



Office of Governor Christopher T. Sununu
Press Conference
Friday, June 5, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

Governor Sununu:

Well, good afternoon. Good to see everybody. I apologize. I'm straightening my tie, as I come to the podium, probably not too appropriate. It's Friday, though. I guess that's my version of casual Friday. So, good to see everybody. A lot of different things to talk about today, all good stuff, I think, for the most part.

I'm going to kick off with a couple items, and then turn it over to Commissioner Shibinette for a public health update. And we will talk about industries and potentially opening and flexing some things open.

But first, we want to talk about a new program we're launching today called ASAP, ASAP COVID testing, standing for Asymptomatic Spread Assessment Program, a community challenge to really help identify asymptomatic spread around our communities. Now that we've been able to expand our testing capacity, we have available for anybody who wants a test can get a test. We really want to encourage folks, even if you don't have any symptoms at all, to go get that test, find out.

There's just a lot of asymptomatic spread that has been identified not just here in New Hampshire, but across the country. And we just want to really make sure folks know that those doors are open, if you have any sense, or curiosity, even, if you want to know whether you may have COVID or not. It really helps us identify individuals, making sure that you are keeping you, your family, your coworkers, whatever it might be safe; those who you might come in contact with.

Again, we have the tools in the toolbox. We want folks to use them. And again, anyone who wants a test can get a test. So, if you think that you may be asymptomatic, you can always request a test for our ASAP program by going to the page at [nh.gov\COVID19](https://nh.gov/COVID19). Again, that's [nh.gov\COVID19](https://nh.gov/COVID19). And you can just fill out the very simple testing registration form and off you go. So, we just want to encourage everyone in the community that wants a test to get a test.

Always, the Main Street Relief Fund, a huge program, I mean, really successful so far in that we had a two-week Pre-Grant Application process, where we received just over 13,000 submissions and Pre-Qualification Applications, I should say. From that, we used some of the initial data that was gathered to generate a formula that we can talk about. And today, this afternoon, those folk that submitted that Pre-Grant Qualification, because you had to do that to be part of the program, will all be receiving an email this afternoon that will walk them through, individually, the final grant submission process that will allow them to verify the information that they've given and, again, click send.

It kind of lets everybody make sure that the numbers they submitted, whether it's on the revenue side or maybe Federal funds they might have received, are accurate. It's all being done through the Department of Revenue Administration. So we want to make sure that there's accountability. We're minimizing the fraud, waste, and abuse. We're working together hand-in-hand.

This final grant submission will allow us to crosscheck data, such as your Taxpayer Identification Number, things of that number, and allow us to confirm that you are who you are, and the business is

legitimate. And we're minimizing that ability for folk to take advantage of the system, and then move forward.

So, we have one week. Next Friday, at midnight, the deadline will close. So, everyone will be getting the email today with their link in it. And they have one week. It takes not even 10 or 15 minutes to fill out. It's actually a really streamlined process. And hats off to the whole team at GOFERR. They've been working around-the-clock on this to get this right. And again, we feel very confident it should be a very successful program to allow folks just to get some basic funds in to pay rent, or mortgage, or utilities, or whatever they need to do to keep those businesses floating and thriving as best we can through these tough economic times, to be sure.

Some folks are asking about the formula. Formula is actually very, very simple. Look at the revenues you had last year and the anticipated revenues you have this year. Ideally, your -- not ideally, but in theory, the revenues this year would be less, because we know that the negative economic impact of COVID has been very severe for a lot of businesses.

You take the difference there. We also subtract out any Federal funds that you may have received, giving a discount to the folks that got PPP funds, as well. And then, we divide. We take the \$400 million fund and we divide the sum total of all those losses into the \$400 million, basically giving everyone their pro rata share across the spectrum.

And the initial qualification parameters that we set out in the beginning still remain today: under \$20 million business; no franchises; no self-employed. There's other opportunities for them. There's other opportunities for large businesses.

Healthcare's been taken out, only because they have their own \$100 million fund. And that's likely to grow in the future, as well. So, folks that have their own pathways for other State funds have been taken out. And this is really for those Main Street businesses that have really been affected by COVID. So, again, if you've submitted your Application, keep an eye out for it, I guess, this afternoon.

And then, the only other thing to add onto that is what we are doing is also capping. So if you claimed a \$10 million loss, you are capped at \$350,000 for the grant. That's so a lot of money can pay a lot of mortgage and debt, and liens, or property taxes, whatever it might be. So, even the companies that are on the higher end that have experienced severe loss can still receive a decent amount of money without really draining down the whole fund. And again, that seemed like we worked out the math, and it was a very good balance and allows everybody to get, we think, enough of the dollars in to help recoup some of those losses.

So, great program; the next step is being taken forth today. And then, we're still on track the week of June 15th. That was always the timeline where we thought the initial checks would be released. And we're still shooting to get on that track, assuming the final grant submissions are in one week from today. We think that we can meet those deadlines. So, a very exciting program and just want to thank GOFERR for making it all happen.

With that, Commissioner, we will turn it over to you for a public health update.

Commissioner Shibinette:

Thank you. Today, we are announcing 80 new cases of COVID-19 in the State of New Hampshire for a total of 4,953; four new hospitalizations, for a total of 476; and five new deaths, with four of them occurring in our long-term care facilities. We have a total test count of just over 87,000 now, since COVID-19 has begun.

For long-term care, just a couple of updates, one that we are removing Hackett Hill nursing home from our active outbreak list; they have completed their testing in the timeframe to come off that list. And we will be releasing a full list of those facilities, both active and inactive outbreak, later today with our daily update. Thank you.

Governor Sununu:

Great, thank you very much, Commissioner. A few series of things we want to announce and be able to answer any questions to; first, beaches. As many folks may know, this morning we made an announcement, after looking at the data; looking at models in other States, what had happened; looking at what had gone on in our State, the fact that people had been keeping the distancing and there weren't any signs of any significant outbreaks anywhere in the country, really, anything of significance in terms of beach activity, the decision was made to, effectively immediately, go to allow more traditional beach activities, whether that be sunbathing, things of that nature.

We're still asking folks to keep a minimum distance of 6 feet on the beach. Make sure you have that physical distancing between yourself and maybe your family, or other parties that are on the beach. Parking are still going to be limited. Ocean Boulevard is still going to be shut down. So we're still limiting the number of folks that can be on the beach at any one time. And again, that's another kind of tool we have to help ensure that folk can keep their distancing and make sure that we're not contributing to any of the viral spread. So, I think a pretty significant development there. And given it's about 85° out, I think it's probably welcomed by a lot of folks across the State.

