

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening, Los Angeles. This Monday is Memorial Day. It's a sobering reminder every year that this nation is not just our birthright, it is something that is earned by the sacrifices of those who came before us. And I know this Memorial Day will be unlike any that we have experienced before. We won't be able to get together with large groups of friends in backyards for barbecues. We're still physically distanced from so many people we love and who we know. Even this celebration that we have at the National Cemetery in Westwood every single year will be different. It'll move to online and to television. But one thing will remain the same, that we are proud of who we are.

MAYOR GARCETTI: That we are privileged to be all members of this American nation, and that we recognize those who came before us, who have paid the ultimate price and made the ultimate sacrifice for each and every one of us. We will tell their stories this weekend. We will lift up the causes for which they died. And we will live our lives so that we know that they didn't die in vain. U.S. National Cemetery in Westwood is home to 90,000 fallen heroes. This is the final resting place for service members stretching all the way back to the Civil War. Los Angeles has given more service members to the war since 9/11 and has had more fallen heroes than any city in America.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Families on Memorial Day remember those who come from here in Los Angeles and Southern California and across this nation. People like Sergeant Joselito or Lito Villanueva who was killed in Balad, Iraq in 2004 by a sniper. He was born in the Philippines but came here as a baby and grew up in the San Fernando Valley. I know his family well and always remembered Lito because this isn't just about wars in decades and centuries past, this is about both the pride and the pain that families feel every single year on Memorial Day. And his family and every Gold Star family, I want to say, we are with you, we recognize the sacrifice you have all made and we remember our fallen heroes.

MAYOR GARCETTI: It feels like sacrifices in all of our minds these days as we continue to live with a changed world around us. But each day each one of us in this city, the largest city in the largest state in this great union, we continue to do the work to take action to protect ourselves, to protect our families and to protect our nation. We're not learning to--sorry, we are not moving beyond COVID-19, we're learning to live in a new reality. This virus has not gone away and it's just as threatening as the first day it was here. But we are getting smarter and we are getting stronger. The most important thing is to continue to be careful. I know it can be tough. The days stretch into weeks and the weeks have become months. But as we see positive steps forward, we know that this relies on our individual actions to keep our distance from people, to wear a face covering, to wash our hands, to make sure that you stay home unless you need to go out. And if you can keep doing that, keep staying safe, our city will keep taking steps forward as we've been doing almost every day for the last three weeks.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I know Angelenos want to return to cherished spaces and places, and I believe we can return there responsibly. And that's why I can announce a few steps forward tonight. We are going to be opening city parking lots at Cabrillo and Venice Beach as well as our bike paths. This is in addition to the county opening paths and lots at partial capacity at Dockweiler, Will Rogers, Zuma and Surfrider Beach. Our beaches have already been open, of

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course, to active recreation like swimming and surfing and running and walking, and now biking is allowed once again. But we want to prevent crowds so even during this holiday weekend, don't gather with others or sunbathe, don't play group sports and concessions food vending in the Venice pier and the sports facilities at Venice Beach remain closed for the time being.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Beaches are so an iconic part of who we are, of that LA landscape. It's part of our identity as a city and kind of our postcard to the world. And the same can be said of the Los Angeles River, that place where this pueblo turned into the metropolis we are living in today was first founded. Throughout my time in city government I've made the revitalization of our river a priority, cleaning up the water, building paths, having pocket parks that we've brought for two decades now forward. And like so much during this pandemic, we've had to stay away from the river as we've stayed safer at home.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But tonight thanks to our progress I'm also announcing that we will open two recreation zones along the LA River starting on Monday on Memorial Day. Now you'll be able to walk and bike by the river as long as you wear your face coverings and follow physical distancing protocols. And while water activities like kayaking are still not permitted and swimming remains prohibited as always, area parks, trails, bikeways will be open, and if you want more information, you can check out lariverrecreation.org to learn about those openings.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In addition to these new spaces, we're also opening new businesses to get our workers back to work. We need our businesses to stand up, we need our workers to have paychecks. And now stores at indoor malls can offer curbside service to their customers. Shoppers will not be able to enter the malls yet or the stores inside the mall, and we're recommending the malls create specially clearly marked outside pickup zones where shoppers can collect their orders and maintain physical distance. But now we've opened up all retail shops for pickup and delivery: manufacturers, grocery, drug, hardware stores, construction and restaurants remain open for pickup and delivery. Businesses can find out more information of the safety protocols, you need to have to protect your clients and to protect your workers at coronavirus.lacity.org/business.

