



Governor Andrew M. Cuomo  
 New York State Capitol Building  
 Albany, NY 12224

**VIA EMAIL**

April 30, 2020

**Re: Please Publish the State’s COVID-19 Data as Open Data**

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write to ask you to publish as open data the tabular information the state has gathered about the COVID-19 emergency. This valuable public data is of great interest to researchers and journalists and will allow the informed public to contribute insights and analysis to the state’s effort to fight COVID-19.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to *tell* the public what is happening through daily press briefings, the online COVID-19 tracker and social media. We also wholeheartedly agree with the intent of your March 2013 Executive Order 95, which extols the value of open data in helping *show* the public what is happening.

Though the COVID-19 tracker is a valuable resource for those seeking local or demographic information about the virus’s impact, the state only provides a single dataset related to COVID-19 in its [open data portal](#). We ask that the state make COVID-19 public data available as downloadable, machine-readable open data, which will vastly expand the use and thus value of state data gathered at great public expense.

We think it is reasonable to expect New York to provide as open data information that several other states have provided (see attached chart), such as the following:

- Daily trends of fatalities
- Daily trends of hospitalizations

- Number of ICU patients who have tested positive for COVID-19
- Percentage of hospitals responding to COVID-19 patients

Some of this information has been provided in the Governor's daily press conferences, but none of it is available as open data. The state can fill the gap by simply providing the information in the tracker and state open data portal.

New York State's open data efforts have been ahead of the curve and Governor Cuomo's daily COVID-19 briefings have been rightly lauded. We ask that New York continue to lead by opening all COVID-19 datasets to the public.

Sincerely,

John Kaehny  
Executive Director  
Reinvent Albany

Noel Hidalgo  
Executive Director  
BetaNYC

Betsy Gotbaum  
Executive Director  
Citizens Union

Laura Ladd Bierman  
Executive Director  
League of Women Voters New York State

Daniel Bevarly  
Executive Director  
National Freedom of Information Coalition

Diane Kennedy  
President  
New York News Publishers Association

Blair Horner  
Executive Director

New York Public Interest Research Group