Also, golf, on May 11th, we flexed open golf for New Hampshire residents and club members. And effectively immediately, we're moving into what we call Phase 2 of golf, which it basically just includes shortening up the break in between tee times, allowing people from separate households to use the same golf cart, and opening up the golf courses to out-of-state residents.

And the reason we're making the step for out-of-state residents is that all the States around us have their courses open. So we have less of a concern of a large amount of folks coming over the border to use our courses, because they can use the golf courses in their own backyard. And that's another sign that taking these approaches regionally really helps us with the flexibility in terms of moving forward and opening up in, I think, a sensible and reasonable manner, while still maintaining the aspects of public safety during the entire COVID-19 outbreak.

Also, next up, additional flexing of outdoor recreational guidance around other outdoor attractions, some of these are more -- I guess you could call them tourism-type attractions. And we're expanding the activities that are currently covered under the outdoor recreational attractions guidance, which is already in place for some attractions.

But we're going to include things like batting cages, rope courses, disc golf, caves, petting zoos, and some other outdoor recreational activities. For a full list of everything that we're moving forward with, please visit nh.gov under the Stay-at-Home 2.0 button, so you can get a full list of any additional activities there.

When we looked at them, they have a lot of the similarities. They don't require large groups working together or in large conglomeration. They also are, primarily, I think, all outdoor activities, which, again, with the fresh air and whatnot, I think it provides a lot of confidence again that we can open these up safely, still really maintaining the 6-foot distances that we're asking folks, with physical and social distancing; maintaining good hygiene practices for those facilities, for the staff and employees.

A lot of the things that we've really already passed forward and moved forward with our universal guidance, but, again, I think it's a good step forward and can't thank the folks at Public Health that had some incredible input in really allowing us to take these steps forward in a sensible manner, but also putting in some of the restrictions that aren't too prohibitive, in terms of folks enjoying these venues, but also allows us confidence that the virus will not spread, because of the actions.

Also, restaurants, a lot of folks know that we took the step to open outdoor dining approximately two or three weeks ago. And while many restaurants continue to operate with takeout and delivery, we're going to take another step. And we're doing this one a little differently, in that we're taking this in a geographic approach.

So, beginning on June 15th -- so that's about nine days from now. We want to give restaurants time to gear up, plan, make any arrangements they need to make within their facilities. What we looked at was the fact that about 85% to 90% -- in fact, it's even higher now. It's about 90%-plus of the cases. All the COVID active cases are currently in the southern four counties of New Hampshire, being Rockingham, Hillsborough, Strafford, and Merrimack County. That's where the vast majority of COVID is.

For restaurants within those four counties, they can now open on June 15th at 50% indoor capacity. For restaurants existing in any of the other six counties where, again, fortunately, there are very few known COVID and active COVID cases, we're allowing them to open up at 100% capacity. Again, really trying to take a regional approach, provide opportunity where we can, where we know it's very likely safe.

One of the idea here also is that, when you're opening up a restaurant, one of the fears, if I may, is that folks in the higher impacted areas, specifically out of Massachusetts, would come over to the border to use our restaurants as an indoor capacity, because they simply don't have that option yet. By really maintaining some limitations on those southern tiers, I think, will allow us to better manage and limit the ability for individuals to come over the border just to use our restaurants, knowing that, in the areas where they are, right now there's less COVID. There's also a much less likely chance someone's going to drive from Massachusetts all the way up into the Lakes Region or the mountains just for the night to have dinner.

So, we tried to take this from a data standpoint, from a practical implementation standpoint. I think it's a good step. And hopefully, down the road, we can take additional steps with our restaurants. Again, within these capacity limitations, we also, just as a reminder, want to make sure that folks understand there's still a limitation on how close the tables can be. We want to keep to a 6-foot distance there. And all the traditional hygiene and mask wearing requirements, specifically around the employees, obviously still stand, as well. But, again, we think this is a logical next step and provides a lot of opportunities for our businesses and most importantly our residents here in New Hampshire, in a safe way, as it pertains to COVID-19.

Also, weddings, we have received a lot of phone calls. I've personally received a lot of phone calls and a lot of emails from brides and grooms, and mothers of the brides, and fathers of the brides. I don't think I've had any fathers of the grooms yet. But I'm sure they're coming at some point.

But we do appreciate that weddings are one of those very special moments in an individual's life. It's a one-time event, for most folks. And they want to make it special. And they have a lot of contracts in. They've planned this for sometimes years in advance. And so, to maintain that restriction and to find the opportunity to open that up is, I think, a very big and very important opportunity. We've been working very hard on it.

So, in conjunction with the opening of restaurants at 50% in the southern tier, we're going to take a similar stance with weddings, specifically not the ceremonies. Ceremonies can continue, of course, already. But with the receptions in that they can be done in venues up to a 50% capacity, again also maintaining that 6-foot buffer, good social distancing.

We're really encouraging folks to really maintain that physical and social distancing, which we understand is a challenge sometimes during a celebratory event, such as a wedding. But it really is important, and we think that by just allowing this to go forward in some manner, with similar restrictions as the restaurants have, is a sound first step and next step to hopefully allow these events to take place in as safe of a manner as possible.

Also, last week, we did talk about overnight camps. We talked about the fact that overnight camps are going to be allowed. And we've finalized the guidance. That's available now at the Stay-at-Home 2.0 button under the nh.gov, as well. So the guidance on overnight summer camps, not camping, but overnight summer camps is now available for either the campers, themselves, or those that are running the camps. And again, those first campers can begin to arrive on June 28th. I think it's a very similar date around a lot of the other States that are also allowing overnight camping.

So, with these openings and our ability to flex open, we understand that not every business is really being able to be opened to its fullest. Many are not, frankly. There's a lot of restrictions, in terms of capacity, whether you're talking about retail, or restaurants, or lodging, whatever it might be. We know there's still a lot of limitations out there.

But, what we've done today, the assessment is that approximately 97%, 98% of businesses across the State, as of June 15th, will really have that flexibility to open in some fashion. We understand there are still a few industries and venues that are restricted. We've always talked about them as being some of the most challenging, things like movie theaters or large amusement parks that just typically bring in large amounts of folks by the thousands, sometimes, specifically from out-of-state.

So we're working very hard to address those final venues and industries. We hope to have some guidance available for them soon. We appreciate everybody's patience in it. It is very tough. It really is, knowing that revenue isn't coming in. Jobs are at stake.