MAYOR GARCETTI: For anyone wondering why we feel confident in taking these steps, it's because we've conducted regular inspections of curbside retail efforts in recent days. We've seen excellent compliance, a surefire sign that Angelenos are following the rules, making responsible choices and adapting to this new reality. And I thank you for that. Every time we open businesses and new activities, we are always careful. We remain focused on keeping you and your family safe. To meet that charge I announced our Slow Streets Program where we are temporarily restrict traffic flow on certain roads so that people can walk and bike and skate and take out strollers just a little bit more safely.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We've started this program in two locations on the West side thanks to Councilmember Mike Bonin, and everything went as planned. Residents took advantage of the extra space and no crowding was observed. With this good start we're expanding this program. Two more sites in Eagle Rock and Mid City. And as long as things go well, we look forward to bringing Slow Streets to more and more neighborhoods throughout our city. Already more than

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175 groups have applied to get their neighborhood into this program, and you can learn more we're working quickly to approve projects and programs and you can go at ladot.lacity.org/slowstreets to sign up for your neighborhood too. I'm also excited to announce that car parades are allowed, and while restrictions are in place and you cannot ride with others outside your household, this is another way we can safely celebrate birthdays, holidays and graduations for the class of 2020.

MAYOR GARCETTI: As always, every decision we make is rooted in science and together with industry. It is science and industry and science and those who run public spaces and places from our schools to our parks that will make the decisions together, not from one place, not from city hall out, not from the county out. This is something that is being done collaboratively across our county. So let's turn to the data and have a snapshot of where we are this week compared to the last week.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Today the county reported 1,072 new cases, bringing the total to 43,052 cases, which represents a three percent increase since yesterday. One week ago we had 962 cases and a total of 36,025. A week ago we marked 6,198 new cases for the week. This week that total is 7,027 'till almost 800, well, more than 800 more than we had last week, but remember we're also doing more testing. In the city, there were 450 new cases today, bringing the total to 20,391 cases in the city of Los Angeles, a two percent increase and last week there were 395 cases on Friday and a total of 17,432 total. Over the past three weeks we have consistently seen about 6,500 new cases a week. It's a reminder this is still with us and still adding new cases.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Cases were slightly increased this week while deaths remains somewhat consistent at about 300 per week, showing us a somewhat stabilizing but still fragile curve. As we track these facts and figures, it's important to talk about how our rate of infection has changed. When we put the safer at home order in place, the county had an infection rate of between three and five. That means that on average every infected person infected three to five more people. That's why the spread was happening so quickly. That's why the danger was so close at hand. And if we didn't act, we would've seen many, many more deaths. Two and a half months later we have reduced our infection rate to about one. Dr. Ghaly at the county detailed that and showed how that is helping us all slow the rate of infection of the coronavirus.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This was possible because of you, because staying safer at home works. And as we begin to take new steps into a safer reality, we have to follow that number closely. I believe we can keep that number at one or maybe even down, even as we take steps forward, but only if we do them safely. Only if we know wearing a mask is an expression of love, expression of the freedom of what we can do, an expression that we want to defeat this novel coronavirus together. This is up to all of us. Today we learned of 35 new deaths countywide, bringing the total to 2,049 deaths, a two percent increase since yesterday. A week ago, on Friday, we had 47 new deaths and a total of 1,748. This week was a little bit more deadly than last week with 301 confirmed deaths, last week that was 291.