



*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**LONG ISLAND LEADERS CALL ON NEW YORK STATE TO
ADJUST REOPENING METRIC**

Long Island economy could restart quicker if metric adjusted for population size

(May 21, 2020) – The 13 Long Island Town Supervisors and two city leaders announced a joint request to New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo to adjust the “Decline in Deaths” metric, a key piece of Long Island’s delayed reopening. The current requirement for declining regional deaths sets a disproportionate standard for Long Island when compared to its upstate counterparts. If this metric was adjusted for population, Long Island would meet the metric as it stands and be able to enter Phase I of reopening. This request was first proposed by Southampton Town Supervisor Jay Schneiderman during a recent Suffolk County Supervisors Association meeting.

“All regions of the state should be on a level playing field when it comes to deciding when they’re ready to reopen, but one metric is fundamentally unfair to more populous regions like Long Island,” said Southampton Town Supervisor Jay Schneiderman. “If this metric were adjusted for population we would already be meeting it.”

Suffolk County Supervisors

Babylon - Rich Schaffer, Chairman of
Suffolk County Supervisors Association

Brookhaven - Edward Romaine

East Hampton - Peter Van Scoyoc

Huntington - Chad Lupinacci

Islip - Angie Carpenter

Riverhead - Yvette Aguiar

Shelter Island - Gerard Siller

Smithtown - Edward Wehrheim

Southampton - Jay Schneiderman

Southold - Scott Russell

Nassau County Supervisors

Hempstead - Donald Clavin, Jr.

North Hempstead - Judi Bosworth

Oyster Bay - Joseph Saladino



Examining the Metrics Being Used for Long Island

May 21, 2020

Hon. Andrew Cuomo
NYS Governor
NYS Capital Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Thank you for your leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. As Supervisors of the Long Island Region we applaud your efforts to protect public health. We recognize that there are difficult choices to be made and far reaching impacts associated with those decisions. We are all looking forward to reopening our economy and we appreciate that you are using science and objective criteria to determine which regions have met standards for Phase 1 re-opening.

The Long Island Region is striving to meet all seven metrics. One of the unmet metrics namely, Decline in Deaths (Metric #2), has proven challenging for our region. This metric may be met in one of two ways - by 14 days of declining COVID-19 hospital deaths on a 3-day rolling average, or 5 or less deaths per day on a 3-day rolling average. All of the regions now in Phase 1 relied on the second standard (5 deaths or less) to meet Metric #2. None of them met the first standard (14-day continuous decline in deaths) at the time they entered Phase 1.

I am sure you would agree that every region needs to be held to the same standards. The science regarding COVID-19 does not change whether you are in the Western New York Region or the Southern Tier Region. The issue with Metric #2 is that each region has a different population. It is easier for a region with a population of 500,000, like Mohawk Valley, to meet the criteria of 5 or less deaths, than it is for a region like Long Island with nearly 3,000,000 people. In other words, regions like Mohawk Valley or North Country are allowed one death per 100,000 people while Long Island is allowed one death per 600,000 people. If the same rules applied, one death per 100,000 people, our region would easily meet the criteria (we are currently experiencing a death rate of 1/200,000).

Suffolk County 
Supervisors
 Association

Region	Population	Criteria #2 – No more than one death per
Finger Lakes	1,200,598.00	240,117.80
Southern Tier	717,961.00	143,592.20
North Country	431,319.00	86,263.80
Mohawk Valley	505,092.00	101,018.40
Capital Region	1,058,478.00	211,695.60
Western NY	1,417,224.00	283,444.80
Central NY	711,502.00	142,300.40
Long Island	2,834,000.00	566,800.00

The public health impact of this pandemic has been enormous. Every life lost is a terrible tragedy. We have all modified every aspect of our society in order to significantly reduce the incidence rate of COVID-19. The social and economic impacts have also been enormous. We believe that our region is ready to enter Phase 1 re-opening which would allow certain activities to resume including construction and limited retail.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Suffolk County
Supervisors
Association

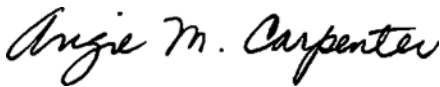
Sincerely,



Rich Schaffer
Supervisor, Town of Babylon
Chair, Suffolk County Supervisors Association



Chad A. Lupinacci
Supervisor, Town of Huntington



Angie Carpenter
Supervisor, Town of Islip



Edward R. Wehrheim
Supervisor, Town of Smithtown



Edward P. Romaine
Supervisor, Town of Brookhaven



Yvette Aguiar
Supervisor, Town of Riverhead



Jay Schneiderman
Supervisor, Town of Southampton



Scott Russell
Supervisor, Town of Southold



Peter Van Scoyoc
Supervisor, Town of East Hampton

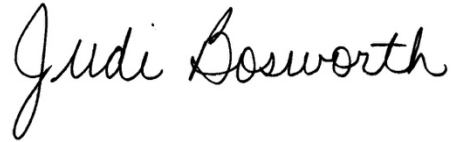


Gerry Siller
Supervisor, Town of Shelter Island


Suffolk County 
Supervisors
Association



Donald X. Clavin
Supervisor, Town of Hempstead



Judi Bosworth
Supervisor, Town of North Hempstead



Joseph Saladino
Supervisor, Town of Oyster Bay