But really taking these steps forward, we think, puts us not just in a good position, economically, but still maintaining a good position in terms of safety. That's what this is all about, making sure that we can do these things in a safe way.

I'll put our guidance documents up against anyone's around. I mean, we've really spent a lot of time on them, looked at them carefully, worked with them directly with Public Health and CDC. And I think we've really constructed something that doesn't look at just all of the economy as a whole, but really got into the granular detail to understand how each industry is working.

Get the stakeholder input to get those industries' input and what they would like to see to flex things open over time; and working together to really trying to be able to meet those goals that they've put forward in as practical of a manner as possible. And so, the Reopen Committee, everyone that was part of that, the legislative advisory piece of that Committee, the Commissioner, Shibinette, Dr. Chan and his whole team at Public Health, I think everyone's just done, frankly, a phenomenal job to really allow these things to move forward in not an arbitrary way but a safe way with looking at data, other models, and where we are today with our numbers.

And then, finally, I'd just mention just kind of a repeat of Wednesday. We've always said that it is our intent that, on June 15th, it's our intent to allow the Stay-at-Home to sunset and transition more into

a Stay-at-Home Advisory of some sort that has a little more flexibility for folks, a little more opportunity for individuals.

Move beyond that Order, but still allow some of the identification of those that are in those vulnerable health populations, the elderly, folks with underlying health conditions, those folk that are simply more susceptible to the severe impacts of COVID-19, making sure that we keep an elevated message and a warning, and caution to those folks to really be careful, as they may go out and about. So, we really want to focus on those vulnerable populations, not just today, not just next week, but definitely into the mid- to long-term. As long as COVID-19's around, those populations will remain to be very susceptible, and that's where we're going to put a lot of our efforts in terms of our mitigation.

With that, we can open up to questions, if anyone has any questions.

Q&A Session

So the question I've gotten all day is, why wait until June 15th? The restaurants, obviously, there's a lot of complicated...why not just say, hey, we're doing incredibly better than we thought? Other than the restaurants can be really problematic, it's done now. What does safety gain from another nine days?

Governor Sununu:

And you're talking about in terms of the Stay-at-Home Order, in particular, because other industries probably won't open until after June 15th? Yeah. So, because there's certain industries and certain aspects of what we do in our everyday lives where, again, we try to look at this at a very granular lever, right?

The safety and health impacts of going into a restaurant at a certain capacity, or visiting a lodging facility, and the hygiene that has to be surrounded by that; the Stay-at-Home Order, again, there's a huge value in that, keeping it at a very elevated level so people truly appreciate we're in COVID. My fear is that when this comes off and we start really flexing our economy to its fullest extent, there's going to be an idea that we're all okay.

We're not. Until we get to a vaccine, we're really not. We have to be very cautious. We want to stay at that elevated message of cautions with ourselves, with our loved ones, with those that are elderly. And the data right now, we've always said we're going to wait it, meaning we're going to take a step and look for a few weeks of data. Take a step, and look for a few weeks of data.

And so, we just extended the Stay-at-Home Order, I believe, a week ago-or-so. So, again, we want to make sure we have a couple weeks of data before we take the next step. And by June 15th, we will have that under our belt.

And as long as the numbers continue to look good, we're sticking with the plan. I guess that's the best way to say it. I know there's a lot of anxiety on folk to move forward now. But we had a plan in the beginning. It was the right plan. It's data-driven. We're going to stick to it. We're not going to cave to politics or people yelling on social media, anything like that.

It's the right plan. And I think as long as we have the wherewithal to stick it out, if you will, follow it from the beginning all the way through to the end, I think that gives everybody a lot of confidence that, again, we're going to make the best decisions for the State and walk that balanced line.

So, there's no specific guidance for the weddings on how many people can attend, even though the event is at 50% capacity?

Governor Sununu:

That's right.

If you have a large venue and 50% capacity could be 100, 150 people, that's okay?

Governor Sununu:

It is, because that ensures that you're having the physical distancing. So usually the capacity on the venue is based on the square footage sometimes. And again, if we're doing it at 50%, it just gives us a lot of assurance that people can maintain their spacing amongst one another. You're not cramming 300 people into a venue that only holds 300 people. We've been there before. It gets a little cramped at those tables and whatnot. We want to make sure people have the flexibility that they feel safe, that they feel like there's distancing available. Yeah. So, that's really where the 50% comes from.

Well, what's uniquely different in the environment of a wedding reception versus an indoor restaurant?

Governor Sununu:

Yeah, not much at all.

Why not open them 100% in those other counties like you did with other restaurants?

Governor Sununu:

Sure, good question. So just to repeat, the weddings will be maintained at 50% for the entire State. The reason being is that, when you're at a restaurant, you're usually there with, let's say, four or five people from your party. The idea of interacting with the other party is very, very limited. I typically don't walk around a restaurant and -- maybe in campaign season, I'm saying hello to people. But that's obviously not now.

No, so you understand. When you're in a restaurant, you're in your own groups. When you're at a wedding reception, you're all together. It could be 50, 60, 100 people of family members from across the country or whatever it might be and all of that. So that is one of the fundamental differences in terms of why we're keeping it at 50%, because the likelihood of interaction amongst those small groups, between table-to-table, is just so much higher.

And again, we want people to enjoy their time at their wedding reception and have that opportunity, but, again, hopefully maintain that physical distancing as much as they can. But, that's just the structural difference, the inherent difference of the two.

But, you're right. I mean, from a physical standpoint, it's similar. But from a how the customer uses the venue, if you will, it's a little different. So we're asking folks to maintain 50% across the whole State.

It feels a little absurd to ask, but what about dancing at the weddings?

Governor Sununu:

What about dancing at the weddings? There will be no Funky Chicken allowed in the State of New Hampshire. I am banning it completely. No Macarena, Funky Chicken, and Congo lines, they're out. No, I'm just kidding. I'm not really, because nobody should be doing that.

No, so we are not saying, no dancing. We are strongly discouraging it. We're asking folks to be smart about it. I'm not going to be the guy in Footloose that says, no dancing in my town, right? I mean, that's the best analogy I can give. So, that would be incredibly hard to enforce, right?

Everything we do, we want to make practical and enforceable, and reasonable. And I think the more you keep your guidelines reasonable, the more likely people are to follow those guidelines, take those steps, so you can make steps down the road.

If you're too restrictive and it becomes impractical, it becomes a joke. We take these guidelines very, very seriously. And we look at them from a very data-specific standpoint. So, dancing is discouraged, not encouraged. But we're not going to send the Footloose Police after you.

