

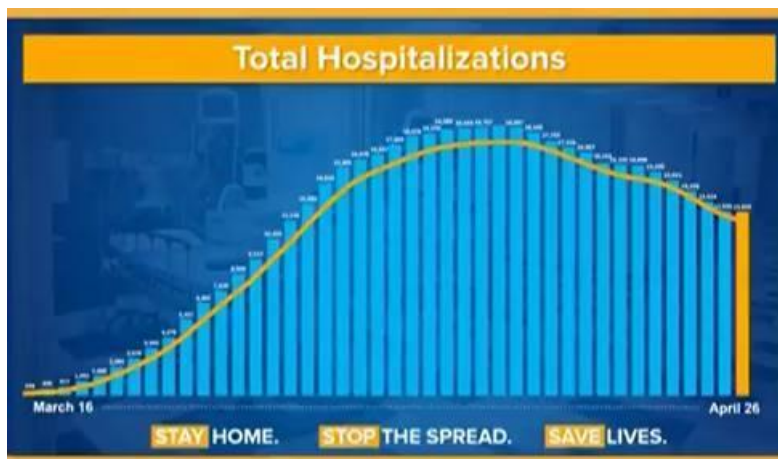
April 27, 2020

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 crisis together, please continue reaching out to us as issues arise for you and for your businesses. We are and will continue to remain in regular contact with key stakeholders at the State Agencies and with the Administration to advocate on your behalf. Below please find updates and new information since our last update.

## WHAT'S NEW TODAY

### Governor Cuomo Press Briefing

- Hospitalizations are at a flat rate with approximately 1,000 new COVID cases every day.



- There were a total of 337 COVID-19-related deaths on April 26th. Of this, 313 were hospital deaths, and 24 were in nursing homes. This represents a slight decrease from the previous day – but for the last few days the number was generally flat. A total of 17,333 New Yorkers have passed away from coronavirus.



- New York so far has tested approximately 7,500 people statewide for antibodies to develop a baseline for infection rate. Preliminary results and estimates for the first round of the antibody testing showed that of the total tested, 14.9% were positive for antibodies as of April 27<sup>th</sup>. As expected, there are higher rates in Long Island, New York City and Westchester/Rockland than in the Upstate Regions. Approximately 25% of those tested in New York City tested positive. The age breakdown remained fairly consistent.

**Antibody Study: Preliminary Estimates**

WEIGHTED RESULTS		
Percent of Total	Percent Positive (4/22)	Percent Positive (4/27)
100%	13.9%	14.9%

STAY HOME. STOP THE SPREAD. SAVE LIVES.

- The antibody survey testing will be expanded to include 1,000 FDNY, 1,000 NYPD, 3,000 healthcare workers and 1,000 transit workers in order to help determine the spread among front line workers and first responders.
- Additional drive-through testing sites will be opened as well in Broome, Erie, Monroe, Niagara and Oneida counties. In order to receive testing at these sites people must schedule an appointment in advance by calling or going online (information below).

A graphic with a blue background and a yellow header. The header says "Testing". Below it, in white text, it says "To schedule an appointment, call the COVID Hotline Phone Number:". The phone number "1-888-364-3065" is displayed in large yellow font. Below that, it says "Or visit:" followed by the website "covid19screening.health.ny.gov/" in yellow. At the bottom, there are three yellow boxes with black text: "STAY HOME.", "STOP THE SPREAD.", and "SAVE LIVES." The background features a faint image of a person wearing a blue protective suit and mask.

- The NY PAUSE Order will extend in many areas of the state past May 15<sup>th</sup>, but not all. Un-PAUSE New York will begin based upon a regional analysis. The Governor emphasized that we have to be smart about this and take into account many factors including if that region has met the CDC 14-day guidelines, what precautions businesses will put into place, healthcare capacity (how many beds available, how many ICU beds, plans for flu season), is there a testing and tracing system in place, how to handle isolation (home vs. hotels), not opening attractions that bring in people from outside that region, and ensuring the regional plan fits in with the overall State and multistate plan.

A graphic with a blue background and a yellow header. The header says "MAY 15<sup>th</sup> – Un-PAUSE Regional Analysis". Below the header, the text "BE SMART" is written in large yellow font. A list of ten items follows, numbered 1 through 10. At the bottom, there are three yellow boxes with black text: "STAY HOME.", "STOP THE SPREAD.", and "SAVE LIVES." The background features a faint image of a city skyline.

