

Deaths 139 (total 22,600)
106 in Hospitals, 33 in Nursing Homes

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

- Happy Sunday
- Total hospitalizations down
- Intubations down
- New Covid hospitalizations down (374)
- Decline on the way down much slower than the way up
- Reopening is the question: How?
- Five upstate regions are opening
- Shift in Capital Region and Western New York
 - Now qualify for reopening but still need an increase in tracing capacity but purely administrative function
 - Will find additional personnel, get them trained and get them ready
 - Will be working with both regions to get this done
- Today is day 78
 - This is a long time and people are feeling it
- Depth of mental health issues associated with Covid
 - We have a mental health crisis
 - Americans reporting serious mental distress as high as 38%
 - The Mental Health Coalition doing great work
 - www.howareyoureally.org
 - #HowAreYouReallyChallenge
 - Need to get comfortable asking this and talking about this
 - New York State Emotional Support Hotline 1-844-863-9314
 - Additional resources at headspace.com/ny
- Reopening Strategy
 - Data driven
 - Testing component crucial
 - New York rapidly expanded testing capacity
 - Started testing of 1,000/day on 2/29
 - Today at 40k tests a day
 - Per capita doing significantly more testing than any other country (7.1%)
 - Testing was key to controlling the virus and now we need to monitor
- New CVS Testing Partnership
 - New partnership to bring on additional testing capacity
 - 700+ testing sites across the state
- New problem with testing
 - More sites and capacity than we are using
 - Walk-ins and drive thru sites can test 15,000/day but only doing about 5,000/day
 - Any individual who thinks they could be symptomatic can get a test
 - Any individual who had contact with someone who has been diagnosed for Covid can get a test
 - Any health care worker, first responder, nursing home worker, essential worker can get a test
 - Any worker who will return to work as part of Phase 1 can get a test

- New website to find testing sites
 - Making testing as easy as possible
 - Governor Cuomo took the test during the press conference

Q&A

- Any update on unemployment?
 - Tremendous progress with another update the middle of this week
 - Most outstanding claims that are more than 3 weeks old are those that are associated with fraud, missing information, certification issues
 - New system has made significant progress
- What is our total testing capacity and how can we best use that capacity?
 - At 40,000 test capacity today
 - Not sure what the maximum testing capacity is, depends on a number of variables
 - Nursing homes have an additional 35,000 tests available
 - Combined in state and out of state roughly 80,000 tests
- What is the status of summer camps?
 - Looking at guidelines for summer camps especially because of the new cases reported in children
 - No new guidance yet, but end of June is usually when those camps open and will have additional guidance well ahead of opening
 - Investing 120+ inflammatory cases in children today, but think this number is much higher
- With the new cases in children, does this impact what schools will do in the fall?
 - Absolutely and we need to watch this carefully and do not know enough yet on how this will track
 - Good news is, September is a lifetime away
- What do you say to families who have experienced nursing home deaths who are looking for accountability?
 - Lost 139 people yesterday in hospitals, who is accountable?
 - There is no good answer
 - We have the best hospital system on the globe but people are going to die, especially the older and most vulnerable population
 - Can have a situation where everyone did the right thing and still people died
- If today's protections were in place from the start, would more people be alive today?
 - Said from day one, we cannot overwhelm the hospital system and people died because we couldn't get them the care they needed
 - We were successful in not overwhelming the hospital system and we did everything that we could
- What is the testing capacity in the prison system, hearing prison system testing is significantly less than other systems
 - Prisons are tested under the same rules as facilities outside of the prisons
 - Correction officers are testing well below the infection rate of the general public
- This Thursday is a very important Jewish holiday, any guidelines or protocols that could be set to let the Orthodox Jewish community celebrate?
 - Working on ways to celebrate the upcoming Jewish holiday and Memorial Day, will have additional guidance in the next day or two