Guidelines for Re-opening:

- CDC guidelines mandate that a state's hospitalization rate must be in a decline for 14 consecutive days before re-opening;
- Re-opening will be done in phases:
 - Phase I: Low risk construction and manufacturing (the work of these businesses cannot attract visitors that are not local);
 - Phase II: Businesses that will re-open in phase II will be determined by a matrix that analyzes how risky and essential a particular business is. In the meantime, businesses must develop their own re-opening plans that will mitigate the risk for infection spread;
 - There will be a minimum of two weeks between phases to monitor the effects on the rate of infection

NY Food Banks:

- Food banks across the state are being overwhelmed by increases in demand. Today, Governor Cuomo committed \$25M in emergency funding for food banks;
- In addition, Cuomo is calling upon philanthropic institutions to contribute to food banks to ease their burden;
- The Governor also announced the launching of the NY Nourish initiative that will help upstate farms with excess yields. The State will work with farms to purchase surplus milk.

April 26, 2020

Over the weekend, the NYS Division of Budget released the [FY 2021 Enacted Budget Financial Plan](#). The financial plan details the current revenue shortfall and indicates the necessity for \$10.1 billion in spending reductions, including \$8.2 billion in recurring reductions in aid to localities expenditures. The specific cuts are not detailed. Such details will likely be provided to the legislature within the coming weeks as part of the Executive's review of Budget, due May 1.

In this weekend's press briefings, Governor Cuomo gave New Yorkers a glimpse of what the *new* New York will look like through his re-opening strategy. Governor Cuomo says his plan will adhere to the CDC's guidelines for reopening. New York will begin slowly and strategically reopening once the state has experienced two consecutive weeks of declining COVID-related hospitalization rates. which could be as early as May 15th.

As of April 26th, New York still has the record number of positive coronavirus cases, 288,045; the death toll reaching 16,599. However, hospitalizations, intubations, and ICU admission rates continue to lower.

Re-Opening New York:

- Re-opening will be done in phases, and will be tailored based on regional analysis and individual businesses;
 - Phase 1: re-opening low risk construction and manufacturing;
 - Phase II: businesses that will be allowed to re-open will be determined by a matrix that identifies how risky and essential a business is. Simultaneously, businesses must develop their own re-opening plan that minimizes the risk for infection spread;
 - The Governor says there will be at least two weeks between the phases to monitor the effects on the rate of infection;
- Coordination with other states (CT, MA, and PA), is pertinent to the plan's success.

Testing:

- NY is currently averaging about 20k tests a day (cumulative between diagnostic and antibody testing). Governor Cuomo says the goal is to build capacity to 40k tests a day;

- Over the weekend, Governor Cuomo spoke with Vice President Pence to discuss details pertaining to the division of testing responsibility between states and the federal government;
- This week, the DOH will focus on antibody testing for frontline healthcare workers at Bellevue hospital, Montefiore hospital, Elmhurst hospital, and SUNY Downstate hospital, as well as the MTA, TWU Local 100, NYS Police, and NYPD.

Executive Orders:

- Governor Cuomo signed Executive Order 202.23 which effectively cancelled the NY Senate and Assembly special elections. Those open seats will be filled during the general election;
- Executive Order 202.24 authorizes independent pharmacist to conduct diagnostic COVID tests. Pharmacies will collect and process the samples.

April 24, 2020

As of April 24, New York has 271,511 positive COVID cases and 422 new related deaths. Governor Cuomo says that while it is positive news that hospitalizations, intubations, and ICU rates continue to lower, it is concerning that new hospitalizations are leveling off a rate of 1200-1300 a day, still too high. He again emphasized the importance of adhering to social distancing protocols in order to maintain progress and implement a safe reopening strategy.

Earlier this week, the Department of Health randomly sampled 3,000 individuals at grocery stores and other public places around the State. Preliminary results suggest that a state-wide average of 14% of New Yorkers may have been exposed to the virus and have some degree of immunity. The testing is on-going and further results will inform the accuracy of this preliminary data; however, Governor Cuomo said that should the infection rate prove to be in this range, the actual death rate would be far lower than previously indicated.

Research Findings:

- DOH research suggests that there were likely about 28K cases in the US in February and more than 10K cases in New York;
- After analyzing travel behavior and flight patterns, it is believed that NY's strains came from Italy;
- The virus can live up to 72 hours on plastic and stainless steel; up to 24 hours on cardboard; up to 4 hours on materials like copper; and can hang in the air for up to 3 hours.

COVID-19 Economic Impact Analysis:

- It was expected that NYS revenues would severely decline as a result of the virus. Experts say the State will have a shortfall of approximately \$13.3B from the Executive Budget forecast;
- Results in a deficit of \$61B for the financial plan period for SFY 2021-2024.

Re-Opening:

- The CDC guidance states that before a state reopens, they need to experience two weeks of a flat or declining curve in infections;
- NY has not submitted its reopening plan as of yet;
- When asked about the May 15th expiration of the current shut down order and when a determination would be made as to beyond May 15, the Governor said an announcement would be made within the next week to allow people time for planning.

April 23, 2020

As of April 23rd, New York has 263,400 confirmed COVID cases and a death toll reaching 15,740. In today's press briefing, Governor Cuomo says the COVID curve is continuing to go down as hospitalizations and intubations lower. However, experts are looking at the possibility of the state experiencing a second wave that could spike during the fall and likely coincide with flu season.

Focus on New York State Nursing Homes:

- The Department of Health, in partnership with Attorney General James, will begin investigations for violations of Executive Orders requiring communications with families on COVID-related test results and deaths;
- Nursing homes must immediately report to DOH the actions they have taken to comply with DOH and CDC directives;
- DOH will inspect facilities that have not been in compliance, including separation policies, staffing policies, and inadequate PPE;
- If DOH determines that facilities failed to comply, DOH will immediately require the facility to submit an action plan and the facility could face up to \$10K per violation or potentially lose their operating license.

Antibody Study:

- Today, Phase I results are available from 3,000 surveys collected over 2 days in 19 counties and 40 localities across the state;
 - No one under age 18 was surveyed
 - People were surveyed in grocery stores and other public locations
 - 13.9% tested positive for having the antibodies
 - Preliminary data shows that if infection rate is 13.9%, death rate may be lower than some estimates (this means 2.7M infected statewide)
 - With approximately 15,500 total fatalities (without considering in-home deaths) the death rate is about 0.5% percent of people infected

COVID Management within the Prison System:

- According to Secretary DeRosa, there currently are 263 inmates who have tested positive for COVID and an additional 1,397 in quarantine;

- DeRosa stated that cases in prisons are not as prevalent as projected, however precautions are being taken.

April 22, 2020

As of April 22nd, New York has 257,216 positive COVID cases and 474 new deaths. Governor Cuomo and his team say the curve is on the descent. After yesterday's press briefing, Governor Cuomo traveled to the White House to meet with President Trump and his team for what they both called a "productive" meeting on the need for federal help with coronavirus testing and financial help for the hard-hit states.

The Cuomo-Trump Agreement:

- The Federal government will work to systematize the international COVID supply chain for national manufacturers that is currently unwieldy and unreliable while the states will work with their respective labs on the administrative functions of testing;
- President Trump agreed to the importance of testing in NY and supports NY doubling capacity to test (both antibody and diagnostic) up to 40k people a day;
- Governor Cuomo made his case for federal funding to help re-open the State in the wake of a \$15+ billion shortage in revenue due to the virus. Trump assured that he will work to get funding for the State in an additional bill;
- Cuomo said they also discussed the inability of NY to contribute the usual FEMA local match of 25%. President Trump and Secretary Minuchin understood the issue and agreed to work to waive the match mandate.

COVID Update:

- NY will begin to work with CT Gov. Lamont and NJ Gov. Murphy to launch a nation-leading contact tracing program;
- Former Mayor Michael Bloomberg has volunteered to lead the charge to help develop a testing, tracing, and isolation program in partnership with Johns Hopkins and Vital Strategies;
- This effort will coordinate testing, tracing, and isolation protocols in downstate and tri-state areas.

