

Cuomo 3.13 presser Zucker, DeRosa, Mujica

Healthcare workers are remarkable people

Focus about reducing spread: reduce density, increase testing

We've been talking to Federal gov't about authorizing states to do testing. VP Pence, former gov, understood state's role in regulating labs. Spoke with VP again today and President and they are authorizing NYS and our labs to do the test. Allowing DOH to set up the protocol. That will increase our testing capacity dramatically.

Today, DOH will be going out to 28 labs the State works with on complex matters, and they will be authorized to do testing. Labs will be coming on and think we will be up to 6,000 tests/per day. To date we've done about 3,000 tests total.

Executive Order: do another one. Unemployment insurance: waive 7 day waiting period for those laid off or quarantined by virus.

Local schools make own decision on closing. Schools want to know if they get penalized for not following 180 day/ EO will waive this requirement.

Public Service: no utility can turn off service to a person who hasn't paid bill as a result of virus.

Petitioning for elections: don't have specific solution, but have to address.

Total tested: 3260

421, gone up 96 cases. NYC 154, Westchester 158. NY now has highest number of cases in the country. Still zero deaths in NY.

Current hospitalizations 50 out of 421. 12% hospitalization rate

18 in ICU

3200 ICU bed total statewide

53K beds statewide

We've been talking to hospitals about increasing capacity quickly. Staffing and facility capacity.

Canceling electives to free capacity. May come a time (it's probable) that we have to cancel electives.

Major problem looking at down the road.

We're dealing with the virus and people's perception. The fear and anxiety can be worse than the underlying issue. You have more anxiety than the facts warrant.

This is not going to be a quick situation. Going to be weeks/months. It's going to be everywhere. My guess is there's thousands of cases walking around NY. Thousand that had, didn't know, had symptoms, resolved, moved on and never knew they had it. Numbers not representative of every person who had the virus.

At one point you can't control the situation. That is where we are. You can't hermetically seal your family. That's why facts are important. If you are in the vulnerable population, far more concerning.

Comments were a rebuttal to you on calls to close schools?

Cuomo: call to close schools, theory that children may be carrier, might you slow the spread. It's a very difficult, complicated decision. Who says children aren't going to be in contact with other kids. Learning won't happen. A lot of children receive breakfast and lunch at school. How do you get those meals to those kids? What do those parents do? If kids are home, parents are home. If parents are home, who will be working in hospitals? We've left up to the localities. Many schools closing. Don't know if always a judgement on the facts or response to opinion in the community. Attendance in school way down. Why? Parents don't want kids in school.

Cuomo: if you aren't slowing the curve, you take additional measures to slow the spread. We don't know that closing schools closes the spread. It could go up. We are saying to local school districts, we are waiving 180 day requirement.

Is it up to bill de Blasio to close NYC schools?

Cuomo: it is local unless you have a positive case in your school. Then you need to know facts. Is there a cluster in the community. State at this point does not believe we need to close schools statewide. If locality thinks they should close due to health or anxiety, I understand that. If numbers tell a different story, I have no problem setting a statewide standard.

Is state looking at labs outside NY

Cuomo: 28 labs which are top tier labs, that DOH works with on extensive basis. Going with them first. No consideration outside labs.

DeRosa: Working with Bioreference, LabCorp and Quest.

Of the 28 labs, some are manual testing labs. Some are automated.

This morning you mentioned 6-9months – where intel from:

Zucker: We don't have factual information. Looking at how flu virus and other pandemics act.

Cuomo: State workforce is working.

Voting?

Cuomo: this is fluid situation. Dealing with issues as they come up. Have to figure out petition process.

Cuomo: I think the President did the right thing today allowing NYS to regulate labs. CDC/FDA would say, we control the testing so it's done exactly the way we want it done. Now we need tens of thousands of tests right away. Need to go away from centralized government. We are not asking to do something we don't already do. You can't come up to scale with centralized government.

Hospitalizations: how long does someone have to be hospitalized?

Zucker: have to look at clinical picture. Vast majority have underlying condition. Depends on condition. Could be 3 days, could be 5. No one answer to that. Looking into all issues of equipment and purchased equipment as well. An

Cuomo: an ICU bed is equipment intensive facility. 3200 ICU bed. We don't have the capacity to create additional ICU beds at this time. What you can do is how do we free up existing ICU beds to handle a possible surge of COVID cases. If you don't flatten that curve, the wave is a tsunami that totally swamps the existing hospital system.

Protective order, saying it wouldn't apply to office buildings, but order says any place of business.

DeRosa: we chop up offices, each person in different offices. Not 500 people in one room.

Cuomo: DOH can make a determination in any specific situation.

Antimylaria and HIV drugs?

Zucker: we're working on that. Looking at studies.

Unemployment insurance, if you get laid off, which is going to happen to a large number of people, there is a 7 day waiting period. We are waiving so you qualify immediately.

Paid sick leave bill – added to cover quarantine specifically. Bill makes more sense now.

NYC says don't have authority to move to automated?

Cuomo: NYC is included. Sinai, NYU, NYP all big labs, have new equipment going to those labs to allow them to do testing at higher volume. Public labs in NYC can get authorization if they have the proper equipment. Most high tech testing equipment going to Langone and Columbia.

At what point does testing become less important?

Cuomo: question of math and science. Would defer to Dr. Zucker and national experts at the time. You can hit a point where testing is finding so many positives you don't have the resources to go back and track. That's a determination you make as situation changes.

Cuomo: Spikes are not representative of how many have the virus. It's increased testing. Next week, you'll see 1000 cases. That's due to increased testing. These numbers don't answer how rapidly virus is spreading. Most health care professionals will say it is much more widespread than you know and was here before you knew it. It will spread more than you think.

Cuomo: what we did in New Rochelle, I follow the data and listen to the science. It was also common sense. You do everything you can. How effective? Don't know.

750 million/month

Cuomo: bill that passed, gave NYS 17 million total. It then had another pot that is discretionary distribution by Federal agency. In past, we've gotten zero. I'm saying to Fed, NY deserves more, needed more, have gotten the short end of the stick from the Federal gov't.