

Memorandum

Re: 2019 Novel Coronavirus Situational Update
4/24/2020 Update (#81)



Summary of Governor Cuomo's Daily Briefing

During this morning's daily COVID-19 briefing, Governor Cuomo reported that the State's efforts are working, and agencies are starting to see a positive trend toward "flattening of the curve".

All the evidence suggests we are on the downsized of the curve. That said, while the net change in intubations and hospitalizations are down (see Figure 1), the overall number of new infections has remained consistent. New York State recorded 422 fatalities yesterday - 2,801, statewide, for the week.

Now, the city/state and nation are concerned with the rate of decline and ensuring all continue to maintain social distancing, wearing face coverings and following CDC sanitizing protocols. Because of these actions, the city has thus far, avoided the high numbers originally projected. He continues to caution against "opening" the city too soon – as this would likely undo all that has been accomplished to date with respect to slowing the spread of COVID-19 (see Figure 3 which demonstrates what would happen to the "curve" should the city open too soon).

According to the CDC, before any state or region opens, it would need two (2) weeks (minimum) of flat or declining numbers – so by these standards "we're not there yet". Given concerns that the virus could surge again in the Fall, the Governor continues to recommend caution and common sense in terms of not "opening" the city prematurely.

The Lesson - "An Outbreak anywhere is an outbreak everywhere!"

Researches have concluded that the virus likely began spreading in the United States as early as February, and that most of those infected in the US, were infected from others traveling from Europe (Italy) and not China as originally assumed. According to the Governor's report - 13,000 flights carrying 2.2 million people traveled to the United States between January and February, before China shut down and the US stopped all flights coming in from China and Europe.

FYI - Virus Viability - The virus can live up to:

- 72 hours on plastic and stainless steel
- 24 hours on cardboard
- 4 hours on materials like copper
- Droplets in the air can be viable for up to three hours before they fall

Finance

According to Governor Cuomo New York State economy was growing at a high rate prior to the outbreak. He further reported that government spending was at record lows, and spending increases and taxes are lower today than they when he took office. Acknowledging the fact that the revenue for the state has been negatively impacted by the pandemic, he has indicated he is working with his task force and health care professionals to continue to monitor the "curve trends" to make a determination when the state and city can open once more.

Voting

The Governor reminds citizens that voting remains a vital civic duty for all who are eligible to vote. Understanding that no one should have to chose between exercising their right to vote and ensuring their own continued health and safety as well as that of their loved ones, the Governor signed an executive order allowing citizens "vote by absentee" in the upcoming June 23rd primaries. The executive order will also ensure that "all New Yorkers automatically receive a postage-paid application to receive a ballot" - guaranteeing all eligible voters the opportunity to vote while maintaining "social distancing".



[Click to watch the 4/24/20 daily briefing](#)

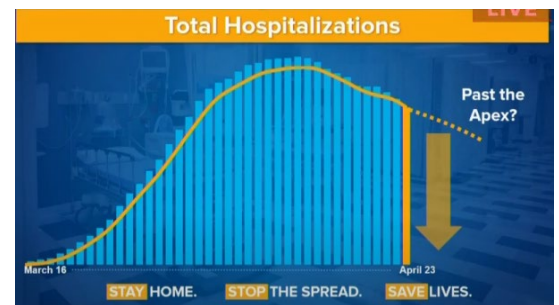


Figure 1: shows slow decline in hospitalizations



Figure 3: Projected surge of COVID-19 if we "open" city too soon

The Look Ahead

Governor Cuomo reported that New York State is conducting more tests per capita than any other country on the globe. We will continue to watch the spread of the virus, maintain social distancing and slowly make plans for a reopening of the city. He further stated the country should look to the “*lessons learned*” during the pandemic and make it a priority to improve healthcare, transportation, use of technology in schools and expand on programs such as telemedicine and remote learning.

Rent Freeze

When asked about a potential rent freeze once the current eviction moratorium ends (or extend mortgage loans), the Governor replied “*we are looking into this and will report back with you.*”

Schools

A decision about schools may be announced next week, to give parents time to prepare should schools open or remain closed.

Nursing Homes

The state has begun testing in nursing homes. Temperatures are being checked daily, but the city does not yet have enough tests to ensure all nursing home residents and staff can be tested daily. The state is working on getting this resolved as soon as possible.

Summary of Mayor De Blasio’s Daily Briefing

Mayor De Blasio acknowledged that while the virus does not technically discriminate, in terms of who it attacks, it has had a disproportionate impact on low income families and those who do not have access to health care services. He recommends the city/state and federal government investigate ways to correct the disparities that place others at an increased disadvantage, in terms of access to health care, jobs etc.

The Mayor went on to provide brief updates on the results of his “*4- Point Action Plan*” with respect to hospitals, public awareness and outreach and telemedicine



[Click to watch the 4/24/20 daily briefing](#)

Protecting & Preserving Public Hospitals

The city invested billions to help keep the public hospitals going, including hiring additional personnel and has worked with the federal government to bring in military personnel to assist during the pandemic. The city continues efforts to coordinate the collection of PPE for public hospitals and professionals who stand as the “*front line of protection*” for all New York City residents. In conjunction with these efforts, the city, state and nation are taking a more “*offensive*” approach by focusing their efforts on increasing the capacity and availability of community level testing. Five (5) sites have opened around the five boroughs and additional sites are being added today at assorted facilities and NYCHA buildings. Efforts are currently concentrated on the hardest hit neighborhoods. These sites are currently capable of testing 10,000 a day and will be working to increase that capacity as we move forward.