The ASAP COVID testing program, is there any funding behind that? Or if I sign up, will I be paying out-of-pocket for testing?

Governor Sununu:

Well, again, for a lot of folks, their insurance will pay for the test. But, again, it kind of goes in line with what we've done already. There's no financial barriers. If you cannot pay, there are methods for that payment to happen. If your insurance company has a barrier or will not reimburse, there's availability for that to happen. But most folks, if they have private insurance, they will pay. But it's the same as we've been doing so far. There should not be any financial reason why you shouldn't go get a test.

So, a couple of press conferences ago, you were asked about Executive Privilege in your office.

Governor Sununu:

Yes.

And it got me to thinking back. I believe it was -- and maybe Mr. Landrigan [ph] can remind me. But I think it was late-2002/early-2003 that Maggie Hassan asked all of her Department Heads to come back with streamlined budgets. And then, she sealed all of the recommendations from her Department Heads and never released the information.

Governor Sununu:

So, I apologize, 2012/2013?

I think that was right around that time.

Governor Sununu:

Yeah, not 2002/2003.

Her first term.

Governor Sununu:

Yes, 2012/2013, I just want to make sure we got the...

So it got me to thinking. Have you started considering all of the revenue projections? Have you started asking your Department Heads to look at streamlining all of their Departments? And if you have, will that information be released to the public?

Governor Sununu:

A good question, so we've started a process looking at the budgets, first looking at all the programs of the State, looking for programs that might be duplicative between Departments. We went through this exercise about three years ago. And we're just kind of taking that exercise again, getting a little deeper in terms of programs or authorities, or scope of work for different Departments or individuals that, again, hopefully can be streamlined. So that's a program assessment that is currently underway. I think it's almost done.

And from there, we will, then, look at the opportunities for either finding streamlined ways to hopefully not cut programs, but if there are projects that have to be delayed, maybe we can go to delaying a project. I'm a firm believer that we shouldn't be making any firm decisions on any of it just yet, because I still believe that -- and it looks like some sort of a Stimulus Bill will be coming out of Congress.

So, that can provide a lot of opportunity. It might provide no opportunity to help backfill some of the revenues. We just don't know. So I don't think it would be prudent to start cutting programs today knowing that they might be backfilled tomorrow, because once you make a cut, you make a cut.

Everything we do will be through the legislative process. I can't cut a program without the Legislature's approval. And we will make sure we follow all of that, hopefully as they come back or as the fiscal committee might have to come back a few times over the summer, if those choices really have to be made.

We will look at capital projects, as well, what capital projects can be delayed, if we can. Again, not saying no to a capital project, but maybe move it to one more year out, something like that, just asking for another year's time, if the projects aren't on emergency status. Maybe that's an ability to save some money, as well.

I've always talked about there are certain programs where we really want to be careful not to start going in and cutting, and holding back too much, specifically around mental health, DCYF, child protection programs, programs around abuse, sexual and domestic violence issues, things that, again, we just know can flare up. SUD programs, addiction, we know those are the types of programs that are usually needed the most during tough economic times. And if anything, we will be putting more money and more

emphasis on those programs to make sure that we're ready and prepared, as we slowly come out of the economic doldrums, if you will, as well as out of the Stay-at-Home Order.

One thing that we've seen is a lot of folks are still -- even though hospitals will take you in for surgery, they're still not going. They're still choosing not to go in yet. There's still some anxiety and some fear there. And it's understandable.

Hospitals have all the ability to test. They're incredibly safe. If you need a surgery, if you need a procedure, please go and see your Doctor. See your hospital. Get that procedure. We've opened that up because it is safe. And we want to give people the assurance of that.

So, I think that, on a similar level, as we start coming out of the Stay-at-Home Order, we start flexing back into the economy, I think more and more folk will be coming out either looking for services or looking for recovery centers, or looking for addiction services, things of that nature. I think, as kids come back to school, I think we will have a better assessment of what has really happened and how they've done over the summer and during remote learning, and if additional protection services need to be involved there. We're happy to do so. It's always so important to get eyes on a child, see what's happening, have a conversation with them. It can make all the difference in the world. So, we're going to make sure that those programs are protected and ready to go.

So, keeping in that theme of the revenue theme, I know we all know you have a lot going on. But have you given any thought to how reliant New Hampshire is on other people to basic balance their books and everything else, and thought about what we can do, as a State, to not be so reliant, say, on Rooms and Meals Taxes; not be so reliant on, if anything, if, God forbid, we have what really could have happened months ago?

Governor Sununu:

I think I know what you mean. I mean, the way I interpret that question and the answer that comes to mind, in terms of not being reliant on Rooms and Meals Taxes and all these revenues that come and can be affected by these issues, it's really about good management, if I may. It's really about making sure that you're getting rid of those duplicative services. You're streamlining your process.

We are a State that, I think, has done very well with limited government, right, with local control, with things that, as individuals, we have a lot of say. And the fact that the vast majority of our taxes are property taxes can be a burden, to be sure. But that allows us to have so much more say in terms of how those dollars are spent, and allowing the locals to have a lot of say in what's going on in their community and their neighborhoods.

So, again, I think it's been very clear. The answer to solving a budget problem is not just by demanding more money out of people's pockets. That doesn't work, because they don't have the money right now. The economy is down. You should not be looking to any broad-based taxes ever. You should not be looking to an income tax ever. You should not be looking to increase business taxes on businesses, when they're going through tough economic times. That makes no logical sense. But good management wins the day. I really believe that. We've been very successful with that process in the past. And I think we will be successful in the future.

I have a question actually for the Commissioner. So, your counterpart in Minnesota issued a statement to people participating in the George Floyd protests saying, if you participate in the protests, please get tested. Yesterday, the CDC Chairman, Redfield, did the same thing. They call them a venue for spread, a cause for spread, a recipe for spread. Are you going to issue a guidance to the people who have protested thus far? I understand there's a large gathering in Concord tomorrow. Do you have a message for those people? And is the State going to take any action? So, I know some States, like Rhode Island, are actually passing out masks, having employees show up at the rallies to encourage people to distance.

Commissioner Shibinette:

Sure, so the rallies and the protests, and things like that, we consider in the same grouping of any type of large congregate groups or crowds, or things like that. So, we're not going to issue a formal statement. But we will definitely say that if you think that you've been at-risk for exposure to COVID, then you should go get tested. Whether that is at a protest, or if that is at a beach, or a restaurant, or anywhere else, if you think you've been exposed or you think you're at-risk, then you should get tested.

Can I ask you a really quick one? First off, we're at 278 deaths. Are we still on nearly all of those have been chronic medical conditions?

