MURPHY: GOP should focus on COVID, not SCOTUS

BY DAVID NAVIAN Cape May Star

As New Jersey surpassed 200,000 cases of COVID-19 and the U.S. death toll from the coronavirus neared 200,000, Gov. Phil Murphy <ref>Phil Murphy</ref> warned Monday that the state’s near-record-high daily positivity rate of 2.57% is unsustainable and would undo decades of gains in public health.

“I think what is really important is that the public be fully aware of the situation,” Murphy <ref>Phil Murphy</ref> said. “We’ve built up the infrastructure and the expertise to battle the pandemic. But if we don’t come together, it’s going to undo the progress that has been made in the last two years.”

Right now the administration is facing the prospect of putting off certain COVID-19 restrictions and easing up on certain national policies. We are already seeing that the pandemic is continuing. The debate is not about small stature but a giant in hot air and in this nation’s history. Murphy lauded the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg before hammering Republican colleagues who are rushing to replace the late justice.

“Thank you for all your work to undo decades of jurisprudence. It’s a blatant and admitted attack on the nation’s constitutional system,” Murphy <ref>Phil Murphy</ref> said. “The future, it’s about reasoned and calm leadership. We’re right now trying to put a replacement into the Supreme Court. I think it’s all about compromising in the face of the future.”

That’s really a reality to me as first-term entered four years ago,” Murphy <ref>Phil Murphy</ref> said. “You can’t build a positive public policy by engaging in that type of rhetoric. Someone like Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, for example, was our nation’s leader on women’s rights. We have to do better. And I think we can.”

The state’s daily positivity rate is at 3.91%. That rate has jumped above 2 last week.

Murphy said the state tested as much per capita as virtually any state in America. The state’s health department, he said, would have 300,000 tests ready to go by Tuesday. The state now has 200,154 cases of COVID-19, after 99 new cases were reported Monday, Sept. 21. The first case in the state was reported on March 7.

The state’s coronavirus death toll is at 10,255. That’s an increase of one since Friday.

“We owe you the facts, full and forthright,” Murphy <ref>Phil Murphy</ref> said. “We’ve been very clear, when you’re feeling sick, you should get tested. And with 396 positive cases in a single day, we have the most robust testing capacity. The pandemic began on the day after the election. We have one month to make a difference.”

Murphy <ref>Phil Murphy</ref> said the state’s daily positivity rate is at 1.81 percent. That rate has jumped above 2 last week.

It’s also community spread, in part at least. Murphy <ref>Phil Murphy</ref> said.

“I think we’ve built up the ability to do testing and contact tracing and to get people tested and to get people back to work,” Murphy <ref>Phil Murphy</ref> said. “But what we have to do is we have to do more testing, more contact tracing, make sure that people are coming in for care.”

Murphy <ref>Phil Murphy</ref> also announced $150 million in additional funding to help families with child care.

Murphy <ref>Phil Murphy</ref> also signed an order to blast President Donald Trump for pulling the US out of the World Health Organization.

“I think I know what Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg would do in that situation,” Murphy <ref>Phil Murphy</ref> said. “She would have fought for the organization, for our physical and mental health.”

The pandemic fatigue

Dr. Persichilli said the pandemic, which has lasted for six months, is leading to what she called “pandemic fatigue.” Persichilli added that it could lead to people not wearing masks or trying other activities to calm the mind.

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