

Deaths: 226 (total 19,070)

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

From Wegmans Conference Center in Rochester, NY

- Pleasure to be in Rochester, former Lt. Bob Duffy in attendance, Danny Wegman and Nicole Wegman also in attendance
- Thank you for allowing us to do antibody testing here
- Hospitalizations is down, decline is not as steep at the incline
- Question has been how fast and how low does that decline happen?
- We had hoped for a fast decline but is it a decline
- Intubations is down (good news)
- How many new cases? That number is also declining. Good news because it plateaued at 900 for a few days, but this is reporting from the weekend and sometimes we get different results, reporting system was just put in place.
- Deaths 226 (193 in Hospitals and 33 in nursing homes)
- Reopening, this is not a sustainable situation, but reopening is much harder than the close down, closing was a blunt operation
- Restarting, knowing what we know it is more nuisance and have to be more careful
- Have to learn the lessons that we did learn and be smart about what we do
- This is a very difficult period
- One lesson, we didn't know what was going on, CDC report showed strain in NY came from Europe
- The flights from Europe landed in NYC, Chicago, and Newark, that is why we are seeing the cases in those locations
- So, we leave the lessons: 1918 pandemic show up the deadly consequences of opening too soon
- And today we are already seeing consequences in other countries that have reopened
- Dr. Fauci: "we could be in for a bad call and a bad winter"
- Truth is no one knows what happens next and when it happens...
- Sometimes the honest answer is "I don't know"
- Know what you don't know-it will keep you safe
- Be prepared for different possibilities
- Chart a course with the best information you have but be able to correct that course depending on what happens
- Look at data, measurements, science look at facts
- Here are our metrics:
 - % and rate of hospitalizations
 - Diagnostic testing rate
 - Contact tracing
 - Rate of transmission-1.1
- Control the rate, then reopen businesses in phases, increase activity and watch rate of transmission
- If it gets over 1.1-STOP
- Have a controlled start so you don't have to stop
- It will not happen statewide, different regions in different places

- Core factors will be determining when a region can reopen:
 - New infections
 - Healthcare capacity
 - Diagnostic testing
 - Contact tracing
- Based on the CDC from the CDC
 - Regions have to have at least 14 days of decline in total hospitalizations and deaths on a 3-day rolling average
 - In regions with few COVID cases, cannot exceed 15 total new cases or 5 new deaths in a 3-day rolling average
- In order to monitor the potential spread of infection in the region
 - A region must have fewer than two new COVID patients admitted per 100k residents per day
- We must make sure every region has capacity to handle a potential surge in cases
 - Regions must have at least 30% total hospital and ICU beds available
 - This coupled with requirement that hospitals have 90-da stockpile
- Testing: We have brought testing to 1M New Yorkers:
 - Region need 30 tests for every 1k residents according to White House Task Force
- Tracing:
 - Regions must have baseline of 30 contact tracers for every 100k residents and additional tracers based on the projected number of cases in the region
 - We are building an army of tracers, in partnership with Mayor Bloomberg to meet statewide needs
- If that is all done, you can talk about reopening businesses:
 - Start with most essential and lowest risk
- Phase 1 construction, manufacturing wholesale supply chain, select retail-curb side pickup
- Phase 2 professional services, finance and insurance, retail, administrative and support, real estate/rental leasing
- Phase 3 Restaurants/Food Service, Hotels and accommodations
- Phase 4 Arts, Entertainment and Recreation, Education
- Also need business to re-imagine how they will do businesses
- Businesses will need to reimagine their operations to be safe-in compliance with new standards
 - Adjusted workplace hours and shift design
 - Social distancing
 - Non-essential travel restricted
 - Masks required if in frequent contact with others
 - Strict cleaning and sanitation standards
 - Continuous health screening to enter workplace
 - Continuous tracing, tracking and reporting
 - liability
- There are lower risk and higher risk regions;
- This will be region by region, each needs regional control room, will be a little different for every region in the state (county exec, chairs of county leg, chairs of board of town supervisors, mayors, town supervisors, hospital officials, state officials)
- There is a real substantive Government work to be done before May 15, we have a couple of weeks but this is what local leaders have to deal with to open intelligently
- This is a new age, government is not about optics, celebrity, and press releases
- It is about performance and expertise

Q&A

Do you think it is about time to tell police to start ticketing people for not wearing masks?

- I think it is disrespectful for people to not wear masks
- You say thank you, then respect healthcare workers and essential workers and wear a mask
- We owe each other respect and reasonableness in society
- Local governments have ability to enforce and penalize
- I think they should be doing that, they have the responsibility to enforce it

Testing supplies for hospitals? Why don't we have the testing supplies and system?

- No one is to blame for not having the supplies
- This is a scramble
- Supply chain issues is an international supply chain
- Federal government is working on the supply chain it has increased and we are distributing it
- We are coming on

Guidance to schools on plan to re-open?

- They will be getting guidance
- How to you keep people socially distanced
- Same issues in business
- Gatherings in the school are an issue, how do you keep students 6 feet apart? How do you serve lunch? How about bussing
- Going to be easier said than done

Asked about why can't people just wear masks and reopen everything? If 80-90% are going to get it anyway, why not reopen?

- Get that argument, hear it
- Know the facts of what has happened in places that have done that
- They saw spike in deaths
- Would like to see as few NYers die as possible
- This is not like the flu, this is a different beast
- Also, the flu has a vaccine

Asked about UI system and those still pending-

- This is a national problem
- It was set up to handle thousands of inputs, we now have millions
- All struggling to deal with
- Feds passed legislation with additional benefits that brought more people to the website
- Hired over 3k people just for UI line and made great progress, still for some a delay
- You will get all the money you are owed
- Those who are pending, what we have found a lot of those people have not certified their application, you have to do it every week by Saturday
- We sent out 90k emails over the weekend to those people
- That is the number one thing recommended to those people in pending status

Asked about nursing homes-

- Have seen the most intense issue in the nursing homes
- Vulnerable people most at risk, Nursing homes have all of those people
- No visitors to nursing homes, all it takes is one person with the virus and you are off to the races
- Also, AG and DOH doing investigation
- Privately run but regulated by the state
- You have to provide adequate care to their patients
- It is their obligation to transfer patients they cannot care for
- We have facilities for COVID nursing home residents, they can call DOH to have them transferred