April 21, 2020

As of April 21, New York has 251,690 positive COVID cases and 481 new deaths. Governor Cuomo gave his daily briefing from Roswell Park Medical Center in Buffalo where he was joined by Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul. Governor Cuomo then left from Buffalo to head to Washington D.C. to meet with President Trump to discuss the State's need for Federal partnership in testing efforts, supply chain coordination, and funding.

COVID Update:

- Governor Cuomo says that new total COVID hospitalizations is "basically flat" and the overall curve is decreasing;
- Hospitalizations continue to be proportionately higher in downstate areas: 64% in NYC, 21% on Long Island, 8% in Westchester, and 8% in Rockland counties;
- National private manufacturers of lab equipment have sold testing kits to 211 labs in New York;
- Cuomo says that individual states should remain to be in charge of testing, but advocates for federal assistance in providing the testing kit materials-reagents, swabs and vials.

"Build Back Better"

- Governor Cuomo announced that he will allow hospitals in counties without a significant risk of a near-term COVID surge to perform elective outpatient treatment;
- He specifically named that Rockland county, Westchester and all counties south of Westchester, Albany, Rensselaer, and Dutchess, Orange and Ulster, Schuyler, Yates and Clinton counties will remain closed to elective treatments;
- Governor Cuomo has been speaking about re-opening the state to a "new normal," an initiative he now refers to as "Build Back Better;"
 - Large scale decisions on reopening will be made based on regional circumstances with Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul leading Western NY efforts and Past LG Robert Duffy will be the special advisor for the Finger Lakes and Rochester area.

April 20, 2020

As of April 20, New York has 242,786 positive COVID cases with the death toll reaching 13,869.

As COVID-related hospitalization and intubation rates begin a steady decline, Governor Cuomo is urging New Yorkers to "reimagine" what we want society to be based on lessons learned from the pandemic. He highlights areas for improvement including public transportation, housing, public safety, and the workplace. Led by downstate local elected officials, the Reimagine NY Task Force will be charged with this initiative and will primarily focus on the NYC region. Governor Cuomo continues to lobby the Federal government for funding to help ease the burden that the COVID crisis has put on the state's budget.

Testing:

- The 20+ hospitals that were utilizing hydroxychloroquine as a COVID treatment will send those results to the FDA and CDC today. The State DOH will receive a copy;
- Antibody body testing begins today in New York, initiating what the Governor said will be in largest antibody sample ever undertaken;
- NYS is launching a new partnership to bring healthcare services, including COVID diagnostic testing and masks, to public housing residents in NYC;
- Governor Cuomo says testing is up to the states to administer and coordinate, but requests federal government assistance to remedy supply chain issues;
- The Administration is working on a policy that could allow hospitals in certain parts of the state to resume elective surgeries and procedures that had been put on hold.

State Budget:

- So far the Federal government has not come through with funding to address state government shortfalls created by COVID-19 effect on the economy;
- The recently passed FY 20-21 State budget is unique due its reliance on a undetermined amount of emergency Federal assistance;
- Without significant Federal dollars, a projected \$10-15 billion short fall will have to be addressed entirely through spending cuts;
- Right now the State forecasts those cuts would be evenly distributed by cutting 20% funding from Education, 20% of Local Government Assistance and 20% of Hospital funding.

April 19, 2020

This weekend, Governor Cuomo announced that hospitalization, intubation, ICU admission, and even death rates are beginning to decline which supports the possibility that New York is past the apex. However, he cautions New Yorkers to stay diligent in adhering to social distancing protocols to avoid jeopardizing further progress. New York's death toll has reached 17,671, with increased attention on concern on nursing homes deaths. As NY begins to see significant improvements, Cuomo is honoring his word by distributing ventilators to other states in need, such as Massachusetts, which is experiencing a drastic spike in positive cases.

Testing:

- Testing and synchronized efforts will inform the calibration of reopening. The DOH will coordinate and begin administering antibody testing across the State next week;
- NY has about 30 large, private companies producing testing equipment, but each with different testing methods - this creates complications in producing uniformity;
- Building testing capacity is a major priority. After discussing the issue with the top 50 labs in the state the greatest hurdle is the unreliability of the re-agent supply chain;
- Governor Cuomo is requesting federal assistance and partnership in coordinating the testing supply chain.

Appointment of Multi-State Council:

The Governor announce his three appointments to the multi-state council working to coordinate, share information and collaborate on a phased in regional approach to reigniting the economy with NJ, CT, PA, MA, RI and DE.

- Melissa DeRosa, Secretary to the Governor
- Robert Mujica, Director of NYS Division of the Budget
- Michael Dowling, President and CEO, Northwell Health

April 17, 2020

As of April 17th, New York has 123,146 confirmed COVID cases and 11,477 related deaths. Governor Cuomo says he is feeling more confident about the State gaining some control of the virus, now that net changes in hospitalization, ICU, and intubation rates are undeniably on the decline. The number of new COVID cases remain at about 2,000 per day. Cuomo continues to heavily emphasize the importance of testing as the guidepost for safely reopening the state.

Testing is Top Priority:

- Testing is Governor Cuomo's top priority. However, the State currently does not have a testing capacity capable of meeting the volume of need. NYS has 301 laboratories and hospitals licensed for virology testing, and a new Executive Order will be released to direct all public and private labs to prioritize COVID testing and coordinate operations in a synchronized and efficient manner;
- Cuomo reiterated the challenges New York faces in obtaining supplies for testing due the international nature of the supply chain and again stridently called for Federal funding and testing assistance.

Re-Opening the State:

- NY is currently in Phase I of Cuomo's reopening plan which consists of reducing the infection rate and ramping up the hospital system;
 - The state will soon be starting to transition into Phase 2, which includes developing a more definitive plan for reopening as well as increasing testing, tracing, and isolating to further reduce the infection spread rate;
- The Governor will focus on the importance of balancing the State's economic need, personal/mental needs, with public health.

April 16, 2020

Governor Cuomo announced this morning that he is extending the NY PAUSE order through May 15th in an effort to further control and slow the rate of infection. New York has 213,779 confirmed COVID cases, and a total death toll of 11,586. New hospitalizations remain consistent at ~2,000 admissions per day. However, ICU and intubation rates continue to trend downward.

Strengthening the Healthcare System:

- Governor Cuomo expressed the need for hospitals to continue sharing supplies and resources equitably across the system, as the state will continue to build a stockpile of PPE;
- Advanced testing is needed in order to better determine how fast the virus spreads from one person to another. Until the rate is identified, mitigation efforts will continue to limit the spread;
- Effective Friday, 4/17, the face cover/mask mandate will be expanded to apply to New Yorker's using public transportation, private transportation carriers and for-hire vehicles, and all operators of public systems, private carriers, and for-hire vehicles.

Creating a Safer and Newer Normal:

- The Governor is in the developing stage of a reopening plan and identifying the next wave of essential businesses that are "safe" enough to reopen. Businesses will be categorized based on whether they are considered low- or high-risk for infection;
- Businesses must reimagine the workplace and increase the ability to telecommute, promote social distancing, and restructure customer interactions;
- All businesses must be able to develop a proactive infection plan in the instance of a second wave of infection.

April 15, 2020

As of April 15th, New York has 202,208 positive COVID cases, and 10,834 related deaths. Net changes in hospitalizations and intubations continue to be trending downward. The state will begin reporting on all categories of fatalities pursuant to new CDC guidelines; "probable deaths" will be included. This will help the state better report on COVID deaths outside what is reported by hospitals and nursing homes.

Just last week, Governor Cuomo's call for ventilator donations was backed with the promise of returning the favor to the next area of the country in need. Michigan and Maryland are seeing spikes in COVID cases and NY will be giving 100 ventilators to Michigan and 50 ventilators to Maryland.