Commissioner Shibinette:

Yes, the vast majority.

And real quick, yesterday -- well, sorry, Wednesday, you've had almost nearly 3,000 tests. It's the most in almost two weeks. Is that because of that going back to all of the long-term care facility, sentinel, I think you called it, where you're going to go back and retest everything? Is that why that was so huge?

Commissioner Shibinette:

I don't know exactly what day you're talking about.

The 3rd.

Commissioner Shibinette:

So, the 3rd, yes, 2800 we're at for testing numbers for that day. So, that is not sentinel, but it's probably baseline. So a large majority of our testing right now is coming out of long-term care facility, both the baseline testing from last week, the sentinel testing that we started this week, and the sentinel testing we will continue for the next several weeks. And we will reassess at about the fourth round is our plan for reassessment. But, you can expect to see continued bump in those numbers from long-term care facility testing.

Can I just follow one more? So how come there was this kind of slope in the numbers down the past week and a half?

Commissioner Shibinette:

So, there's a variety of reasons for that. Oftentimes, when you have some low numbers, often the test day that's reported out is not the same as the specimen collection day, right? So, if your test day is on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, if it's a holiday, right, Physicians' offices are closed, things like that. You're going to see specimen collections drop. And so, you'll see a couple days that you have low tests.

The other thing that happens sometimes, our system went down one day. That'll bring the numbers down. We get a backlog in our tests, because we unexpectedly get a whole bunch in. So we spend more time doing data entry, which takes time away from the actual testing.

So a variety of factors play into that. But that's why it's really important that we look at the average over a week, right? Because if we have an off day, you're going to see the offset on that, on either side of that day.

And just one more, I'm sorry. But then, you wouldn't say, then, that it's people not coming forward to take testing, or taking this seriously, or anything like that? I mean, it's really just management of everything, right?

Commissioner Shibinette:

So, I would say that, initially, when we started off the fixed testing sites, that we saw huge demand for our tests. Our phones were ringing off the hook for five straight days. We just could not keep up with the phone volume and the website volume.

After that initial bump, things leveled off. And things are leveled off right now. We are doing enough tests, but we're not at capacity, by any means. We probably have enough tests' spots in each testing location that, if you called today, you could get a test tonight.

So, we're steady, but we're not overloaded at all. So I would say that our demand right now is equaling our supply, which is where we wanted to get to is that that supply/demand be equal, so people don't have to wait for a test. So that means we have enough resources out there for the people that want testing.

Are a lot of non-symptomatic people coming in? And are you kind of surprised that the rate remains at or below 5%? Does that surprise you, as a Health Professional?

Commissioner Shibinette:

No, it doesn't surprise me. I think what did surprise me -- instead of what doesn't surprise me, I'll tell you what did surprise me. What surprises me is the amount of asymptomatic long-term care residents that we've seeing.

So, when we go into a facility that has had maybe one or two symptomatic people and we test all of the residents, even some of our residents that are in their 80s and 90s with cooccurring conditions, or underlying conditions, have no symptoms. So it's still that struggle of, what are the conditions that put

you on a trajectory for a negative outcome, versus the ones that you can just have COVID and not have symptoms? And we're seeing that a lot in nursing homes. And that is surprising.

And on the ASAP testing, could you learn something from that that would lead to change in policy? Or what could you learn from that?

Commissioner Shibinette:

I think every pattern we identify in the community allows us to reevaluate the data and pivot on our strategy. And that's what we try to do, right? So, the more data we get out of every single community, the more we can say, oh, there's a pattern of illness or there's a pattern of asymptomatic positive in this small town in the western part of the State.

And being able to identify that, do the contact tracing back to another event, could tie us to another group of people. And that's what we're really trying to do is really gauge the degree of community transmission. And one way to do that is through the asymptomatic positive, because we know there's a lot out there.

Have there been many of the cases of staffers who may have been asymptomatic, brought it, and you found them out later, who, then, could be traced back to, say, clusters similar to the donut shop in Salem a few weeks ago, where you put out the alert on that? Or is it all random? They're just randomly traveling or meeting people who have contracted it, too?

Commissioner Shibinette:

So, there's definitely clusters of illness. I mean, we can definitely look in our contact tracing and find how people came in contact. If we have a cluster of illness, like you said, at a donut shop, and we talk to three people in that community, and they all visited that donut shop the week of X, we can make some assumptions about that.

But we do know that there's widespread community transmission. So there's a possibility that you can come in contact with it almost anywhere. But we do try to look in our contact tracing to see if we can find one specific area, or perhaps even an outbreak that is happening at a business, or certainly household family members. When you see cookouts, things like that, happening over Memorial Day weekend and people coming from other homes, or family from out-of-town coming, and then seeing COVID positive from those family members, you certainly can trace that back.

Has there been a death yet from someone under 60 without a comorbidity?

Commissioner Shibinette:

I would have to check. There are definitely deaths under the age of 60. I don't have the details on the degree of their underlying health conditions. Okay.

Governor Sununu:

Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you very much. We will go to -- oh, sorry, you have one more, and then we will go to the phones.

You've been very outspoken about where you stand on the George Floyd protests. There's a developing story out of Manchester this afternoon. The Mayor and seven Aldermen are calling on two other Aldermen to resign, based on some social media posts that included racial slurs. One Alderman suggested that protesters should be moved out-of-town with a big plow truck. Do you agree that those two individuals, those Aldermen, should resign over those comments?

Governor Sununu:

I haven't seen the exact comments, so forgive me. But I will say anyone using that kind of what was expressed here, that kind of language, that kind of sentiment, anything of a racial nature in a negative way, yes, there's no place for that at all in anything that we do. But, I apologize. I haven't seen that. Were they Tweets or social media posts?

I think it was a Facebook back-and-forth, I think.

Governor Sununu:

Okay. I apologize. I can't speak to the specifics.

So, one of the things...

Governor Sununu:

But, there's, just to be clear, no place for any of that.

So you spoke very passionately one week ago today, when the George Floyd story was new and people were kind of surprised. You're stopping a COVID event to talk about another event, because you felt so strongly about the death of this gentleman in Minnesota. Since then, there have been at least two Police Officers killed. There have been numerous civilians killed by rioters who are associated with, or as viewed in the things that are happening in the night. Some people mix. But there have been violence that has been very destructive. And Police Officers have died. And hundreds have been injured. You haven't issued a statement about that violence or the consequences.

Governor Sununu:

A statement in terms of the riots and the violence, we've been talking about that all week. Okay. Let's be very clear.

