

Deaths 105 (total: 22,834)

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

Regional Dashboard: <https://forward.ny.gov/regional-monitoring-dashboard>

From the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, Manhasset, Michael Dowling in attendance

- Pleasure to be on Long Island
- Northwell has stepped up to help the entire state, Michael has been a fantastic asset
- It is bitter sweet reality today, weather is good, normal days I would be fishing by now
- Hospitalizations declined again, steep incline and slow decline
- Intubations down
- New hospitalizations down to 335
- 105 deaths (85 in hospitals and 20 in nursing homes)
- Back to where when this started, when this virus came from Europe
- How talking about reopening,
- Capital region has to get tracers up and running, needed 383 and 430 have been identified
- Tracers are being trained today and Capital Region should be able to begin phase 1 tomorrow
- Long Island has made great progress during out worst days, just weeks ago an average of 100 LI residents lost their lives each day, only 13 today
- Nassau County is not open for elective surgery and ambulatory care
- Looking at pilot to start to bring visitors back to hospitals
- Working with GNYHA and HANYS to implement a 2-week pilot program in 16 hospitals across the state to allow visitors.
- As part of the pilot, visits are time-limited and visitors are provided and must wear PPE and are subject to symptom and temperature checks
- Hospitals in pilot:
 - Northwell-Plainview
 - Northwell-Huntington
 - Northwell-Lenox Hill
 - New York Presbyterian-Lower Manhattan
 - NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital
 - Mount Sini Hospital
 - Jacobi Medical Center
 - Montefiore-Henry and Lucy Moses
 - Coney Island Hospital
 - Maimonides Medical Center
 - Mount Sini Queens
 - Roswell Park Cancer Institute
 - St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center
 - Westchester Medical Center
 - Bassett Medical Center
 - Albany Medical Center
- Now taking steps to do further reopening
- Encourage sports teams to open without fans, depends on economics of the sport, state will work with them to start
- Memorial Day is coming up, want to honor our veterans

- State will allow ceremonies with 10 people or less, up to local governments, they can make a decision if they don't want them
- Vehicle parades are appropriate
- NYS is doing everything they can, going forward we need a SMART federal response to accelerate our path forward
- Let's make sure when we give corporations funding, they are acting on behalf of the citizens
- Americans First Law proposed, corporations must hire back the same number of workers to get any federal funding, cannot pocket the money and lay off workers
- Taxpayers aren't going to pay you to lay off employees
- Washington was quick to fund businesses and corporations
- Not fund state and local governments; hospitals, police, fire fighters, school teachers and food banks
- This is not a partisan issue, not a red or blue issue
- NGA is calling on Congress to pass \$500 billion in state fiscal relief
- House passed a bill that did it, and repealed SALT and funded testing
- Vaccine, federal government is working hard to rush a vaccine
- We have to make sure whatever private company find the vaccine, it must be available to all people
- Can't be just the rich and privileged
- Public health matter and national security threat
- Federal government should set rules now to make sure next day the vaccine should be given to all companies to make sure we can produce enough
- The world is different today, things can change very quickly
- Government is important again, must be smart, must be competent, must be non-political, must be non-partisan, must be fair, must be effective

Q&A

From the MTA, this morning executives were asked about reopening and if people can commute via rail to work and they said they are looking to state for guidance-

- MTA will be better; trains have been stopped to be cleaned
- We had to get everyone off the trains to do this, homeless shouldn't been on the trains, need help and services
- When we are ready to open the MTA will be ready

How many cases of COVID illness in children? Do you have a county breakdown? How are they being exposed?

- 137 cases confirmed cases
- Serious issue think we spotted it early, think the 120 cases is tip of iceberg
- Common denominator are children who have had or have had disease
- Inflammatory response to COVID virus
- Didn't look like COVID because it wasn't respiratory
- Ongoing situation
- Believe we gave a heads up
- Exposure is case by case basis, new COVID cases are coming from people who are at home and not working, which is shocking to me, community spread

With all due respect you say this isn't a political issue, republicans in senate have made is political, they have said this is a bail out to blue states, McConnell has made this political, how do you deal with that?

- I am saying there is no doubt that many politicians act through politics
- Saying in this situation they should rise above
- People who are dying are Americans

- When people are dying are you looking at who is democrats and republicans?
- NY bails out those states every year, we give 30B more every year
- Senator McConnell's state takes 30B more than they put in, that's the bailout
- Haven't heard him say he didn't want a bail out for his state
- It is counterproductive and self-destructive, you don't want to help NY and CA, if they don't come back what happened to the other states

You have said that virus was brought here from Europe, there are still flights coming from, what are the steps to screen and how do you track to make sure they are quarantining?

- State does not do borders and customs control
- Federal government would say they did a China travel ban and Europe travel ban, both were too late as we now know
- There are some exceptions to the bans but that is up to the federal government
- There is coordination but the federal government determine who comes and procedures
- And not like they are looking for gratuitous advice from us
- In a perfect world, question would be how did we not know virus would go from China to Europe

On nursing homes, who processes COVID 19 tests and who pays for that?

- We now have more state testing capacity than we have people taking tests
- Wear a mask, get a test
- Any essential worker can get a test
- Anyone exposed to a person who is COVID positive can get a test
- We put in a requirement that nursing homes are not that happy with
- Understand the burden but nursing homes are ground zero
- So, we said, test twice a week have provided test kits or employees can use other testing sites
- For nursing homes, we are sending so they can do on site

There was an eviction yesterday in Queens, officers said they have to power to do it is this true?

- If they were evicted for failure to pay rent that is not right
- Give me information and I will follow up