

# Coronavirus Updates: Cuomo Says He Will End His Streak Of Daily Briefings On COVID-19

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JUNE 17, 2020 2:11 P.M. • [86 COMMENTS](#)

Here's the latest:

- [Cuomo And De Blasio Say NYC Is "On Track" To Enter Phase 2 Of Reopening On Monday, June 22nd](#)
- [De Blasio Says He Tested Negative For COVID-19](#)
- [Nine U.S. States Set Records For New Cases, Beijing Goes Under Partial Lockdown](#)
- ["We Are Bleeding Out": Bar & Restaurant Owners Wonder How They'll Ever Come Back From Coronavirus Shutdown](#)
- [U.S. Open To Be Held In Queens At End Of Summer Without Spectators Present](#)



➡ In Soho, June 16, 2020 MYCHAL WATTS/SHUTTERSTOCK

**2 p.m.** Governor Andrew Cuomo said he will end his streak of daily briefings on the coronavirus crisis. After Friday, he will conduct them instead on an as-needed basis.

"We will turn the page on the immediacy of this crisis," Cuomo said Wednesday, which marked the governor's 109th day of consecutive press conferences.

Cuomo had hinted on Monday in an interview with WAMC's Alan Chartock that he might stop the daily briefings, saying that the low level of cases would make them unnecessary.

As New York became the epicenter of the pandemic, the governor's daily press conferences were broadcast nationally on cable television, making Cuomo the most visible politician of the crisis. Early on, his emphasis on data, anecdotes about his family, and sermons on courage and finding the common good drew praise from elected officials and celebrities alike. He appeared regularly on MSNBC and CNN, and was also a fawned-over guest on *Ellen* and the nightly talk shows.

Cuomo's decision to end his daily press appearances will also conveniently relieve him of having to face the increasingly critical questions he has been asked about his handling of the outbreaks. New York has recorded more than 24,600 coronavirus deaths, a staggering number that still does not include probable fatalities.

The governor has defended his policies and instead deflected blame to the federal government, as well as national and global public health agencies like the World Health Organization for failing to sound the alarm about the pandemic.

"We have saved tens of thousands of lives in New York," Cuomo said on Wednesday. "That is more important than any of this other stuff."

New York has continued to post low overall infection rates even as the state gradually reopens. Out of more than 59,000 tests performed statewide on Tuesday, only .96 percent or 567 came back positive. There are now 761 in hospitals, down from a frightening peak of 12,000.

Deaths from the virus have also continued to decline, with the latest new number of new deaths at 17 yesterday.

On Wednesday, Cuomo also announced that New York City was [on track on to phase 2](#) of the reopening plan on Monday, June 21st, 14 days after it entered phase one. Meanwhile, Westchester and Rockland County as well as the mid-Hudson region will enter phase three on Tuesday, June 23rd, and Long Island will do so on Wednesday, June 24th.