New Executive Order:

- The Governor stated that he will issue an additional Executive Order (#17) on the wearing of masks, or mouth/nose covering in the state;
- Covering must be worn in situations in which social distancing is not maintained;
- This will go into effect on Friday, April 17th.

Moving Forward:

- Although no specific date has been identified, Governor Cuomo is preparing a plan that will allow the state to re-open into what will be a "new normal;"
- The reopening will be done in phases based on how essential a business service/product is and what the rate of spreading the infection would be. This will begin with reopening more essential, yet low risk businesses;
- Businesses should consider workplace resign to lower the chance of infection spread.

Test > Trace > Isolate:

- Large scale testing is seen as an essential tool to reopening business in the State;
 - Diagnostic testing, antibody testing, saliva testing, finger pricking testing, and blood sampling are all in development

- NY is in a full partnership with the Federal government in an effort to develop an effective vaccine;
- NY is currently testing the efficacy of hydroxychloroquine;
- Governor Cuomo mentioned that testing innovation and capacity is heavily reliant on the private sector, and federal support is greatly needed.

April 14, 2020

As of April 14th, New York has 195,031 confirmed COVID cases. Although the volume of positive cases is still high, Governor Cuomo said he believes the State is at the apex. Overall, hospitalization rates, ICU admissions, and intubation rates remain relatively flat. The virus claimed the lives of 778 people yesterday, which is higher than recent numbers but still reflects a current flattening of the curve. Governor Cuomo reiterated that the rate of infection is due to distancing protocols and emphasized the critical need to continue adhering to these measures.

- Seven states have joined the multi-state council for re-opening the economies (DE, MA, PA, CT, NJ, NY, and RI);
- When asked about his recent comments about President Trump, Cuomo said he is not opposed to the idea of the Federal government having control over the re-opening of states, but as long as it is well planned and focuses on public protection and proper stock of medical equipment. Governor Cuomo reiterated the need for Federal funding to provide such resources;
- Cuomo argues that FEMA should gain control over private companies who are producing COVID tests to solve the problem of increasing competition between states.

April 13, 2020

This morning, Governor Cuomo's press conference brought some light to this gloomy Monday here in Albany. Although New York has 188,694 positive COVID cases, analysts are saying that the curve is continuing to flatten as hospitalization rates, ICU admissions, and intubation rates trend downward. The death toll on Sunday was 671; which is an improvement compared to the recent average that has been in the high 700s.

New Executive Order:

- Today, Cuomo released an Executive Order that expands who is eligible to conduct antibody testing; and directs employers to provide essential workers with cloth or surgical masks while interacting with the public (this mimics a similar Order put into place in NJ).

COVID Update:

- At the moment, New York has enough ventilators to meet in-state need;
- 2,000 patients are being treated with hydrochloroquine, though it is still too soon to analyze results. Cuomo estimates we will have results at the end of April.

Re-opening NY through a "Regional Approach:"

- Governor Cuomo says that re-opening the state must be a coordinated effort between businesses, schools, transportation, testing, and even neighboring states;
- Today, Governor Cuomo hosted a conference call with Governors Murphy (NJ), Lamont (CT), Wolf (PA), Carney (DE), and Raimondo (RI) to announce their joint efforts in coordinating a plan to effectively, yet safely, "reopen" each state. Each state will create a taskforce made up of an appointed public health and economic development officials, and each Governor's Chief of Staff, to develop a plan to reactivate the states' and regional economies;
- Governor Cuomo says we will continue to learn from other countries currently undergoing reopening procedures and note best practices;
- As an advocate for testing from the very beginning, Cuomo says that more testing will help the state re-calibrate the "essential worker" economy and ease isolation, while mitigating the infection rate;

- As Vice Chair of the National Governor's Association, Cuomo is calling upon the Federal government for a new stimulus bill to help jump start the economy.

April 10, 2020

Today marks 40 days since New York saw its first COVID case and Governor Cuomo says he is "cautiously optimistic" now that we are seeing signs of the rate of infection beginning to slow. New York has a total of 159,937 positive cases and to date, has lost 2,844 people.

COVID-19 Update:

- Although daily death tolls remain high, they are beginning to level off;
- Former projections were discomfoting, although the actual curve has shown to be lower than predicted. Governor Cuomo says this could be attributed to social distancing, NY PAUSE, and public compliance. Adhering to these protocols is critical in the coming weeks.

Supporting our "front-line" workers:

- Airbnb, in partnership with 199SEIU, will contribute \$2M worth of rooms in union hotels at no costs to frontline workers;
- NY is working with Congress to create a COVID-19 Heroes Compensation Fund to benefit those frontline workers who were impacted by the disease and their families

"Re-opening" New York:

- Governor Cuomo states that the key to returning to "normal" is doing so gradually and with lots of testing. The State lab is developing a non-invasive antibody test that is coming to scale;
- NJ and CT will join NY in a testing coalition;
- NY will look at other countries who are going through re-openings to create the best course of action and void a second wave.

April 9, 2020

Today the Governor announced a total of 149,316 COVID positive cases in New York, with newer models indicating a flattening of "the curve" as hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and intubations continue to decrease. Governor Cuomo attributes this improvement to social distancing measures and says continued adherence to these policies is vital to future progress. Cuomo reiterated his call to the Federal government to pass legislation to help stabilize state and local governments and repair the "immense damage" being done to the economy, poverty, housing and the healthcare system.

- The single-day death toll on April 7 (779) was surpassed yesterday, with 799 lives lost. The State is looking to bring in additional funeral directors to offer assistance.
- In previous weeks, New York was scrambling to exponentially increase the hospital systems' capacity to get ready for the "apex." Early models suggested the need for upward of 140,000 beds. However, current trends are below all projected models. New York currently has a 90,000-bed capacity, with only 18,297 beds being occupied.
- The newly announced partnership between SUNY Albany, DOH and Northwell Health will strategize a plan to open more testing sites in downstate minority communities.
- Positive cases are spiking just north of NYC, as the State looks to Rockland, Nassau and Suffolk counties as potentially new hotspots.
- The State has recognized a rising number of domestic violence cases and mental health problems as stay-in-place measures are being extended.

April 8, 2020

This morning, Governor Cuomo's press conference began on a high note as he shared recent data suggesting that social distancing measures are having a positive impact and appear to be flattening the curve. He advised that continued adherence to these protocols is critical and could potentially bring down infection rates, hospitalization rates and needed capacity, and deaths lower than model projections.

On the other hand, New York saw the highest single-day death toll to date (779) yesterday, bringing the total number of deaths to 5,489. The total number of positive cases is 138,863. Despite the increased number of deaths, Cuomo says the NY PAUSE order and social distancing have been working to flatten the curve. He encourages New Yorkers to continue to adhere to these public health policies so that further progress is not jeopardized. To that end, the number of new hospitalizations and intubations continues to show a three-day average downward trend. If the hospitalization rate continues to decrease, the hospital system should be able to stabilize itself over the next few weeks.

COVID Update:

- A serological test that will measure COVID antibodies is being developed and brought to scale. Ideally, this test will allow those who test negative for COVID or have the antibodies to return to work. The presence of COVID antibodies may indicate some level of immunity.
- Governor Cuomo announced a partnership between SUNY Albany's Dr. Havidan Rodriguez and DOH/Northwell Health that will focus on identifying reasons for the disproportionate number of positive cases and deaths in minority populations, as suggested by recent data.
- Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.14 that gave him the authority to shift 20% of unused ventilators from healthcare facilities around the state to hospitals in need drew bipartisan opposition from Upstate and Western New York. But recent equipment donations and acquisitions have helped ease that burden. Today, Governor Cuomo admits, "We are not in the position that we were in," when questioned about the necessity of this plan.
- Mercury Medical has donated 2,400 BiPAP machines, which were flown from FL to NY for free, courtesy of JetBlue.

General News:

- New York State will be issuing an additional \$600 payment to New Yorkers who are collecting unemployment benefits; the State expects to be reimbursed by the Federal government at some point. Unemployment benefits will continue for an additional 13 weeks (totaling 39 weeks).
- By a new Executive Order, New York will have the option to vote via absentee ballots for the June 23 primary elections. Temporary illness justification options will be amended to include the "risk of contracting COVID-19."

