

Deaths: 606 (total 12,192)

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

NY PAUSE WILL BE EXTENDED THROUGH 5/15

- Hospitalization rate is down
- Total hospitalizations is down
- Net change is down more significantly
- 3-day average is also down
- ICU admissions is down
- Intubations is down
- New COVID hospitalizations pre day, still about 2k
- Good news is, we can control the beast, control the spread
- Lost 606 lives yesterday (577 hospitals 29 in nursing homes)
- When it is over? How do we get there?
 - Plan to un-pause
 - Vaccine is 12-18 months
 - Medical treatment possibly
 - Do no harm, control the rate of infection
 - Surge/Flex: strengthen the healthcare system
 - Testing/tracing-need federal help
 - Phased return to new normal
- Phased Return
 - No light switch
 - What businesses re-open?
 - Are there more “essential businesses”? what is the next level?
 - Are there “safer” businesses to re-open
- Risk vs Reward
 - Do it in phases, phase up in percentages
 - Will be ongoing process
 - Do in coordination with other states in region
 - Doesn't mean we will be on lock step but talking through and not contradicting
- Analysis underway:
 - Private sector needs to re-imagine workplace
 - Who can telecommute?
 - How do we social distance in the workplace?
 - New normal, transportation, workplace, customer interaction
 - How to deal with if infection happens, how to deal with it
- Our goal is that the “new normal” is a better NY
- Testing
 - Best tool to inform decisions and calibrate progress of risk/reward businesses reopening plan
 - New frontier for all of us
 - NYS tests more than any other state
 - NY set a very ambitious goal and reached it

- 500k in 30 days-more than CA MI and FL combined
 - But we have 19M people and 9M workers
 - Many questions to answer
 - Sites, supplies, lab capacity acquisition of chemicals
 - Tracing army, will need federal help (looking forward to feds willingness to tackle all of this)
- All of this will be better is done in cooperation, can't be done alone, understand there is risk
- Must strengthen healthcare system
 - Continue surge and flex
 - Build out stockpile of PPE and equipment
 - Will be sending 100 ventilators to NJ; we will do anything to help
- Key is not to increase infection rate
 - How do we track infection rate?
 - WE DON'T
 - We see hospitalization rates, which happens later a person is infected and only if the person gets ill
 - Advances testing will help determining infection rate
 - How quickly is the virus spreading? How quickly in infection rate increasing?
- CDC Projections on Mar 13 were:
 - 160M to 214M infected (US Population 328M)
 - 2.4 M – 21 M people hospitalized
 - We only have 925K hospital beds
 - White house Coronavirus task force on 3/31 said there could be 1.5-2M deaths
 - We slowed infection rate by actions
- What is the infection rate?
 - How many people does one person infect?
 - If one person infects less than one other person, disease is on the decline
 - If one person infects one person, stable
 - If one person infects many, that is fire through dry grass (outbreak)
- If you see hospitalization go up, we must turn valve back, we are trying to figure it out
- Only have margin of error between .9 to 1.2 (we are at .9 now after close down)
- NY Pause has worked, but we are not there yet
- NY PAUSE will continue to May 15 (doesn't want to project beyond that)
 - We will see depending on data, not political not emotional
- You must wear a mask, it is one of the best things we can do, sorry it makes people unhappy, doesn't think it is a burden, simple and can save lives
 - On public transit
 - Private transportation carriers
 - Operator of public systems, private carriers, and for hire vehicles must wear masks at all times
 - Effective Friday at 8pm
- You determine rate of infection
 - Wear a mask
 - Wash your hands
 - Social distance
 - Education your children
 - Use hand sanitizer
 - Make smart choices
- Of all the unique aspects we have learned through this it and the positive is people are choosing to do the right thing, trust in NYers, if facts are presented, NYers will do the right thing
- Can't put a mask on 17M people, 17M people will have to do it, what we have done has worked

- NY Tough.

Q&A

In Hornell NY 10 people have died nursing homes, Philmont, how many and which nursing homes have clusters, are there COVID only units?

- Don't know what has happened in every nursing homes, we will get you today a list of information by nursing homes

On economic toll, DeBlasio has said 7.4B hit, have you discussed this

- Yes, it is everywhere, we cannot do it, state not in a position to help
- Feds have to step in
- Understand you don't get the same political credit when you help the governments since it is not direct to the people
- But at one point you have to put the politics aside, how can you pretend you are addressing this when you are starving local governments?
- Sent letter from National Governors association
- Starving state and local governments will not help people

Why has it taken so long to get nursing home information?

- We are putting it together
- You have hospitals that are dealing with hell every day, DOH make sure your reports are on time
- Nursing homes are in same position, reports are difficult to get in with short staff etc.
- Will have today

You mentioned flattening but yesterday we had a nuptick in cases, does that worry you?

- Testing is not a random sample, function of how many tests you do
- More you test the more you find
- Hospitalization rates are most indicative, those who are infected and seriously ill

NYC has been accused of padding death, is President correct in saying that?

- Doesn't know what President said but why would NYC want to inflate death toll? Seems bizarre
- I think what you are seeing is, CDC put out different guidelines of what you must report
- Could people be dying at home?
- Refining estimates
- CDC put out the guidance, city was clear and added probably deaths
- There are a lot of assumptions, not in death count, separate
- There are probable deaths are based on systems, could probably have been COVID, underreported deaths in homes is another issue
- Times put numbers together

Reports out of hospitals that significant number have kidney issues and shortage of dialysis machines?

- Have heard this and looking into, kidneys take a hard hit
- There are not shortages across the board, working on that

Does mask mandate apply to kids?

- 2 years and older (CDC guidelines)

For many people feel it is a big deal, say it is government control, been told masks do little to protect, are you underplaying impact?

- Understand there is a lot is opposition, it is face covering doesn't have to be mask
- Some people think close down is government overreach
- If you don't think 600 people dying yesterday is a problem, I disagree
- Asking NYers to wear a mask to not only to protect themselves but also other people
- Understand the opposition, phone is ringing off the hook
- Toll on healthcare and frontline worker, asking NYers to wear a mask is reasonable

How long will it take not to have to social distance

- Depends on how good we are of controlling spread and medical treatment

Newsom is giving undocumented \$500, can NY do that?

- If federal gov doesn't pass reasonable legislation, we have a 15B deficit, state is broke
- Irresponsible to do these things
- Looking at it but real financial problems

UI, stories of people not getting phone calls back?

- Another 400k files claims last week
- 1.2M claims
- Completed 925k claims, some of the applications that are not completed, some of those require forms
- Trying to expedite, trying to bring system to scale

What about low income or homeless, how to get masks

- Working on that, remember it is a face covering