

Deaths: 231 (total 20,597)

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

From New York Medical College, Valhalla, NY

- Thank you for having us (NY Medical College)
- This is a time of high anxiety, have to stay with fact and truth
- Hospitalizations are down, good news
- Change is intubations are down
- 231 Deaths (191 in hospitals, 40 in nursing homes)
- One of the top priorities has been protecting essential workers
- They showed up when they could have stayed home, that is courage
- Want to make sure we are doing everything we can for them
- Aggressive testing: police transit, healthcare workers
- Have tested 27k healthcare employees
- Found some good news, people with antibodies among healthcare workers is the same or lower than infection rate of general population, we were afraid of what was going to happen but the same or lower
- That makes two points: healthcare workers must be protected (hospitals must have 90-day supply of PPE, shows how important masks and sanitizer is, it works)
- Also, must protect New Yorkers facing financial hardships
- New York's farmers have been particularly impacted, can't sell their products, downstage food banks need food
- Have been putting those two together, \$25M in Nourish NY, 50 food banks receiving support, over 2,100 New York Farms are participating in the Nourish NY initiative, over 20k households will receive Nourish NY products within the next week.
- Want to continue doing that, if you can help please reach out, philanthropies/foundation
- Rent relief, on March 20th we issued a moratorium on residential or commercial evictions through June
- Also banning late payment fees, also can use security deposit as payment (can re-pay over time), also extending moratorium to August 20th
- Will figure out situation between now and then
- Economy vs. Public Health
 - It is not reopen or not, it is how you reopen
 - It is not one or the other, it is both
- Saying people will die anyway, everyone is going to die but it is a question of when and how
- That is not a justification
- "Old" in the new normal is 51, new cases coming into hospitals, the increase starts at 51-60, that is not really old (all relative)
- Leaders should be will to participate in anything they authorize, if I say something is safe for New Yorkers, I will participate in it

- Decisions have to be based on facts and data not emotion and politics
- Calibrate by: # of hospitalizations, infection rate, # of deaths, % hospitals capacity, % antibody tests, % diagnostic tests, tracing deaths
- What we are doing is working, so we will keep going.

Q&A:

You began with the term “high anxiety” that is increased thinking about second wave, someone people may be thinking of leaving city, what if that becomes a trend? Will there be a flight from cities?

- Often when emotion is high, logic is low
- There were cases everywhere
- We know why NY had more, it had to do with fact that experts missed the fact that while we were watching China the virus had already gone to Europe and people from Europe were coming to NY
- No one from Europe was being screened, so we have 2 million passengers from Europe
- Now looking at people who came from Europe and then took connections to other cities
- Once virus is in NY, any place of density is where this virus takes off, density, gatherings
- Post 9/11 people also said something similar to this, that lasted a very short period and NY came back

You spoke about initiatives to out of work NYers what is your message to them

- We get to May 15th and that is when close down order ends, then we will look at regions, and then construction and manufacturing, slowly reopen
- Everyone is making due, having hardships
- We have to make sure that people who can't pay their rent are protected
- Have to make sure people have food to feed their families
- Rent is probably the number one issue
- What happens on August 20th, we will handle
- No one has a crystal ball and can say what will happen in a few months

What about landlords,

- I get it, none of these issues are easy
- Working on relief from banks for landlords
- There is a tradeoff between tenant and landlord but don't want to see people and their children evicted at this time, no fault of their own