April 7, 2020

As of April 7, New York has 138,836 positive COVID cases and 5,489 related deaths. Fortunately, new data suggests that new-hospitalization rates and intubation rates are stabilizing and trending downward, which could potentially indicate that New York is reaching a plateau. Governor Cuomo credits social distancing for this positive change and urges that further improvement is dependent upon continued adherence to social distancing protocols.

COVID-19 Update:

- More strain is being placed on the healthcare system as NY sees an increase in infected healthcare workers; to date 7,000 healthcare workers have been hired out of the volunteer pool.
- The *USNS Comfort* will now be a 500-bed COVID-19 facility. There are an additional 3,000 beds between Javits Center and the ship, putting New York at a 90,000-bed capacity.

Testing is Key:

- The NYS Department of Health has approved an antibody test to determine individuals who may have been exposed and asymptomatic. The presence of antibodies may suggest future immunity; this test is currently awaiting FDA approval.
- Rapid testing is being developed, taking less than 15 minutes to produce results; however, it is not brought to scale yet. States in our region are working with private companies to bring the testing to scale.

Returning to "Normal":

- Governor Cuomo is taking a regional collaborative approach to planning for an eventual scaling up of the economy.
- NY, NJ and CT will create a tri-state cooperative to focus on schools, healthcare and the economy.
- Today the Governor implored the Federal government to provide Federal assistance to state and local governments to bridge the gap created by the shut-down of the economy and consequent revenue shortfalls; he will be sending a letter to the NY Congressional delegation bringing attention to these needs.

April 6, 2020

For the first time on Sunday, Governor Cuomo announced a decrease in hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths related to COVID-19 with the caveat that it was too soon to determine statistical significance. Heeding the same warning today, he announced that COVID-related deaths have been "effectively flat" for the past two days. The State is working to determine whether or not we're officially approaching the apex, and if we should expect to experience a plateau of case numbers or a decline.

General Update:

- Governor Cuomo is extending NY PAUSE (closure of schools and non-essential businesses) until April 29, saying social distancing needs to be adhered to in order to effectuate a flattening of the curve.
- Cuomo has increased the maximum fine for violations of State social distancing protocols to increase compliance.

COVID-19 Update:

- Expanded testing remains a priority and positive cases have crept up to 130,689. 13,366 people have been discharged from hospitals.
- Governor Cuomo is communicating with President Trump to request that the *USNS Comfort* be used for COVID patients. Originally, the ship was meant to be used as a backfill for non-COVID cases, but social distancing protocols have reduced the number of non-COVID emergencies and hospitalizations.
- Hospitals in the NYC area are over capacity; Cuomo is furthering efforts to increase inter-hospital/hospital system coordination to share supplies, staff and space.
- New York State is setting up a COVID First Responders Fund to help with costs associated incurred while working through the pandemic such as childcare; the DOH will run this fund.
- Blackstone was the first company to contribute to the fund, pledging \$10M.

April 4, 2020

New York's first positive COVID-19 case was discovered 30 days ago, and Governor Cuomo says the apex could potentially be as close as seven days away. New York has 113,704 positive cases; 15,905 people are being hospitalized. 10,478 people have been discharged. Overall, NYC's percentage of cases is beginning to drop; however, Long Island is becoming a growing hot spot.

Update:

Despite Cuomo's great efforts to increase hospital capacity, he says New York is still not prepared enough for the upcoming apex and more needs to be done. He announced his intent to sign an Executive Order allowing medical students who are slated to graduate this year to begin practicing.

- Hospital networks will join together on a conference call to coordinate the deployment of equipment.
- 85,000 non-practicing/retired healthcare professionals have stepped up to volunteer, including 22,000 from out-of-state.
- New York State's order for 17,000 ventilators from the Federal government will not be fulfilled; Governor Cuomo's Executive Order announced yesterday will allow the State to borrow/buy 20% of hospitals' currently available, unused ventilators, which will yield about 500.
- New York is actively shopping in China for PPE and ventilators.
- The Chinese government will facilitate the donation of 1,000 ventilators that will arrive today at JFK.
- Oregon has graciously offered 140 ventilators to New York; Cuomo says he will return the favor double-fold.

April 3, 2020

The New York State Legislature concluded passage of budget bills very early (3:30 a.m.) Friday morning. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging its way through NY, the \$177 billion budget included major provisions that expand Paid Sick Leave, improve bail reform and make changes to Medicaid, among other policy changes.

Overnight, New York saw the highest spike to date in COVID-19 related deaths, reaching 2,935. 260,520 New Yorkers have been tested; 102,863 of which tested positive. One positive trend is a reduction in non-COVID-19 emergencies, like car crashes, due to the decrease in social activity.

New Executive Order:

Governor Cuomo announced his intent to enact another Executive Order that will give the State power to acquire unused and non-essential PPE and ventilators from hospitals. The State will then return the equipment and supplies that are no longer needed or reimburse for the cost of the devices. The Army National Guard will be tasked with transporting the borrowed equipment to hospitals in need.

COVID-19 Updates:

- NY is now tracking "hotspots" - which are facilities with the greatest total hospitalizations.
- Governor Cuomo continues to plead with companies and manufacturers to help produce masks, gowns, ventilators, and other PPE, assuring companies that he will provide funding for facilities to be converted into temporary manufacturers for these products.
- NY is working on contingency plans to make up for the lack of supplies and equipment that include:
 - "Splitting" ventilators between two patients at one time.
 - Advocating for the release of ventilators from the Federal stockpile.
 - Utilizing BiPAP and Anesthesia machines as ventilator-substitutes.
 - Collaborating with Alibaba.
- Javits Center, the first field hospital to open its doors this week, is now federally approved to be a COVID-19-only facility.

April 2, 2020

Nearly two days past the March 31 deadline, the Assembly continues to take up budget bills with the goal of passing the entirety of the budget tonight. Their Senate counterpart voted in favor of the budget earlier this afternoon.

COVID-19 Update:

Governor Cuomo and his brother, CNN host Chris Cuomo, displayed a moment of much-needed humility and humanity this morning during Governor Cuomo's daily COVID-19 briefing. Despite testing positive two days ago for coronavirus, Chris Cuomo seemed to be in good spirits and the two continued to exchange brotherly bantering.

As of April 2, all New York counties have reported positive cases of COVID-19. To date, there are 92,381 positive cases, of which 13,383 are being hospitalized. Daily ICU admittance and intubations continue to rise, concurrently, so are discharges.

- New York is still struggling with identifying and procuring supplies and equipment to stockpile for the impending "apex," which can hit anywhere between the next 7-30 days.
- Governor Cuomo announced that he will provide funding to privately owned manufacturing facilities to convert their facilities into one that can produce gowns and masks.
- In the desperate efforts to locate additional ventilators, New York has released a protocol on how hospitals can "split" ventilators to support two patients at one time.
- Additional field hospitals are scheduled to open next week; some are coronavirus-only facilities.
- New York has extended the NY Health exchange enrollment period to May 15.

April 1, 2020

Despite the deadline for the Budget being March 31, the Legislature has yet to come to a complete agreement on the final budget. Measures including bail reform, healthcare and Medicaid are likely the center of debate. Governor Cuomo stated that he and the Senate and Assembly leaders are in conceptual agreement on the budget – the Leaders are meeting with their conferences today. Senate and Assembly leaders say they expect to pass the remainder of the bills today.

NY COVID-19 Update:

The COVID-19 numbers continue to climb in New York with the amount of positive cases reaching 83,712 and death toll reaching 1,941. Testing remains a high priority. New York has tested 220,880 individuals. 12,226 have been hospitalized, with 3,022 requiring ICU attention. Governor continues to publicly thank the hospitals for their cooperation during these difficult and challenging times.

