

Date : 4/1/2020 10:19:21 AM
From : "Jamie Malanowski"
To : "Tom Topousis"
Subject : Re: Looking at the timeline. . .

Great. Let's talk when it's convenient for you.

From: Tom Topousis [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 4:53 PM
To: Jamie Malanowski
Subject: Re: Looking at the timeline. . .

It makes sense...The growing awareness should definitely include the airport issue... JFK was among the first three airports to begin screening. And it was the earliest harbinger of something bigger to come. Airports have always represented the state's front door to the world, and up until the corona virus that had been a positive in the governor's narrative. How remarkable then, everything got turned on its head and that front door would reveal itself to be a liability in a time of pandemic.

Perhaps this shouldn't be called growing awareness..perhaps just awareness... it was the first time we had to begin responding to a potential health threat and the ugly racism it tapped into. Interesting, this is what has happened throughout our history of responding to epidemics.

Rather than breaking down in terms like testing, we could focus on the various stages of awareness and response, that include actions like testing.

I agree the New Rochelle story is very important.

My thoughts may not be that coherent. I am working on something for Linda that I should get back to. Let's discuss in the morning. The project for Linda involves going through the history of epidemics and some of what I dig up could be helpful for us, too..

On Tue, Mar 31, 2020 at 4:28 PM Jamie Malanowski <Jamie.Malanowski@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

I know you are continuing to pull the material together into a diary-like format.

Not to get too far ahead of ourselves, but it seems that it might be beneficial for us to think of this story as unfolding in chapters, or perhaps more accurately sections, built around crises, and what actions we took to deal with them.

We have already been through a period of growing awareness, a testing crisis, and a hotspot crisis. Each of these can be the tentpole that holds up a chapter (I don't want to get hung up on terminology--once we get going, we might decide that something we're calling a chapter might literally become 2 or three chapters of the book.) I think this approach would be useful, because once we get a sufficient amount of info from published stories and interviews, we can write a draft of that section.

Just from what Tori sent us, the first chapters could be shaping up like this:

1.) Growing Awareness

Not until the last week of February does it seem that we to some action points: allocating \$40 Million to DOH, and then starting our own testing.

So it would seem to me that this first chapter would cover January through late February. It would be about our growing awareness--learning about this disease, and understanding that it is coming to America. I would assume we would need to talk to the Governor and to Zucker and perhaps others about their discussions, and about what problems they identified, and decisions they reached.

It would also be a good chapter to discuss the disease itself--describe how it spreads, and how it has different effects on different people.

2.) Testing

This chapter would be about testing--the politics of testing--Washington's failures and our taking action, ultimately resulting in NYS leading the nation in testing. It had to have been a pretty dramatic moment when the Governor realized that the FDA wasn't doing enough, and that he would have to act himself, all the while being mindful that he needed Washington's permission. Among key moments: talking to Mike Pence during the Islanders press conference (2/29), press conference (3.2)

3.) Implementing Testing 4.) New Rochelle

These could be two separate chapters, or a combined chapter, depending on the details and the drama that went into setting up

testing sites, debating when to close what, issuing the orders, etc.

The New Rochelle story by itself is a very strong story--identifying Patient Zero, tracking the spread, and then the very strong actions the state took in response.

5. The Next Chapter?

Not sure of the arc of this chapter yet, because we are still in the middle of it. And I'm not sure if it is more than one chapter. But it's the Flatten the Curve by Staying Home section, and it's the Shortages chapter. I very much want to know when the Gov realized that we were going to face these shortages.

Plus in here we have to start dealing with the economic fallout.

It's an old-fashioned horror/thriller movie, right? As soon as we escape on threat, we're on to the next one.

What do you think? Make sense?