

ONYSGISA Regional COVID Coordination Meeting, December 2nd 2020 1:30pm – 2:15pm

Attendees:

Ross Baldwin, Chair, Town of Southampton
Doug Schuetz, Rockland County
Bill Ostrander, Tioga County
Liz DeGironimo, Mohawk Valley Water Authority
Steve Pollackov, GIS Consultant
Frank Winters, NYS GIO
Jim Daly, Suffolk County
Jason Baum, State ITS, GIS
Alan Leidner, NYC GISMO

Notes

Steve Pollackov raised an issue about the State's proximity (Bluetooth) contact tracing application. He said there was no place to put in a negative test result. Others agreed that entering data into the application was difficult.

One meeting attendee reported that he and his wife had tested positive for COVID. Their cases were mild. The sequence of actions included:

- Monday: First flu like symptoms experienced at work
- Tuesday: Took day off
- Wednesday: Got tested
- Saturday: Received positive test results
- Sunday: Contacted by State contact tracers
- Wednesday: Contacted by County contact tracers
- Currently: COVID free and out of quarantine

Jason Baum reported that the Capital region registered 4.7 positivity and that the Albany area registered 5.4. These are the highest numbers experienced so far. Hospitalizations are at a record high.

Attendees thought the higher number of cases across the state were the result of:

- COVID fatigue and complacency
- Group gatherings including Halloween with Thanksgiving cases still to come
- Cold weather forcing people to gather indoors to socialize
- Increasing numbers tends to cause an upward spiral of new cases

Frank Winters reports that ESRI is providing NSGIC with a presentation on vaccine distribution tracking on Thursday December 3rd. Pharmacies and medical offices are in ESRI's workflow. Link to the presentation has been shared by Ross with Regional Committee members.

Alan gave a report on recently introduced NYC GIS Legislation to amend the City Charter and provide for a City GIO based in the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DOITT); the forming of a GIS Steering Committee made up of Agency GIS Directors and others; and the development of a GIS Strategic Plan. Councilmember Steven Levin introduced the legislation along with Councilmember Robert Holden (Chair of the Technology Committee) and Borough President Gale Brewer.

Frank reported that micro-cluster information now available from the State in PDF format will become a map service when the finished application is authorized to be activated by State officials. Jason reports that ESRI is providing a link to this data now. A link will be provided to Committee members.

Jim Daly asked about how to build a database of businesses to help manage public complaints of non-conformance with state and local rules about gatherings.

Frank reported that information on retail businesses across the state in yellow, orange and red zones are being compiled by State GIS staff. Information including liquor licenses (50,000 active) and other regulatory and descriptive data are being collected. This information is available on the NY Open Data website. Geo-Jason files can be downloaded from the Socrata server. Frank acknowledged the value to COVID operations of data about businesses. Another source of business-related information is the State's Data Express site and the CIRIS portal.

Frank reports that the State uses Info Group business data. Data can be bought and is priced by the number of businesses requested. This data is good at registering new businesses, but not so good at taking away those that have gone out of business.