Social Distancing:

Governor Cuomo announced that he will be closing all NYC playgrounds, but will leave open parks with large, open spaces. NYPD is being directed to be more aggressive in enforcing social distancing protocols.

Modeling:

- New York is working with McKinsey, to develop a "moderate model" to help gauge the severity of the virus and a potential timeline.
 - **McKinsey Model with minimal distancing** - apex projected for the end of April; estimated 110,000 hospital beds needed; and an estimated need of 37,000 ventilators.
 - **McKinsey Model with high social distancing** - apex projected for the end of April; estimated 75,000 hospital beds needed; and an estimated need of 25,000 ventilators.
 - **IHME Model** projects a death toll in NY of 16,000 and suggests that the virus' intensity could last well through July.

Testing:

- Governor Cuomo's opinion is that rapid testing will help ease the public's anxieties and get the economy back up and running more quickly.
- Regeneron Lab has created and donated 500,000 tests, with the first batch to be delivered on Monday.
- Corning has donated 100,000 tubes and provided 500,000 additional tubes at a reduced cost.

Moving Forward:

Time and time again, Governor Cuomo has said that necessity is the mother of innovation. Once this pandemic comes to an end, he says a number of areas need to be re-addressed, including:

- Improving the resiliency of the economy to modify according to emergency situations.
- Improving intergovernmental coordination.
- Exploring telemedicine and tele-education.
- Increasing medical supply availability and medical research.
- Increasing first responder capacity.
- And, societal capacity and engagement during crises.

March 31, 2020

As of March 31, there remain many unanswered questions with the budget deadline being less than 10 hours away. The legislature passed resolutions yesterday allowing for expedited and remote voting in light of practicing social distancing. Today it was announced that State Senator Jim Seward (Oneonta) and his wife have tested positive for the coronavirus.

- The Governor has said that the immediate State budget will not depend upon additional Federal funding; if more money comes in, allocations will be increased.
- Despite press outlets claiming that thousands of New York State employees may have their paychecks delayed, Budget Director Mujica says the Comptroller has the authority to continue to make those payments.
- While marijuana legalization is off the table, bail reform remains a topic to be negotiated.

We have analyzed the two budget bills currently in print and await the release of many more funding bills.

Despite the budget process, COVID-19 is not taking pause. New York has tested more than 205,186 people, resulting in 75,795 positive cases and 1,550 deaths. 10,929 people are currently hospitalized, 2,710 of whom are hospitalized in the ICU. Fortunately, the number of patients being discharged is rising as well. 4,975 patients have been discharged.

New York is expected to reach the "apex" of the virus somewhere between 7 and 21 days. Governor Cuomo continues to exhaust state efforts and federal assistance to build healthcare system capacity in light of estimates that show we're on track to overwhelm hospital systems by up to two times. The State will continue to increase staffing by onboarding volunteers, building the stockpile of equipment, and stressing the importance of social distancing and other precautions on the part of the public.

Healthcare System Updates:

Cuomo's message remains the same: supplies, staff, and space need to be shared between hospitals and systems.

- A portal will be launched today to aid in connecting the hospitals with the volunteers:
 - In-state workers will be prioritized, then upstate, then out-of-state volunteers.
- Cuomo will be releasing a new rule today to require hospitals to share data on inventory, staff and space with the DOH.
- The State's hospital capacity is up to 75k beds, however all models attempting to measure the severity apex say much more are needed.

Governor Cuomo announced yesterday that he had a meeting with the entire state hospital system to strategize organizational and systematic transformations that will help ease the burden on the healthcare system. Today he announced that the DOH will manage the central coordinating team comprised of Westchester Medical Center, the Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA), the Hospital Association of New York State (HANSY), the Health and Hospital System of NYC, and Long Island Medical Center.

We will continue to keep you updated on budget progress and COVID-19-related policy developments.

March 30, 2020

The spread of COVID-19 continues across New York State, now with cases in 61 out of 62 counties. The pace of testing in New York remains on the rise in response to the growing number of cases. To date, 66,497 people have tested positive for Coronavirus; the death toll reaching 1,218. Hospitalization rates have shown slight improvement, yet 9,517 patients remain hospitalized and 2,512 are being treated in the ICU. 4,204 patients have been discharged.

Major Points from Governor Cuomo's Press Conference:

- Ken Raske, President of the Greater Hospital Association of New York State, Michael Isreal of Westchester Medical Center, and Michael Dowling of Northwell Health joined the Governor to discuss hospital capacity and coordination of services.
- The Governor continues to call for public responsibility: Stay home, no proximity, no density.
- He is calling upon the help of other states to "share" healthcare professionals among the states and within the state saying "Come help us... We will return the favor."
- Hospital systems in New York are being instructed to share resources and staff, starting with directing unburdened upstate hospitals to send staff downstate immediately.
- New York is working with healthcare professionals and systems across the state to create a plan for private-public partnerships that will reduce competition in procuring equipment and supplies.
- Ken Raske stated that hospitals will set up a command center to help with the administrative aspects of moving non-COVID-19 patients to Javits.

The Governor added that the command center will centralize purchasing and manage supply distribution according to individual hospital need.

Field Hospitals and USNS Comfort are preparing for patients:

Significant progress has been made in building hospital capacity over the last week under Governor Cuomo's leadership, which continues to gain national attention.

- This morning, NYC's harbor welcomed the *USNS Comfort*, the 1000-bed medical ship that has been sent to serve as a backfill for hospitals.
- Also today, the Javits Convention Center in Manhattan opened its doors as a temporary field hospital to help ease the burden and stress on hospitals.
- The remaining three temporary hospitals and Central Park's smaller field hospital are set to open later this week.

- The federal government has approved 4 more locations to be converted into temporary hospitals.

Legislature:

The Assembly reconvened in Albany today for the first time in nearly two weeks to pass a resolution to establish temporary voting procedures during a declared state of emergency that allows for remote voting. The Senate reconvened on Sunday afternoon and passed an identical resolution. Budget bills continue to be amended and we expect to see budget language released any time now.

March 29, 2020

New York continues testing at the highest rate in the country with 172,360 tests completed to date, yielding 59,513 positive results. 8,503 people are currently hospitalized, of which 2,027 are in the ICU. 3,500 New York COVID-19 patients have been discharged from hospitals.

Governor Cuomo has released two more Executive Orders:

- EO 202.11 suspends laws and regulations to allow individuals and businesses licensed by the Department of State to extend the expiration date of their licenses, further expands hospital and staffing capacity, and keeps schools closed until April 15.
- EO 202.12 postpones the presidential primary and aligns it with state and local primaries on June 23.

Legislature:

After nearly two weeks of working remotely, the Senate will conference and reconvene for a 3:00 p.m. session in Albany today. They are expected to pass a resolution to establish special temporary voting procedures during declared states of emergency to expedite votes and to allow remote voting. The Assembly is scheduled to meet in Albany Monday, March 30 at 1:00 p.m. Health and Education funding negotiations remain ongoing; however, budget bills are being amended, and we expect to see language in print any hour.

Points from Governor Cuomo's Press Conference:

- NY PAUSE order (0% nonessential workers) will be extended until April 15.
- Cuomo is asking Mayor de Blasio and Comptroller Stringer to work with private and public hospital systems to support each other and coordinate resources to meet surge demands and relieve those hospitals under most stress.
- The NYS DOH Wadsworth Center has developed a less-intrusive saliva and short nasal swab test that healthcare workers can self-administer. This version of testing should start next week.
- After implementing Executive Orders that enable retired healthcare practitioners to come out of retirement and allow those licensed out of state to practice in New York during the emergency, more than 76,000 workers have volunteered.

Medicaid, Federal Actions, and State Budget:

- The Governor confirmed a "travel advisory" for New York, New Jersey and Connecticut issued by President Trump and the CDC which he supports as, "it's nothing we are not

already doing" and supports only essential work and travel for essential work. He said that the Governor of Rhode Island rescinded an EO announced yesterday that was targeted cars with New York license plates.

