Twitter Thread by Meg Tirrell



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.@NYGovCuomo : "If the UK spread catches on in NY, hospitalization rate goes up, hospital staff gets sick - then we have a real problem. Then we're at shutdown again."

The problem with capacity now is staff shortage, he says. "We have beds, we have equipment." Primarily nurses.

Cuomo: Very worried about UK strain. Still just 1 case confirmed in NY, but believe we have more. Notes spread in UK only took about 3 weeks.

Says this concern + staff shortages at hospitals is why such a push for faster vaccination of health-care workers.

Cuomo: "We have seen a dramatic increase" in performance of vaccinations.

Were doing 10k per day for first several wks

On Monday, went to 30k

Tuesday, a little over 30k

Wednesday, went to 50k

And today going to be in excess of 50k

"That's 5 times the rate they were doing."

Cuomo: Refusal rate varies. Drs taking vaccine at much higher rate. Anecdotal, but would expect to see numbers around 80% for drs. "And drs know best."

Nurses, there's a variation. Would expect to see that 70-80%. 70 is the minimum threshold for viability of vaccination program.

Cuomo: 2M health-care workers in state. Only have 900k doses for the 2M.

"Any hospital that hits their refusal rate, fine, tell me, we'll reallocate it - bc overall we don't have enough dosages for half the population of health-care workers."

Cuomo: After 1a we'll go to 1b - frontline essential workers & aged 75+.

1b is over 3M people.

We're getting 300K doses per week.

"The supply is our issue."

Cuomo: 1b distribution mechanism different - going to use thousands of points of distribution across the state - pharmacies, drs offices, FQHCs, community groups.

Firefighters, police, teachers, transit workers in 1b. Many have health workers - aim is for them to self-administer

(Self-administer, meaning for eg having firefighters' EMS workers administer the shots. Not actually giving themselves their own vaccines.)

Cuomo: When priority 1b vaccinations start, no local govt can prioritize any group over another, ie police over teachers over those age 75+. "That just will not be allowed, period." Everyone in the priority group gets access.

Cuomo: 75+ group in NY is 1.3M people. Distribution mechanism will be pharmacies, dr networks, local health dept operations, community groups - public housing, churches, etc.

Cuomo: "If by the end of next week we did nursing home residents and staff, that would be a great accomplishment. Then health-care workers so we have hospitals working. Then 1b is going to be very large, but distribution network will be large." But supply so far behind dist.