Public Awareness Campaign

- \$10million campaign focused on the hardest hit communities; including TV, radio, digital ads in 15 languages (*targeted to 88 critical zip code areas*)
- Next week a direct mailing will go out to 3.4 million households in English, Spanish and Chinese.

Grass Roots Outreach

- Bilingual robocalls to 1.1 million people (*in the hardest hit areas*)
- Tele-town halls for faith leaders, webinars with commissioners and health officials
- Social Media Outreach in 24 languages
- *To be announced next week* – Community Based Health Clinics

Telemedicine

The “*Telemedicine Program*” empowers people by giving them a direct connection to health care providers. The city is working with 1000+ small community-based health care providers to help service hardest hit communities. To date, 250+ medical practitioners have signed up for training in telemedicine, to help ensure patients with chronic conditions are seeking appropriate level of care. This system will emphasize proactive follow up with patients, especially those with chronic health conditions. The city will also engage in proactive health and wellness calls to citizens, to help monitor conditions and the spread of COVID-19.

Rent Advocacy

The Mayor expressed concerns that federal financial relief packages will not reach renters quickly enough or be sufficient to offer sufficient assistance during their time of need. The Mayor has asked the State to approve 1) *a rent freeze*, 2) *paying rent with security deposit*, 3) *allow tenants who miss rent to repay over a 12-month period*, and 4) *extend the eviction moratorium 60 days beyond the crisis*.

[Update on Hydroxychloroquine](#)

This morning the [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) warned consumers against taking malaria drugs chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine to treat Covid-19, outside a hospital or formal clinical trial setting, after “serious” poisoning and deaths were reported. They did however state that the risks could potentially be mitigated when health care professionals are available to closely screen and supervise patients in a hospital or clinical setting, as indicated in the [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) for these drugs to treat COVID-19.

“Hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine can cause abnormal heart rhythms such as QT interval prolongation and a dangerously rapid heart rate called ventricular tachycardia,” the agency wrote in the notice. “We will continue to investigate risks associated with the use of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine for COVID-19 and communicate publicly when we have more information.”

The peer-reviewed [Journal of the American Medical Association released a new study](#) Friday that said researchers cut short a study testing chloroquine as a potential treatment for Covid-19 over safety concerns, citing a “primary outcome” of death. Some patients developed irregular heart rates and nearly two dozen of them died after taking doses of the drug daily.

The agency said patients taking the drugs for approved reasons, including malaria or to treat autoimmune conditions like lupus, should continue taking their medicine as prescribed.

[Proposal for “Open City Streets”](#)

Last Week, Speaker Corey Johnson and New York City Council Member Carlina Rivera introduced legislation (*Int 1933-2020*) to open city streets to pedestrians during the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan proposes opening city streets to pedestrians and cyclists during the pandemic, to allow New Yorkers more room for social distancing. Currently this proposal has been “laid over by committee”.

[COVID-19 New York State & Global Stats](#)

According to the NYS DOH website, as of 4/14/20 (12:00am) 730,656 New Yorkers have been tested, 271,590 have tested positive. The gender breakdown of those who have tested positive as is follows: 47.2% female, 52.3 male, 0.6% unknown.

The counties with the highest number of positive cases include:

Bronx – 32,701	Nassau – 32,765	Rockland – 10,091
Kings – 40,648	Queens – 46,387	Suffolk – 30,606
Manhattan – 19,854	Richmond – 10,883	Westchester – 26,633

[\(Click here to see a Detailed Map of County COVID-19 Stats\)](#)

According to the CDC Website, as of 4/23/20, there are now 865,585 cases of positive cases in the United States, and 48,816 fatalities. 50 states, including four (5) District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have also been added to the list of jurisdictions reporting cases.

- According to **The John Hopkins University’s Global Tracker**, as of 5:26pm on 4/24/20, the total confirmed cases, globally, has reached 2,789,315 with 195,775 fatalities globally (185 countries). The site records 889,661 cases in the United States with 50,890 fatalities nationwide and 20,739 fatalities in New York.)
- The **WHO’s Situation Report #95**, records the total number of cases in the United States as reached 830,053 confirmed cases and 42,311 fatalities. Globally, according to WHO, there are now 2,626,321 confirmed cases with 181,938 fatalities. (*As is often the case, there is a delay in information being reported between the assorted agencies.*)

SITUATION IN NUMBERS total (new cases in last 24 hours)

Globally

2 626 321 confirmed (81 529)
181 938 deaths (6260)

European Region

1 284 216 confirmed (32 758)
116 523 deaths (3187)

Region of the Americas

995 510 confirmed (38 108)
50 583 deaths (2787)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

149 295 confirmed (4845)
6608 deaths (139)

Western Pacific Region

139 782 confirmed (1880)
5869 deaths (51)

South-East Asia Region

38 572 confirmed (2533)
1554 deaths (56)

African Region

18 234 confirmed (1405)
788 deaths (40)

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Global Level Very High

The WHO Situation Report #95

U.S. At A Glance^{1,2}

As of April 23, 2020

Total Cases*	Total Deaths*	Total Jurisdictions**
865,585	48,816	55

*Total cases includes 2,937 probable cases and total deaths includes 5,365 probable deaths.

**Total jurisdictions includes 50 states, District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S Virgin Islands.