But now you have multiple deaths and hundreds of injured Police Officers.

Governor Sununu:

The violence and the rioting that has resulted in injuries and death across this country, we've been talking about all week. And we've been preparing to make sure that doesn't happen here. I think, first and foremost, let me just give a hats off to our local communities, whether it be on the law enforcement side. The folks that are organizing these events have done a phenomenal job. And we're very fortunate so far that none of that has happened here.

But we've been talking about that violence all week in terms of how terrible it is. You have, again, individuals losing their lives. Obviously, the murder of George Floyd was a very specific event that has triggered off a national and nationwide call to action, which, I think, is very appropriate. And obviously that issue is kind of the driver of the day, but it doesn't undermine or diminish the importance of the lives that have been lost, or the people that have been injured, the businesses that have been destroyed, all of the tragedy we've seen over the past week. It's been unbelievable. It's been unprecedented.

And you want to hope that there's an end to it at some point. I mean, the protesters have a voice. I believe the final wake, or funeral, is going to happen sometime next week, I believe. And I imagine there'll be a lot of a similar outcry for constructive change surrounding that, and maybe even after.

But, we're going to be prepared here in New Hampshire. We're going to make sure that we're protecting our citizens and the lives of individuals here, the businesses here, whatever it might be. But, you're right. You're absolutely right. There's been a lot of stories out there across this country of people losing their lives and being killed, frankly, for what I think a lot of us would agree are completely unnecessary reasons. And I think that just underlines the severity of the situation.

Do you have a specific proposal that you'd like to see the Legislature advance, when it comes to policing, trying to stop Police abuses? Representative Berg had a piece that was endorsed by all Republicans. And now, there's a version in the Senate that they're considering.

Governor Sununu:

That's great, yeah.

Do you support that legislation? And do you have your own proposals?

Governor Sununu:

Yeah, so I've seen at least the first draft of that legislation. And it's all on the right path. It really is. We're taking other steps. I was sitting with Colonel Noyes, Commissioner Quinn, some folks from the churches and parishes across the State, the community leaders, if you will.

What we, I think, need to do, if you go back to when I created the Diversity Inclusion Council and the Commission that, again, was charged with really going around the State, talking about things of implicit bias, talking to schools or communities, getting the feedback, finding out what the ideas and thoughts were out there, where they might have been, some of this inequity, whether it might be on a

racial or by sexual identity, whatever it might be. Inequities can exist socially in our societies in a lot of different ways. And I think they did a very good job with that.

We created the Civil Rights Unit in the Attorney General's Unit. No Governor had ever done that. We jumped right on top of it and made sure it got done. So that is another tool in the toolbox. But I think it has to go deeper.

We talked about, now that we have a new Director of Police Standards and Training, the opportunity to really update those programs and that training within. For those who don't know, we're one of the few States in the country that have a single point for all Police Standards and Training. Everyone gets trained essentially by the same organization. So there's continuity between State Police, local Police, Corrections Officers, whatever it might be. And that's a huge asset to us, because you can really make sure you're updating your program in a singular fashion. And everyone's getting that same training. And keep it updated, not let it go antiquated. And my sense is what is there now is antiquated and does have to be updated.

But not just talking to the leaders and organizers of these events, but the community leaders that, again, I think we can create a better opportunity to be more systematic, if you will, with making sure we're integrating ourselves with the issues in these communities, not just Manchester and Nashua, but every city and town.

We have 220 cities and towns. Every city and town, we should be talking to the schools and the community leaders, the law enforcement, whatever it might be, because it's not just a law enforcement issue. It's our culture that really needs to wake up to the 21st century.

And it's unfortunate that it takes the murder of some of these individuals to get us to move forward. But we're taking it very seriously. And I think we have some plans to make some great steps. So, we had a great discussion yesterday. We've had good discussions with community leaders. We've had good discussions on a whole variety of levels.

Discussion is good, but action is better. And I think the legislative action you talked about is a great step. But there's some other stuff we can do, too. We're not going to settle, if you will. Yeah. Let's take some on the phone, if we could.

Holly Ramer with Associated Press:

Hi, thanks. I have one public health question and then one follow-up on the Police accountability. In terms of the ASAP program, will you be reporting that data separately, in terms of showing how many asymptomatic people are testing positive? And then, if it turns out you have a huge number of people who are participating in that program, could that make the percent-positive metric less valuable? The question for the Governor, there are a couple of Bills in the Legislature right now aimed at holding Police Officers accountable. There are two very similar ones that would require Officers to report misconduct by fellow Officers to Police Standards and Training. And then, there's another Bill that would create a Study Committee to look at whether there should be citizen involvement in the investigation of Officer-involved shootings. If the Legislature ends up passing those Bills, would you support them?

Governor Sununu:

So, I don't know the second Bill as well as I know the first Bill. So I'm going to answer the back questions first, and then we will talk about ASAP. The two Bills that you're talking about, the one with the citizen engagement, I have to admit, I don't know that Bill as well as the Bill that was specifically talking

about making sure that there's a pathway for Police Officers and requirement for Police Officers to report abuse, essentially, and abusive situations, and whether we want to call it police brutality, or whatever it might be.

Yes, so we're very much in favor of that process. We got to look at the Bill. But, in its draft form, that would make very logical sense to take steps like that. Unfortunately, as we saw, with the murder of George Floyd, you had other Officers just standing there watching, basically. And that's not acceptable in any way. I believe it makes them accomplices. I'm not a lawyer. So, we have to make sure that there's accountability within their system, to be sure.

On the ASAP side, I'll say that -- and if Commissioner Shibinette wants to answer, she can, as well -- it's so hard when folks come in to take a test. Commissioner, do we ask whether you're asymptomatic or not? Yeah, we don't really define asymptomatic versus symptomatic right now, because early on we found that it was such a gray area. I had a light cough a couple days ago. Is that symptomatic or not? You're not quite sure.

So, one thing we're very cognizant of through this whole process is we want to get the data right. And what we don't want to do is ask individuals around the State and all the testing facilities to collect data in a non-consistent way. And asking folks to the level of their symptoms, it's very subjective.

So, long story short is we likely are not going to be able to determine this population of asymptomatic versus this population of symptomatic. What ASAP, as the systemwide approach, is really a call to action to just really raise the level of awareness that anybody can get a test. We want you to go get a test, even if you're asymptomatic. We want you to go out and get those tests, and know what's going on, for your safety and the safety of the community, and those folks around you.