- Governor Cuomo is continuing to adamantly assert that the most recently enacted Federal COVID funding bill would cost more than it produces for NYS by prohibiting NY from implementing \$2.5 billion worth of MRT II recommendations.
- Cuomo stated that in lieu of Federal action, the State will have to make "drastic cuts to the Budget, like you have never seen."
- State Budget Director Mujica says that the real money figure NYS would receive is about \$4B, and ends whenever the President removes the emergency declaration, which would further reduce the money received. He also said that short-term borrowing will be enacted in order to make up for delayed revenues as a result of July 15 tax deadline.
- The State Budget is deadline is April 1 - next Wednesday.

March 28, 2020

As of March 28, New York has tested more than 155,934 people, resulting in 52,318 positive cases and 728 deaths. 7,328 people are currently hospitalized, 1,755 of whom are hospitalized in the ICU. Fortunately, the number of patients being discharged is rising as well. 2,726 patients have been deemed healthy enough to go home. At the same time, daily ICU admissions have decreased substantially, and the trend seems to show improvement every three days.

Meanwhile, Governor Cuomo continues to explore options to build hospital, treatment and testing capacity in preparation for the coronavirus apex that is expected to be reached in the next 14-21 days. The Governor reiterated his rationale for requesting 30,000 additional ventilators, saying it is science that dictates the numbers and “you need to go to war with what you have, not what you need, so prepare now.”

Governor Cuomo is encouraging governors to band together and form a “nationwide buying consortium” to strengthen procurement efforts and avoid driving up costs by individual state bidding. The competition between states has caused ventilators to go from \$25,000 to more than \$45,000.

Healthcare news:

- DOH Commissioner Zucker is reviewing the new CDC guidelines that are causing concern among healthcare providers. He will be deciding to whether or not implement stricter guidelines in New York.
- Cuomo is asking pharmacies to offer free delivery to reduce the density of waiting in lines.
- More than 1,000 experimental tests are being administered for Hydroxychlorouine and Zithromax.
- The FDA approved NYSDOH’s request for antibody testing, and the DOH will begin testing immediately.
- President Trump has approved New York’s request for four additional temporary hospitals which will yield 4,000 additional beds. There locations are:
 - Brooklyn Cruise Terminal
 - Aqueduct Racetrack
 - CUNY Staten Island
 - NY Expo Center
- Another Executive Order will be released to allow for birthing mothers to have company in the delivery room, which will override individual hospital policies.

Elections:

- The Presidential Primary has been delayed until June 23 to align with state and local elections.

March 27, 2020

New York saw the COVID-19 pandemic go from bad to far worse this week, as the number of confirmed cases reached 44,635 with 519 related deaths. NY has tested over 138,376 people and continues to test at an exponentially higher rate than the rest of the country. With more positive tests come more hospitalizations. To date, 6,481 people are hospitalized, 1,583 of whom are in the ICU. On a lighter note, 2,045 patients have been discharged, an increase of 528 since yesterday.

Warnings about shortages of medical supplies being grimly realized in hospitals, particularly downstate hospitals. New York is continuing to scout for procurement opportunities and donations for equipment and supplies like N95 masks, PPE gowns, ventilators, etc. Please click [here for additional information and/or to offer assistance](#).

Updates from Governor Cuomo's Press Conference:

Healthcare:

- "Apex" of need could be 21 days.
- Equipment is being gathered from everywhere possible to create a stockpile of PPEs and ventilators to prepare for the state's apex. The remainder of resources will be deployed to the next state in need.
- Four locations have been identified and approved to be converted into temporary hospitals: Javits Center, Stony Brook University, Westchester Center and Old Westbury.
- Governor Cuomo will be asking the Federal government for approval to convert four new locations into temporary hospitals including: NY Expo Center, Aqueduct Racetrack, the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal and the College of Staten Island.
- *USNS Comfort* will be arriving in New York's harbor on Monday 3/30.

Schools:

- Schools will remain closed for another two weeks (original date was April 1).
- 180-day waiver will continue to April 15.

Other:

- The guidelines that support EO 202.6 are being revised to include non-essential construction. Specific designation of what is deemed "essential" is forthcoming.

March 26, 2020

As of March 26, New York is responsible for about 25% of all the COVID-19 testing done nationwide; the highest rate in the country. To date, New York has tested over 122,000 people, resulting in 37,258 positive cases. The number of related deaths has now risen to 385. Some of those hospitalized are staying on ventilators upward of 20-30 days, much longer than non-COVID ventilator use. Currently, 5,327 people are hospitalized; 1,290 of whom are in the ICU. On a positive note, 1,517 have been discharged.

In preparation for upcoming “apex,” New York is continuing to scout additional sites for hospital overflow and working to expand current downstate hospital capacity by 50-100%. Plans are also underway to transfer downstate patients to upstate hospitals when New York City hospital capacity maxes out. The Governor noted that such transfers would be a last case scenario.

Healthcare capacity is increasing:

- Additional facilities are being identified to be converted into temporary hospital facilities.
- NY has been approved to begin “splitting” ventilators – meaning two patients will be using one ventilator.
- Anesthesia machines will be converted into ventilators to help bridge the gap.

Changes in State Budget Procedure:

- Governor Cuomo and State Budget Director Robert Mujica estimate a loss in revenue in between \$10B and 15B.
- Federal Stimulus Bill - Governor "shocked at the irresponsibility" of the bill:
 - While unemployment insurance and small businesses are addressed.
 - Does not help governmental revenue losses; Governor described this as a failure and irresponsible.
 - NYS will get \$5B only for direct COVID-19 expenses.
- Governor Cuomo said he does not know how much revenues are down, nor does he know the forecast for economic activity or additional Federal response.
- The State will need to readjust revenue projections downward to start the fiscal year, and further adjust (upward or downward) as the FY continues. Consequently, spending will also be adjusted downward and updated accordingly to match the actual revenue as the FY proceeds.
- He stated publicly that he thought it unlikely the legislature would return for the remainder of scheduled session and would give these adjustment powers to the Executive's Division of the Budget.

March 25, 2020

New York testing for COVID-19 continues to be the most expansive in the country, producing increasing numbers of positive results and ramping up preparation for the "apex" in the coming weeks. To date, New York has tested more than 103,000 individuals, resulting in 30,811 positive cases and upward of 300 related deaths. Positive cases are continuing to double every few days. However, density reductions plans seem to be having a positive affect when looking at hospitalization rates, as they have been decreasing. Fifteen percent of those testing positive require hospitalization.

Hospital Capacity and Ventilator Access Remain New York's Top Priorities:

- Currently, New York has 53,000 beds. With the help of hospitals, FEMA, and the Army Corps of Engineers, an additional 65,000+ beds have been identified.
- New York has 4,000 ventilators immediately on hand, with 7,000 more being purchased and the Federal government committing to supply 4,000. They are looking at engineering solutions to allow the "splitting" of ventilators to service two patients with one ventilator, and the Governor is aggressively pushing the Federal government to do more.

In today's press briefing, Governor Cuomo continued pressure on the Trump Administration to deploy all resources available to help the State prepare for the wave of cases projected to overwhelm the healthcare system. Yesterday, Governor Cuomo went as far as telling FEMA to "pick the 26,000 people who are going to die, because you only sent 400 ventilators." He argued for "rolling deployment" of resources; prioritizing the allocation of FEMA resources and aid, including ventilators, according to patient volume, starting with New York, and reallocated as the apex shifts to other areas of the country.

According to the Department of Health, patients in New York with severe cases of COVID-19 could start receiving an experimental treatment with blood plasma antibodies as early as next week. Governor Cuomo has repeatedly expressed optimism that widespread testing for antibodies could be helpful in understanding how widely COVID-19 has spread. It could identify people who did not know they had the virus — and it would allow those who had the virus and have developed antibodies to go back to work, including desperately needed healthcare workers.

