Pandemic and Elections News Flash

As part of our effort to provide you with the most up-to-date, accurate information, we've compiled some of the most pressing updates below. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or if we can be of any further assistance.

Mayor de Blasio Announces New York City's Public Beaches and Pools to Open on Time for Swimming This Year [via Office of the Mayor]

Mayor Bill de Blasio today announced that the City’s outdoor pools and eight public beaches will open on time for the season. Beaches will open on Memorial Day Weekend on Saturday, May 29, and outdoor pools across the city will open the day after the last day of school on Saturday, June 26. Openings will follow heath guidance on COVID and safety protocols.

LAPD Use-of-force expert: "No force should have been used" once Floyd was handcuffed and prone on the ground [via CNN]

LAPD Sergeant Jody Stiger, a use-of-force expert, testified today that "no force should have been used" by former Minneapolis Police officer Derek Chauvin once George Floyd was handcuffed and lying on his stomach on the ground.

Asked why Chauvin's actions constituted deadly force, Stiger said:

"Because he was in the prone position, he was not resisting, he was handcuffed, he was not attempting to evade, he was not attempting to resist. And the pressure that he was—which was being caused by the body weight could cause positional asphyxia which could cause death."

Rudy Giuliani's Son Andrew Giuliani to Run for N.Y. Governor After Cuomo Ran State Into 'Ground' [via Newsweek]

Andrew Giuliani, the son of former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, recently announced that he plans to run for New York governor, saying that Governor Andrew Cuomo "has run the state into the ground." Giuliani said, "I plan to run."

Giuliani said that he thinks Republicans— who last won a New York gubernatorial contest in 2002— have a "very, very real chance to win" and that he would have the best shot "outside of anybody named Trump."

Giuliani also said, "Outside of anybody named Trump, I think I have the best chance to win and take the state back."

Cuomo Sees Blow From N.Y. Tax-Hike Plan Offset by SALT Repeal [via Bloomberg]

Gov. Cuomo said he expects the tax increases in his state budget deal to be offset by a repeal of the federal cap on state and local tax deductions.

Cuomo said he has spoken to New York's congressional representatives and President Joseph Biden, and "fully" expects a SALT repeal. When that happens, net taxes will be 37% lower, the governor said Wednesday during a press briefing.

"When you talk about this tax package you cannot talk about it without anticipating a SALT repeal," he said. "When SALT is repealed, the taxes will be going down."

'A moment of peril': Biden’s coronavirus response collides with case spikes [via WaPo]

The Biden White House is seeing new infections climb on its own watch—a potential crisis that could erase many of the hard-won gains of the president’s first 75 days, should the numbers keep rising.

More than 146,000 new cases were reported on Thursday and Friday, the highest two-day count in several weeks, according to state data tracked by The Post.

Biden also has no more sway than Trump over a mutating virus that scientists have only begun to understand.

Weakened Cuomo, Lawmakers Reached Deal on Massive $212 Billion
State lawmakers and Gov. Andrew Cuomo reached a deal on the state’s $212 billion budget Tuesday, agreeing to tax increases on wealthy New Yorkers and to create a fund for undocumented workers shut out of financial assistance during the pandemic.

Buoyed by a $12.6 billion infusion from the stimulus package Congress passed in March, the budget is New York’s largest financial plan to date. New York’s second pandemic budget arrived nearly a week past the April 1 start of the state’s fiscal year, after an embattled Cuomo and Democratic lawmakers disagreed on a multitude of issues.

The city launched a program to support New Yorkers who are struggling with the long-term effects of COVID-19 on Wednesday.

Long COVID, a collection of symptoms that develops during or following a period of a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, can persist for weeks and sometimes months afterward.

At least 10% of individuals infected with COVID-19 can develop long COVID, according to Dr. Amanda Johnson, director of the Take Care program under the Test & Trace Corps, which will lead the AfterCare program.

The city’s first vaccination bus is hitting the road to bring the potentially life-saving shots to essential workers.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said the initial mobile bus would start running in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, on Seventh Avenue between 53rd and 54th Streets, on Wednesday. More buses and locations will be announced in the coming days, de Blasio said.

President Biden plans to tout the “historic investments” that would be made under his $2 trillion jobs and infrastructure plan during a speech Wednesday at the White House complex, as he and his administration continue a sales pitch to the public and Congress for the sweeping proposal.

A third of COVID-19 survivors suffer from long-term brain or psychiatric disorders, scientists reported Tuesday.

Researchers studied more than 236,000 patients, mostly in the U.S., finding that 34% of survivors were diagnosed with a neurological or psychological condition within six months of infection. Researchers call it the largest study to date on the connection between coronavirus and brain health.

Former president Donald Trump said Wednesday that Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) had never asked him for a pardon in a statement in which Trump also noted that Gaetz has “totally denied” accusations of a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old that violated sex trafficking laws.

Trump’s statement came in response to a New York Times story that Gaetz privately asked the White House in the final weeks of Trump’s term for blanket preemptive pardons for himself and unidentified congressional allies for any crimes they may have committed.