So, it's really just kind of an elevated extension of what we're already doing. But we won't be able to necessarily report that data separately. You don't check the box, I'm part of this program or that program. We just want you to go get a test. And everyone's included in the data.

Tom Eastman with the Conway Daily Sun:

Hi, Governor. Thanks for taking the question. Hi. Up in our neck of the woods, the attractions that you referred to earlier, tourism-based businesses such as the Conway Scenic, the Mount Washington Auto Road, what type of guidance? Is it going to be clear, after June 15th? Will there be a July 1st opening? Do you have any idea at all when places like Storyland and Conway Scenic, and the Auto Road, to name a few, when they would be allowed to reopen with safe social distancing and other practices?

Governor Sununu:

Sure, so I believe the Auto Road is part of our list today. That is open, effective immediately, because, again, you're in a car. There's obviously natural social distancing and physical distancing available there.

Things like the scenic railroads, we think we will have guidance out soon. We're looking at how each of those work. We don't have many of them. But they're all a little bit different, whether it's the Cog Railway, or the Hobo Railroad, or the Scenic Railroad. There's a couple of them there.

But we're looking at both capacity issues, whether they can be done in a more outdoor, ventilated atmosphere, seeing just kind of how they work. Sometimes in those railroad situations, there's other activities that happen, typically, on the train. So we're trying to be as specific as we can. And hopefully, within the next week-or-so, we will have some guidance for them.

And then, of course, there's the amusement parks, as you referenced, Storyland or the water parks. Speaking to the North Country, Conway has a water park or water country, or down in the southern tier with Canobie Lake Park. I'll say Canobie Lake Park came in and gave a great presentation, I mean a really, really good presentation to the Open Up New Hampshire Committee. And I think it has provided a good backbone for some guidance that we're trying to build off of and get them there.

I originally said, I don't know how we're going to do it. But I got to tell you. I think the data still continues to be very good. The data in Massachusetts continues to get better. That's one of the biggest concerns of those larger amusement park venues is that you're going to get a lot of out-of-staters, specifically Massachusetts, coming up.

So, as we see Massachusetts' numbers continue to drop, they're still high, of course. But they continue to drop, which allows us, I think, more confidence, as we go a week, two weeks, three weeks down the road. Everyone's getting closer to zero, hopefully, and a much more manageable situation. And that will allow us the confidence to hopefully make those steps.

So, we haven't made any final guidelines yet, or final determination. But, we also appreciate that, at a certain point in the summer, if you don't open those venues, they're closed for good, because it doesn't make sense just to have a tiny fraction of the summer. They want to keep, if not the whole summer, which obviously probably isn't possible at this point, but a good majority of it, not lose some of those key weekends to make it economically viable to open at all.

So, we appreciate that. We've heard that message. And again, we will try to meet those deadlines as best we can. But, again, it's all going to be done by looking at the data and making sure whatever we do doesn't cause some of those super cluster spreader events, or at least minimizes the opportunity for that, so if it were to happen, our healthcare system and our entire testing management system is there to handle whatever might come.

Paula Tracy with InDepth:

Good afternoon, Governor. I have a question about when we can visit nursing homes. I also have a question about when we might be able to visit the issue of community pools, whether outdoor gyms have been considered. And finally, would you consider testing yourself?

Governor Sununu:

Sure, so I think the first question had to do -- sorry, what was the first one, Paula? Oh, the important one, the nursing homes. No, of course, and long-term care facilities. Other States around us have started looking at models to allow visitation to long-term care facilities.

I think I speak for everyone when I say that we appreciate how important this is. There are individuals in a lot of these facilities. Other than the staff, they've really been alone. There's a mental health aspect to it. They want to see family. Family wants to see them. Getting eyes on a loved one is so, so important.

And so, we're going to be looking at some of those models that are currently being implemented, I think, in parts of Massachusetts even, to see if we can get there. Obviously, testing is a big part of that. The sentinel testing and the continual testing of those facilities, so we can constantly monitor who may be positive or negative, I think we want to make sure that that is up-and-running and we have full capacity around that opportunity, before we open that up.

But, we definitely appreciate it's something that probably has to happen sooner than later. And we were talking about it today and different options and opportunities, looking at some of the ways it's being done. It's being done a little differently across the country. So, we're looking at some of those models and figuring out how best it would work here.

You mentioned community pools, for example. So most community pools are really regulated by the towns or the cities, themselves. We, right now, have a limitation of 10 individuals in a group setting. Our hope -- it is not firm, by any means, but it is our hope that when the Stay-at-Home Order, if we can get to the point, on June 15th, where that would go to some type of Advisory, we could also look at potentially increasing the size of gatherings. And that would coincide with pools.

I mean, if pools wanted to do small groups -- community pools wanted to do small groups, right now they technically could. It's really the towns that regulate whether those pools are open for outdoor activities or not. And then, again, if we can get to the point where we're increasing those group sizes, that obviously increases the opportunity.

I think you asked if I was going to -- I am going to get tested, as part of the ASAP program. We're going to kick it off this weekend. And I am going to get tested. So we want to encourage everybody. Yeah, I haven't been tested yet. Yeah, pretty health stock, so I'm asymptomatic. So you don't need to back off or anything.

No, again, it's part of the program. Even though I don't have a symptom at all, haven't had it, thank God, knock on wood, I've been pretty curious. I'd love to know whether I have it, and just to hopefully encourage other folks to take the similar steps. So, I like to see that you're wearing your mask, Michael. Now, Paula, did you have one other there? Did I miss something as part of your question? I apologize.

Outdoor gyms.

Governor Sununu:

Oh, outdoor gyms and gyms; so outdoor gyms, we are one of the first States in the northeast to really allow the more structured gym settings of yoga classes or bootcamps, and things of that nature. They can take place outdoors, as well, or in a gym. So we don't discern whether it's inside or outside.

I think, in terms of having inside running on the treadmill, I know there's a lot of anxiety and a lot of angst to get that going again. Nowhere in the northeast is that happening, nowhere. And so, we have to be cautious of that going forward, because of the nature of that activity, the heavy breathing, the sweating, the close contact that folks can have, the hygiene issues that can surround that.

We have tremendous facilities here in New Hampshire, some of the best in the country. And whether it's Planet Fitness or some of the private ones, I mean, just phenomenal. And so, we want to get those open. But, there is an inherent challenge there.

So, we will work both within our State, and also look at, if there's good models that come out of other parts of the country, or other parts of the northeast. But, given that we're in such a hotspot area, no one's taken that step yet. But we will always look for opportunities to do it.