March 24, 2020

New York State has nearly 60% of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the U.S., with New York City being named the epicenter of the virus. As of March 24, NY has tested more than 91,000 people, with 25,665 positive cases confirmed and upward of 300 related deaths. Cases are doubling every three days.

The Governor has noted these numbers are 10 times that of California and Washington State. Despite "stay-at-home" directives that closed all non-essential businesses, the rate of infection is spiking faster and higher than expected. The apex is forecasted to be reached within 14 to 21 days.

Due to the spike and earlier apex, the emergency need for hospital beds, ICU units and ventilators is more urgent than ever.

In today's briefing, the Governor blasted the Federal government for not providing the 20,000 ventilators they have in stockpile. He urged that New York will be the first state to hit the apex and others will follow. Allocation of FEMA resources and aid, including ventilators, should be prioritized according to volume, starting with New York, and reallocated as the apex shifts to other states.

Other updates from today's briefing:

Healthcare Capacity and Innovation:

- With positive cases exponentially increasing, the new projected number of needed hospital beds has climbed from 100,000 to 140,000, and 40,000 ICU beds. Currently, there are only 53,000 beds available.
- Through a new Executive Order released yesterday, hospitals are mandated to develop a plan to increase bed capacity by at least 50% with a goal of a 100% increase.
- Governor Cuomo is exploring creative options to build capacity, including working with hotel owners, SUNY, and CUNY to identify space.
- Facilities are experimenting with ventilators to get the most out of what they have by putting two people on one ventilator simultaneously.

Governor Cuomo is Calling on the Federal Government for Assistance:

- Utilize the Federal Defense Procurement Act to provide resources and startup capital to companies who can manufacture ventilators that will be ready for the expected apex in the next 14 days.
- Loan the ~20,000 ventilators that are in the HHS stockpile to New York. Governor Cuomo made a commitment to personally deliver the ventilators to the next state in need once NY is passed its apex.

The Governor also noted initiation of compassionate care and trial treatments in New York stating as early as today. He also strongly disavowed any economic policies that disregard health risks and try to put a dollar value on human life while acknowledging more refined public health strategies will bring economic benefit.

March 23, 2020

As of March 23, New York State's testing capacity has increased substantially, from a maximum of 1,000 per day 10 days ago to 16,000 per day yesterday. A total of 78,000 people State-wide have been tested with 20,780 testing positive. Of those, 13% have required hospitalization and 24% of those hospitalized require ICU treatment. There have been 374 deaths attributed to the coronavirus in New York State.

New York State is preparing for the Army Corps of Engineers to start construction at SUNY Stony Brook, SUNY Westbury, Westchester County Center and Jacob K. Javits Center in order to temporarily increase hospital capacity downstate where the burden on the healthcare system is most severe.

For the last several days, Governor Cuomo has expressed grave concerns about groups of people not adhering to precautions to stem the transmission of the virus. Saturday, he toured New York City and witnessed the gathering of groups in close proximity in parks and other public spaces. On Sunday, he gave New York City a 24-hour deadline to devise a plan to address the lack of adherence to social distancing protocols.

[Governor Cuomo Issues Guidance on Essential Services Under The 'New York State on PAUSE' Executive Order](#)

The Governor is also planning for better times by assembling a team of advisors to develop "NY Forward," a public health and economic strategy that will sustain necessary precautions while re-engaging the economy.

New Emergency Order:

- Hospitals to submit to the State plans to increase their capacity by a minimum of 50% ;
- DFS is sending a directive to health insurers to provide information on employees who are licensed health care practitioners (registered nurses and physician) in an effort to transition them to the provision of COVID-19 -related healthcare .
- Healthcare Supplies:
- The State has secured some additional supplies of PPE equipment (although more is needed) and has a disbursement plan based on geographic need;

Federal:

- FDA has approved the NYS DOH request to start an experimental drug trial to treat COVID-19 on a compassionate care basis and a separate trial of an anti-body treatment will also begin this week;

- The President has agreed to waive the 25% State contribution to FEMA assistance as requested by the Governor.

March 22, 2020

As of March 22, New York has reached 15,168 cases and 374 related deaths; the hospitalization rate has slightly reduced to 13%. Governor Cuomo's latest Executive Order 202.9 suspends mortgage payments and prohibits foreclosures for 90 days. New York is going ahead with plans to build temporary hospital sites with the help of the Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA. Governor Cuomo is asking for more emergency assistance from the federal government, particularly to combat price gouging of personal protection equipment.

Governor Cuomo's message to his Congressional Delegation: *"New York has the greatest need."*

Federal Government Funding Priorities:

- Money to individuals
- Money to governments
- Corporate bailouts

Treatment Trials

- Secured 70K Hydroxychloroquine, 10k Zithromax, and 750k Chloroquine from the FDA.
- Clinical trial starts Tuesday.
- Governor Cuomo calls on the FDA to start approving serological testing for Coronavirus antibodies ASAP.

DOH Emergency Order

- Hospitals must develop and submit a plan to expand bed capacity by at least 50%.
- Elective, non-critical surgeries are to be cancelled beginning on Wednesday; this should provide 25-30% more beds.

March 21, 2020

As of March 21, New York has reached 10,356 cases. It is important to note that NY is testing two times the number of individuals than other states. Governor Cuomo is continuing to suspend laws and regulations through Executive Orders to increase the State's COVID-19 response capabilities. Starting this weekend, 100% of non-essential workers are directed to stay home, and non-essential businesses are mandated to temporarily close their doors. The Governor's priorities continue to be increasing hospital capacity, building new beds, and increasing supplies.

Healthcare: Inspiration Drives Innovation

- Apparel manufactures are converting facilities to be able to make N95 masks.
- Health Commissioner is recommending trials for new drug therapy: hydroxychloroquine and zithromax.

Federal Assistance:

- President Trump approved New York's major disaster declaration yesterday, which allows the state to access FEMA money. Governor Cuomo is asking the Trump Administration to waive the 25% that NY is responsible for contributing.
- The Governor is requesting four field hospitals and four Army Corps of Engineers temporary hospitals and medical supplies.
- Requesting Congress to revisit a bill that would provide \$6B in federal aid - NY currently is ineligible.

March 20, 2020

New York has 7,102 cases of COVID-19 as of March 20. The priority continues to be reducing the spread and #flattenthecurve. In an effort to promote regional partnerships, Delaware has joined NY, CT, NJ, and PA in the statewide agreement to reduce the spread. Governor Cuomo announced an eighth Executive order that includes civil penalties and mandatory closures for non-compliance. The Order will go into effect on Sunday night.

NYS on PAUSE (Policies Assure Uniform Safety for Everyone):

- 100% of non-essential workers must stay home; only business essential functions - businesses that are non-compliant may be subjected to civil fines and mandatory closures.
- Remain indoors to greatest extent to protect physical and mental health.
- Matilda's Law: Seniors over 70, immune-compromised people and those with underlying illnesses are subject to strict rules.

Executive Order 202.7:

- 90-Day mortgage relief for New Yorkers - includes waived mortgage payments based on financial hardship, no negative reporting to credit bureaus, and waived fees for overdrafts, ATMs, and credit cards.
- New DFS regulation to free up staff and speed hospital admission and discharge processes.
- Implements new regulations and waives Department of Health rules to add hospital bed capacity.
- Closes personal care businesses including barbershops, tattoo parlors, etc.
- Notary services can now be conducted via video conferencing and scan/fax.

Healthcare:

- NYS will provide funding to manufacturers who make PPE gowns, gloves, gowns, and masks. Those interested should reach out to NYS Empire State Development at 212-803-3100.
- In partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers, the State is looking at potential temporary sites for medical facilities.
- Ventilators continue to be in high demand.

Taxes:

- State Income tax will mirror Federal change to 7/15
- Business Sales tax late payments will have late penalties and interest waived

March 19, 2020

As of March 19, New York has 4152 cases of COVID-19. The State will begin to implement the Governor's two new Executive Orders. EO 202.5 suspends laws and regulations related to healthcare practitioners who are in current good standing, hospital capacity, nursing home and long-term care program requirements. EO 202.6 reduces the in-person workforce at any work location by 50% (exemptions apply*).

