



**Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**

Today, on day 314, Governor Cuomo held a press briefing to give an update of the COVID-19 pandemic in New York. The Governor reported the current statewide positivity rate with micro-clusters is 7.72%, and 7.49% without the micro-clusters. The micro-cluster positivity rate is 8.32%. Additional data:

- 243,903 tests conducted yesterday
- 1,475 ICU admittances and 912 intubations yesterday
- 161 COVID-19 related deaths yesterday

### **FEDERAL**

The Governor took time today to further condemn the tragic events that took place at the U.S. Capitol and the actions taken by President Trump. The Governor further called for the resignation of President Trump or for his impeachment if he refused to resign. The Governor also called on the support of the New York Congressional Delegation to request the resignation of President Trump.

### **VACCINE**

The Governor raised concern due to the "frightening infection rate" of the new strand of COVID-19 as it can lead to future stress on the hospitals, especially combined with the issue of low vaccine supply. The Governor reported that the state is especially concerned about the low supply of vaccines, especially for healthcare workers in the New York City area where the infection rate is 13%. New distribution networks for the vaccine will begin to be used next week to supplement the hospitals. Services such as private providers, ambulatory centers, pharmacies, county health departments will be used. Additionally, the Governor will be signing an Executive Order allowing eligible additional staff to administer the vaccine.

The registration to receive the vaccine will begin to be accepted on Monday through a website run by the state. Healthcare workers will continue to be prioritized but those included in Phase 1B (Healthcare workers and those above the age of 75 years of age) will also be allowed to sign up to receive the vaccine. The New York Department of Health will be holding a webinar on Monday for these new providers and county health departments. The State will be allocating vaccines to new providers proportionately by size of group and region. The State will also be mandating social equity distribution by local health departments.

The Governor has sent a letter U.S. Department of Health, signed by eight other Governors, to expedite vaccine distribution. This letter can be found [here](#).

## **STATE OF THE STATE**

The Governor shared some of the topics in which he will be covering during his State of the State speech. The Governor will be focusing on Post-COVID issues such as election reform. The Governor will be proposing legislation to process absentee ballots as soon as they're received and begin being counted on election day. This legislation would also extend early voting hours, and extend the time frame to request absentee ballots to 45 days before an election. The Governor will also be proposing legislation to create an Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, and to authorize courts to force abusers to pay damages, including housing and moving costs. This legislation would additionally create a new misdemeanor for those convicted of domestic violence attempting to purchase guns, closing a loophole in existing law. The Governor will be proposing legislation for a statewide eviction moratorium on commercial evictions to be extended until May 1st, which would also prohibit penalties for late residential rent payments through May 1st. The State of the State address from the Governor will be held this coming week on Monday, January 11th.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.