

Deaths 132 (total 22,302)

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

- Happy Friday
- Hospitalizations down
- Intubations down
- New hospitalizations up a tick, don't like to see that, but tend to bounce, have been slow to decline and have had several plateaus
- New cases are coming from home spread
- 132 deaths (96 in hospitals 36 in nursing homes)
- NY curve is down compared to the rest of the nation which is up
- Reopening; half the regions are opening today
- NY on Pause extended to May 28th for regions that do not open today
- When a region hits its benchmark, it comes online.
- Phase one is opening in those 5 regions:
 - Construction:
 - Indoor/outdoor
 - Masks must be worn when they can not social distance
 - Employer must provide masks
 - No congregate meetings
 - Retail:
 - Curbside pickup; both employee and purchaser in vehicle must wear mask; hand sanitizer must be available
 - Instore pickup; when curbside is not practical, requires ordering ahead, social distancing in store, not more than 50% occupancy, patrons must wear mask; store employees must wear mask (gloves preferred), hand sanitizer must be available
 - 5 regions: local officials and control center
 - Must enforce business compliance and social distancing
 - Control center will have daily morning meeting to review and monitor infection/testing/hospitalization rates
 - Expect an increase, must be monitored and controlled
 - Personal Behavior:
 - In public; if within 6 feet of someone, must wear a mask
- Beaches, we are one multi-state region, what one state does will affect others
- We want what's best for NY and New Yorkers, don't want New Yorkers going to other states beaches if they will be overcrowded
- Come up with an agreement that accommodates all needs
- NY NJ CT DE will open beaches for Memorial Day weekend
 - State and local beaches/lakeshores
 - No more than 50% capacity
 - Not group activities
 - Areas of social gathering will be closed
 - Social distancing will be enforced
 - Must wear masks when you can't socially distance
 - Not concessions

- Adequate staff levels
- City/Town/County beaches may open under the same conditions subject to local government home rule:
 - Must fully enforce minimum rules, may impose additional conditions (is minimum rules are not enforced, beach will be closed)
 - Must notify state by May 20th
- Reopening must be smart, keep it in focus, have seen cities and countries open and then have to close due to infections rate
- Expect rate to go up but has to be at rate we can control
- Local governments will need to step up; enforcement/compliance; perform testing/tracing
- How this goes is up to all of us and up to each of us
- Everyone is vulnerable, government can't keep you safe, you have to keep yourself safe

Q&A:

Talked a lot about nursing homes, brought to our attention there are a lot of cases in OPWDD group homes, staff members concerned about policies, there is a staffing shortage, being moved around, also having problems social distancing in this community, families not feeling they are getting attention?

- When you have a congregation that is where the virus can transfer
- Congregate facilities of people, problematic
- On the moving of staff, I don't know if that is right or wrong or normal, will check

How many tests a week will they need to test nursing home staffing? Is there enough testing? Where are we with supply chain?

- We are doing more testing than any state
- Ramping up dramatically and quickly
- We have to test staff in nursing homes, understand we have the most aggressive policy
- Parts of the state where they have more capacity than they are using
- We are getting more testing kits, sending about 120k to nursing homes now
- It is hard to do and we will do it
- Feds are helping with the supply chain; each machine has its own test kits some of the national manufacturers are overwhelmed with test kits, Feds are working on it; we are not there yet
- DeRosa, since we announced last Sunday about 2 tests a week, state has reserved 201k tests a week for nursing homes
- No one lab could do this, we have 300 labs in NYS, need them all to do what is needed

Can you explain rationale to reopen beaches?

- Calculation is trying to work with surrounding states, they were going to open beaches, if NY did not you would see influx of New Yorkers to beaches in the other states, that wouldn't help anyone
- Opening with safe guards, if regulations are not enforced, they will be closed
- We have been talking to the other states about this for a long time, Gov. Murphy did not force our hand
- This plan makes the most sense, is there a risk that the locals won't enforce the rules? Yes, or beach could get overwhelmed
- If that happens, beaches will be closed

Local governments are supposed to enforce business compliance, will you provide guidance? Complaints that are filed, what will happen to them?

- Local governments have guidelines, also businesses have to sign agreement
- Any complaints to the state will be sent to the locals

Comptroller's cash report is due today, we don't have federal clarity what are you going to do?

- I hold to the belief, have faith in humanity and common sense, believe Washington will ultimately provide funding to local governments
- Politicians who have to run for re-election, will not come home if they don't provide funding for state and local governments
- That would create devastating circumstance
- If we have to cut schools, hospitals, police and fire, doesn't think officials can present that case to those that represent

What is the drop-dead date?

- First benchmark is comptrollers report
- Look at those numbers, Washington talking about federal bill
- If that doesn't come, have to react
- Within the month of May, we would have to put out a plan contingent on receiving federal funds
- not taking the pressure off of them, want to hold them accountable
- they passed a bill to take care of millionaires, businesses, how do they not help state and local governments
- for their own survival believe they will not come home without helping nurses, doctors

When will hair stylists be able to open?

- Barber in Kingston was operating in defiance of order, infected 12 people
- Cant socially distance and give haircut
- Hair styling in phase 2

State court system re-opening some courthouses, wouldn't that be in phase 2?

- Doing justice is an essential service.

If someone was to get infected what should they do? Are there devices that they should have?

- Contact a physician
- Everyone is different, if they are taking medicine they should have that
- Tailored to individuals
- Working closely with healthcare professional about telehealth

On children's disease, where are those located?

- It is across the state but proportionate to population
- Did not look or smell like COVID
- Think you will see more of this
- Stories about other illnesses popping up
- This is not what we were told initially, gave parents a false sense of security, this is a big about-face
- Also had dramatic shift with antibodies
- The more we learn, is negative, we haven't learned anything positive about this disease.