Workforce/Economy:

- *Governor Cuomo announced that he will be issuing an order to further reduce the workforce to 25% (exemptions still apply).
- Foreclosures are temporarily suspended.
- Overdraft fees for ATMs and credit cards are temporarily waived.

Healthcare:

- NYC can expect to utilize the 1,000-room, 12-operating room *USNS Comfort* beginning in early April.
- The Army Corps of Engineers met with the Governor to begin drafting plans to increase hospital bed capacity.

Shopping/Entertainment:

- Indoor common portions of retail shopping malls within excess of 100,00 square feet of retail space are closed; except for stores with their own external entrances.
- Places of public amusement including aquariums, zoos, arcades, bowling alleys, etc. are closed.

March 18, 2020

On March 18, Governor Cuomo announced that New York has 2,382 cases of COVID-19 and 20 related deaths. Health care and capacity remains the priority. The tri-state agreement between NY, NJ and CT that was reached on March 16 now includes participation from Pennsylvania.

New Executive Order:

- No more than 50% of employees can report for work outside of the home.
- Essential services are exempt and include food services, pharmacies, healthcare workers, shipping, supplies, etc.

Healthcare:

- DOH regulations regarding hospital bed spacing requirements will be temporarily waived to allow for an increase in bed capacity.
- The State is exploring innovative options to increase staffing.
- The Trump Administration is deploying the *USNS Comfort* to be docked in NYC's harbor. The ship is equipped with 1,000 rooms and functional operating rooms.
- Army Corps of Engineers will be in NYS later today to begin preparations and discussions regarding building temporary hospitals.

Legislature & Executive:

- The Senate and Assembly are in session today and expected to vote on matters related to paid sick leave and election modifications.
- The Senate and Assembly are implementing "common-sense" protocols to ensure the safety of their members. The Assembly has announced that the full house will be assigned to groups of 30 and will rotate onto the floor. Members who wish to debate an issue will contact their designated conference floor leader. Legislators will have access to the floor in accordance with their designated group.
- Governor Cuomo reaffirms that policy items are still on the table for negotiation and inclusion in any final Budget deal.

March 17, 2020

As of March 17, New York has 1,374 positive COVID-19 cases and 12 related deaths. According to a press conference held this morning by Governor Cuomo, additional changes will be made to the state in response to the growing COVID-19 pandemic including a Paid Sick Leave expansion, hospital capacity building plans and closings.

Legislature:

Governor Cuomo's Paid leave bill (Three-Way Agreement) has been released. The legislature is likely to vote on the matter Wednesday.

Healthcare is the Top Priority:

- Priorities: creating space in hospitals; encouraging retired health practitioners to re-enter the workforce and be on-call; construction to build temporary hospitals
- COVID-19 testing is being increased exponentially
- Current hospitalization rate 15-19%
- Expected peak in 45 days
- Expected need of hospital beds 55,000-110,000; ICU beds 18,600-37,200 (current capacity - 53,000 beds, 3000 ICU beds)
- Suffolk County, Rockland County, and Staten Island drive-thru testing sites will open soon; Nassau County's drive-thru opens today

Schools - All NY Schools Will be Closed by 3/18:

180-day school requirement is waived – Cuomo Administration may reevaluate after two weeks.

Localities and Closings:

Localities should check with DOH before implementing new rules and restrictions. More closings to be announced.

For more information: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-three-way-agreement-legislature-paid-sick-leave-bill-provide-immediate>

March 16, 2020

Beginning with the declaration of a State of Emergency, the Governor has enacted three Executive Orders since March 3.

On March 3, Governor Cuomo signed into law a \$40 million emergency management authorization that will allow the State to hire additional staff and procure equipment and any other resources necessary to respond to the evolving situation. To date, the Governor has released three executive orders. EO 202 declared a state of emergency, suspended related laws to allow for State contracts to be expanded and awarded, and the release of additional resources in response to the outbreak. EO 202.1 suspends laws and regulations to allow for expansion of services and temporary facilities for health and human services providers; grants flexibility childcare-related laws, suspends regulations to prevent delays in providing home delivered meals through EISEP; removes the 180-day school attendance requirement; suspends laws relating to waiting periods for unemployment insurance claimants whose claims arise from the COVID-19 outbreak; and suspends laws relating to emergency procurement. EO 202.2 temporarily modifies election procedures to reduce the spread of the virus. The Governor is making day-by-day changes, and continues to call upon the Trump Administration to dictate a uniform, country-wide plan.

As the result of today's tri-state agreement between NY, NJ, and CT:

- NY restaurants and bars are closed beginning at 8 p.m. 3/16, takeout permitted only
- Alcohol beverage rules will be suspended and the State Liquor Authority will provide guidance on allowing "to-go" products to be sold from bars, wineries, distilleries and restaurants
- Gyms, casinos, and movie theaters are closed beginning at 8 p.m. 3/16

Budget/State Politics:

- Cuomo is against the recent House-passed COVID-19 supplemental bill because he says it would not allow the MRT II to close the State's \$2.5B budget gap
- The Capitol is closed to visitors; two Assemblymembers tested positive for COVID-19; Members' staffers have reached out to share new communication policies
- The Houses are considering the Governor's bill to guarantee paid sick leave for quarantined workers up to 14 days.
 - Senate and Assembly committee meetings are cancelled for the week
 - Senate and Assembly session has been cancelled for today. They'll likely take up the matter remotely or on Wednesday
- The Budget is expected to be brought up for a vote by Friday, 3/20 - weeks ahead of the 4/1 deadline

- The final MRT II meeting is scheduled for 3/19, we expect that unlike previous meetings, it will be closed to visitors and only available through webcast

Schools:

- 86% of schools are closed, remaining 14% will be closed by Wednesday for at least two weeks
- Building capacity density is cut by 50%; 50% of State non-essential workers are mandated to work from home; non State-workforce is encouraged to work from home
- NYC schools are closed

Hospitals:

- Governor plans to build hospital capacity through construction or retrofitting physical buildings as he believes 40% of New Yorkers will contract the virus at a 15% hospitalization rate. He has formally requested that the Federal government commit resources and the Army Corps of Engineers to retrofit public buildings (i.e., college dorms) as temporary back drop ICU units. Today he reported they are talking to the Administration, no further update.
- New Rochelle has a Mobile Testing Center as a result of a partnership with Northwell and BioReference.
- Long Island and Staten Island are supposed to be getting mobile testing centers as well

General closings:

- 50% density reduction in the workplace - including non-essential state workers
- Events with 50+ individuals in attendance are to be cancelled/postponed

New DOH Rules/Regulations:

- Practitioners and pharmacists are encouraged to utilize 90-day supplies of long-term maintenance medications for those on Medicaid and in quarantine or are at high risk for developing serious illness from COVID-19
- Transfers between Medicaid participating pharmacies due to inaccessibility or travel limitations are permitted
- Early refills for members in need of medications due to quarantine or outbreak (controlled substances and non-controlled substances) will be allowed at the provider's discretion).
- Medicaid is reimbursing telephonic evaluation and management service in cases where face-to-face visits are not recommended and it is medically appropriate
- Governor Cuomo removed the waiting period to enroll in unemployment insurance related to COVID-19

- Governor Cuomo removed insurance copay requirements for testing related to COVID-19

Snapshot of COVID-19 cases in NY as of Sunday 3/15

**Does not reflect updated numbers as of 3/16; for depiction of distribution throughout counties only*

Albany	8
Broome	1
Delaware	1
Dutchess	7
Erie	3
Greene	2
Herkimer	1
Monroe	2
Montgomery	1
Nassau	98
Orange	6
Putnam	2
Rockland	13
Saratoga	3
Schenectady	2
Suffolk	47
Tioga	1
Tompkins	1
Ulster	5
Westchester	196
New York City:	329

For comprehensive information from the NYSDOH,
visit <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/providers.htm>