Todd Bookman with New Hampshire Public Radio:

Thank you. Governor, I had two questions about the Main Street Relief Fund. First, did you consider weighting the fund toward industries that we know are the hardest hit? I'm thinking restaurants and hotels. And the second question is, how will business owners who may have applied with multiple LLCs be treated?

Governor Sununu:

So, the question is, did we consider weighting it towards industries that are the hardest hit? The answer is, no, but it is inherently built in the formula in that industries that are hardest hit will have some of the biggest losses. And the formula gives you a pro rata share of that loss.

So, in an industry that's not as hard hit, maybe they only lost 10%, 20%, or 30% of their expected revenue. They'll get a share of that 10% or 20%, whereas a restaurant or hotel that might be losing 50% or 60%, they're going to get a 10% of that loss. So, it's inherently built into the formula, so it didn't require a weighting system. I apologize. It's Friday. What was the second question?

Multiple LLCs.

Governor Sununu:

Oh, multiple LLCs, yes, so we tie all businesses to a single owner. So, if there is a single owner that has multiple businesses, as long as they, in aggregate, come under the \$20 million threshold, they can apply.

Harrison Thorp with The Rochester Voice:

Yes, thank you. Good afternoon. I have three quick questions. One is, you mentioned restaurants in North Country can open at 100%. But if their tables are 6-feet apart, they probably won't be anywhere near that. And we're looking for the same thing down here in Strafford and Rockingham Counties. So, when it comes time for them to flex open at 100%, you might want to guess how many percentage of people they'll actually be able to have there. Secondly, could you tell me if live music is now allowed, like bands? Or will it be, soon? And lastly, what about social clubs, like the American Legions and VFWs?

Governor Sununu:

Oh, great questions, so we do still have the limitation of the 6-foot width between tables to allow for the physical distancing, even in areas where we can allow you to open up to 100%. I don't know the physical -- what we decided and realized was we don't know the physical setup of every restaurant, by any means. Some restaurants can open at 100% with that physical distancing. Some may be capped a little less, because maybe they're just more naturally tightly fit. And again, you have to adhere to the 6-foot distancing. So we appreciate that some may not get completely up to 100%. But, again, it's just a step. We're hoping to take additional steps down the road.

On the American Legions side, things of that nature, yes, they can open up at that 50% capacity, as long as they serve food. And if it's a bar or whatever, yeah, you do have to be able to serve food in those venues. And then, there was a question in the middle.

Live bands.

Governor Sununu:

Oh, live bands; I have to be honest. I don't know if that was discussed. But I will take a look at that. I'll go back and look if that was undertaken in the guidance. And if it wasn't, we will try to make stipulations for it. Oh, it was? Okay. I'm getting a head nod that it was. So, it is in the guidance, it appears. But I'll take a look at it anyway. It's a very good question.

Rick Jurgens with the Valley News:

Thanks for taking my question. The sentinel surveillance testing in nursing home, I understand the intention is to expand that to assisted living facilities, as it moves forward. My question is, there's 2400 State Prison Inmates. Only 23 have been tested, amazingly, only one positive. Is there any intention to expand sentinel surveillance testing into the prison and jail population? And I guess if not, why not?

Commissioner Shibiante:

Okay. So, sentinel surveillance program, we're going to make it work with nursing homes first. We want to perfect it. We want to make it so that we've worked out any bugs related to it. Once we do that and we get through a couple rounds, we will look at our next contract amendment to open it up to assisted living.

The reason why we would do assisted living prior to jails and prisons is because the population has a higher risk for negative consequences, when you're over the age of 60 with underlying conditions. That represents mostly nursing homes and assisted living.

I would not rule out additional surveillance programs, after assisted living. If COVID continues to be problem, which I expect that it's going to be, other populations that we will look at will be homeless shelters, people that are unsheltered and frequent homeless shelters; jails, prisons; and any other type of congregate-type housing that does not fall -- I think community residences for people with disabilities, things like that. So, we're prioritizing the people in our community that are at highest risk for negative outcomes, which are people that are in congregate settings with underlying conditions, which are nursing homes and assisted living.

Governor Sununu:

Thank you. I think that's good on the phone. We have a couple more.

What is your reaction to the Superior Court Order today in Mary Jane Wallner, et al v. Christopher T. Sununu?

Governor Sununu:

Great result, I mean, I think my understanding is the Judge said that, under their new submittal that they do have standing, but that he wouldn't impose an injunction, because the case doesn't really have merit. I think they're going to allow some final procedural -- you can have kind of a last say in there.

But his statement that surrounds the fact that he wouldn't put an injunction in, I think, says it all that they really don't have merit going forward. And we did it right.

My Twitter feed is full of people who are outraged that you would ban the Macarena and the Funky Chicken, but leave the Hokey Pokey. But they're asking you to declare the Hokey Pokey a COVID emergency and ban it from all weddings, as well.

Governor Sununu:

I can't do it. I cannot. Oh, they want me to ban the Hokey Pokey? Oh, well, sure, let's ban the Hokey Pokey, too. Yeah, I thought they wanted that implied. I'm not putting the Macarena back in. I've never danced the Macarena. Let's just put that on the record, to be sure. Yeah.

Real quick clarification, are you expecting, in June 15th, to not lower the gatherings of 10-or-more? In other words, so adult recreation softball leagues who have 25 or 30 people show up for a game would not be allowed. Are you expecting that not to happen in June?

Governor Sununu:

I don't know, on June 15th, in terms of the question is, are we going to move the number from social groups of 10 to larger than that. Possibly, yes; I think we really want to -- I got to be honest. I haven't made that decision yet. I want to keep working with Public Health, make sure the data stays where it is. We keep getting good numbers, and that's on a good track. But that would be a big deal. And so, I think we want to kind of wait until as long as we can to make sure we get that one right.

Okay? Well, I won my \$1 bet with my staff. They said it would only go 59 minutes-or-less, and unfortunately we hit an hour and nine minutes. So, we appreciate everyone staying through. It is a Friday afternoon. Have a safe and happy weekend. The summer is upon us. And even with these tough times, there's always something to smile about. There's always a rainbow somewhere, as we say.

And it really is important to find those moments in our lives and in our communities, and with our families, with our coworkers, whatever it is, that puts a smile on our face in such tough times. So we appreciate New Hampshire doing an outstanding job through this entire COVID process, an outstanding job through these protests that we've seen and the right call for social justice.

And New Hampshire just handled it really, really well. And we just want to thank all the citizens from the top on down for doing it and being that gold standard that we've come to expect from ourselves. So, thank you guys so much, and have a safe and happy weekend. Thank you.