1. CDC guidelines – 14-day decline
2. Industries – Phase 1: Construction/Manufacturing – which ones?
3. What business precautions will be in place – social distancing? Monitoring?
4. Healthcare capacity – ICU – flu season - stockpile?
5. Testing regimen?
6. Tracing system?
7. Isolation facilities?
8. Regional coordination?
  - Schools, transportation, testing, tracing
9. No "attractive nuisances"
10. Regional "Control Room"

- The Governor proposed a regional "control room" in order to monitor when we start to reopen to watch what is happening, gather the data all into one central place, and gauge it every day to determine next steps.



- Medical Centers will be on hold for the Fall flu season and potential COVID second wave. The Governor spoke to the President today about leaving facilities that were built for COVID in place in case we need them again. There are concerns about leaving the Javits and Westchester Convention Centers with the beds as then they cannot reopen as convention centers.



- Food banks across the state are seeing a surge in demand. In response the State is committing \$25M in emergency funding. The State is also asking philanthropies to help (information below).







- The Governor announced the Nourish New York Initiative to purchase food from Upstate farms and direct it to food banks across the State. This will also ban the dumping of milk and work with New York dairy producers to process this extra milk into other dairy products such as yogurt and cheese.



- Reopening will not just be reopening; it will be a reimagining. We need to take into account what we have learned in regards to tele-education, tele-medicine, the public health system, public transit (effectively cleaning and disinfecting) and social equity in order to improve as we move forward.



- Governor Cuomo reiterated that it was a terrible mistake to not provide funding for states in the last package. New York is the #1 donor state at \$29B.
- On casinos, the Governor says they will have to take a look at the industry in order to determine how they will conduct their business with social distancing guidelines.
- Secretary to the Governor Melissa DeRosa clarified that human error occurred at the Department of Labor causing a small number of cases in which two pieces of paper were stuck together in mailings which led to a security breach and Social Security Numbers being shared. Free credit reporting will be offered for a year in these cases.
- \$3.1B in unemployment had been paid out as of Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>. New York needs help from the feds in order to continue with unemployment payments long term.
- On golf courses, golf carts are not allowed per state guidance, if people are in violation of that they should be referred to Empire State Development and per DeRosa there could be civil penalties.

### **New York State Presidential Primary**

The New York State Board of Elections on Monday morning canceled the State's Democratic presidential primary. This makes New York the first state to cancel its primary. Sixteen states have postponed their primaries, and others have taken measures to vote by mail. This move follows the decision by Senator Bernie Sanders to suspend his campaign and endorse former Vice President Biden, essentially rendering the primary unnecessary. Election officials had struggled with the decision due to Sanders supporters call for the primary to still continue in order for Sanders to amass delegates, but officials determined in light of the coronavirus pandemic they could not justify holding the primary election.

### **Siena College Research Institute Poll**

Governor Cuomo's job performance rating has reached an all-time high at 71 percent, according to a poll released by the Siena College Research Institute Monday morning. This is significantly up from two months ago when he had a job performance rating of 36 percent. The Governor's favorability rating is also up at 77 percent. The last time the Governor received this favorability rating was following his inauguration in 2011. The boost for the Governor stems from the overwhelming public support of his handling of the coronavirus pandemic. Please find more information on the poll [here](#).

### **[New York City Executive Order 109](#)**

The Mayor has issued Executive Order 109 which relates to the Landmarks Preservations Commission.

The Executive Order makes the following modifications:

- Suspends for the duration of the emergency, authorizations and procedures of the Landmarks Preservations Committee regarding certificates with no effect on protected architectural features, permits for minor work, the transmittal to the Department of Buildings of applications for such permits, the submission of requests for extensions of approvals and determinations as to whether notices of violation were properly in effect and the response to any such requests by the Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

#### UP-TO-DATE GUIDANCE

- New York State Comptroller DiNapoli:
  - [New York State Common Retirement Fund Supports Federal Paycheck Protection Program](#)
- New York State Department of Health:
  - [Updated Interim Guidance: Protocol for COVID-19 Testing Applicable to All Health Care Providers and Local Health Departments](#)
- Empire State Development: [Guidance for Determining Whether a Business Enterprise is Subject to a Workforce Reduction Under Recent Executive Orders](#)
  - There have been no changes since our last update.
- New York City: [Agency Suspensions and Reductions](#)
  - There have been no changes since our last update.

Attached please find a comprehensive document with guidance from across government agencies. We will be updating this document as information becomes available and including it in our daily updates.

In addition to our regular email updates, Ostroff Associates has established two dedicated webpages that will be updated in real time with any new information from government sources relating to COVID-19. Please use these websites as a resource and share with others who would benefit.

Update Page: <https://www.ostroffassociates.com/covid-19-updates/>

News Page: <https://www.ostroffassociates.com/category/covid-19/>

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.