NEW YORK STATE COVID-19 UPDATE

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 waiver 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 being 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 practioners 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 revaluate 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.

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

- 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

<u>Budget/State Politics:</u>

- 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*

County	Positive Cases
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 State (Outside of NYC)	**400**
New York City:	329
Total Positive Cases (Statewide)	**729**

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