

Governor Presser 3.12.2020

Basic functions: reduce spread, ensure you can test the number of people, must be able to treat the infected people.

Reducing spread: testing and density reduction. On testing, not interested in yesterday, I'm more interested in what's happening today and tomorrow. Need to increase testing and get volume as high as possible and isolate. We are way behind in testing. State contracting with private lab to do automated testing. Could increase capacity by the 1,000s. Could be up to 5,000 by next week. Most relevant data is hospitalization rate. What percent of those infected are hospitalized to determine the capacity we need in hospital system.

Reduce density – no gathering of 500 or more. If less than 500 capacity than 50% of your seated capacity is your new capacity for hosting an event. That will go into effect on Friday except for Broadway, which will go into effect today at 5 p.m. Don't apply to schools, hospitals, mass transit. Any businesses that cannot comply should call ESD.

In Italy, the health care system was overwhelmed. If the number of people who go to hospital, can't be treated, you want to plan for that now. Most people will self-resolve at home. For the remainder, you need hospital capacity to handle that number. What is number? That's why we are watching hospitalization rate of those we test.

Working with hospitals to develop a surge capacity. How do you expand capacity besides just filling vacant beds? Health care system should be on notice that we might cancel elective surgeries at some point. If you cancel, you free up significant amount of space.

Certification. DOH working to get people into positions that they can work in ICU, for example. Looking for former Docs and RNS to connect with hospitals to be on an on-call basis. Looking at facility and staffing capacity. Health care workers get sick and can't get to work. Making sure you have enough staff and reserve staff just as important as facility capacity. DOH will accelerate recertification.

National Guard has paramedics/EMTs. Medical schools, looking for reserve health care professionals that we could call-in in event of shortage.

We have more vacancy rates in upstate hospitals. Want to plan as one health system statewide.

The system calibrates to most recent data. Watching hospitalization rate to gauge what could be possible hospitalization rate for our population.

Nursing homes and senior assisted facilities: special consideration. Lethality rate is among vulnerable populations.

No non-medical staff or personnel to enter nursing homes. Facility discretion on special considerations.

Any school that has a child test positive, school closes for 24 hours for cleaning. Decide then when to open. District decision on closings.

Science dictates decisions. Evolving situation. As facts change, change response.

Consulted many elected officials in NY. spoke with Heastie, Cousins, de Blasio. Spoke with VP Pence. Big part of testing is getting FDA to approve certain things. VP been very cooperative. Working with private sector on closings. Did that speaking with business leaders across the state.

Most recent numbers: 328 statewide, 112 new cases. Several new counties: Albany, Broome, Delaware, Herkimer, and Monroe. NY at top of list with WA. No deaths in NY. 47 cases hospitalized – this is most important number. We need to make sure hospital system has the capacity.

Zucker: as of 12:40 done 23,413 tests. About 2,000 quarantined. Get results in hours once test is performed.

Economic impact?

Mujica: looking at daily basis. Depends on how long this continues. Don't see an impact on this budget.

Closure of Broadway, how do you measure impact?

Cuomo: loss of revenue to state gov't is incalculable. Stock market drop alone. Conference cancellations, hotel cancellations. States can't handle without Federal action.

Ban of over 500 – how often you evaluate?

Cuomo: daily. As numbers change. I see numbers going up, I adjust to the numbers. Want to make sure we can handle that hospitalization rate no matter what happens to the denominator. To say, only 300 cases. That's not what it's saying. If it's 10 times that, I'm not surprised.

Capitol: concerned?

Cuomo: considering banning visitors

When should people go to ER

Zucker: you should call ahead to doctor. Doctor should call ahead if suggested you go to ER.

Cuomo: we have not had a legal situation on anything we have done. No one has ever said, I refuse. We've done everything in consultation with businesses.

Cuomo: Elective surgery alone 25-30% of additional capacity. Just stopping elective surgery adds 25-30%. The staffing more than facilities can be the issue. Staff gets sick. What is the backup? That's why taking extraordinary measures. I think staffing will be the bigger issue.

Cuomo: no discussions on delaying the budget. Budgets premised on revenue projection. Revenue projection based on reality 60 days ago that no longer exists. That's why I asked the Comptroller for his opinion last week. Revenue has changed in that time. Expenses also changed dramatically. How many people are going to be unemployed when business and supply chain. Makes budget process much more difficult.

Schools and mass transit:

Cuomo: schools primarily young people who don't seem affected by virus way adults. You close schools, it's tremendously disruptive to society. Ridership is down on mass transit – density came down naturally.