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: We've also reached a sad milestone in the city of Los Angeles where we have now over 1,000 deaths, 1,001 deaths. For comparison we lost 57 Angelenos to the earthquake in 1994. This is something that has hit us all hard. And increasingly we know people who have been claimed by COVID-19. That number of neighbors and loved ones lost is the hardest to confront. It's made up of individuals of various ages, races, cultural and faith traditions, men and women who are different from one another in every way but one: How deeply they were loved and how deeply they are missed.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Among the Angelenos we've lost are those who stepped up to care for us. Our healers. We will be always grateful for their selflessness and for their sacrifice. And tonight I want to tell you about one of those people. Rosary Castro Olega, who was the first healthcare worker in LA County taken from us by this horrible virus. She died on March 29th at the age of 63. About a week earlier, Rosary had gone back to work as a nurse. COVID-19 had arrived in Los Angeles, just arrived, and the cruise that she was planning to take was canceled, so hurried to help. That's what she always did. In 2017, after almost 40 years as a registered nurse at Cedars Sinai, she retired to travel to spend time with family and friends. But she never stopped working as a traveling nurse. Rosary gave everyone her heart. Her door was always open. Her hand was always outstretched. She was a super fan of the Lakers and especially of Kobe Bryant. She often dressed in purple. And Rosary lived big. She was a daredevil who rode every rollercoaster, a person who loved to dance and who would always show up to a party no matter whether she was coming off a 12-hour shift at the hospital or not. Our city has lost an angel and we will honor Rosary by showing the generosity that she did, by acting to keep each other safe and healthy and sending all of our love to those who are grieving a lost one. Especially tonight in her family.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Her husband Mario, her three daughters Tiffany, Tatiana and Tricia and her five brothers and sisters. That's why we light this city hall blue every single night. It makes me so proud when I drive home and I can see this symbol of Los Angeles lit up for those heroes of Los Angeles that are in our hospitals and emergency rooms, our skilled nursing facilities, folks that are there for respite care, those who are in an ambulance and those who are in doing telemedicine. Each one of you is helping us. In honor of the nearly 100,000 people in the United States who've died of COVID-19, today I asked that all city flags be lowered to half-staff through sunset this Sunday.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We need to continue to make sure that our hospitals stay below capacity, and this has been a solid part of the last few weeks of my reports. It's critical to saving medical workers like Rosary and saving lives. So I'm proud to say that across the county in our general emergency hospitals we have 1,049 beds including 881 acute care beds and 168 ICU beds, and an inventory of nearly 1,200 available ventilators. Our hospitals, though, still need blood urgently. And so I want to ask you if you can, please donate. Help us with this current shortage. Go to redcrossblood.org to find a date and a time and a location that works for you. And local hospitals like Cedar Sinai are running blood drives.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Another way you can help to slow this spread is by getting tested with or without symptoms, free of charge. So if you have a cough and you don't know if it's just

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allergies or you've been around somebody who's been exhibiting symptoms, sign up for a test at coronavirus.lacity.org or call 213-978-1028. We have the capacity, this has 21,000 people in Los Angeles County every single day. Through last Friday we had tested 350,000 people. By the end of today that number will stand at 433,000 Angelenos who have been tested. That's 30 percent of all the tests in California. We are constantly working to reach more Angelenos and tonight I can announce that on Tuesday the city will open a new testing site at Dodger Stadium. And I want to thank the Dodgers.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This site isn't special just because of where it is and all those amazing memories we have of going to Chavez Ravine to see the boys in blue play. It's remarkable because we'll be able to test up to 6,000 people a day. That's three times larger than any testing site that we have. And we've designed the site to move as many people as quickly through that site as possible, alleviating long wait times and long lines. I'm so grateful to our partners at CORE who will have 60 staff on hand to help, to the Dodgers for making this space available. And Live Nation and Red Rock for donating the big screens that will footage of how to complete a test. So when drivers get to the front of line, they'll know exactly what to do and how to do it quickly.

MAYOR GARCETTI: That's the kind of partnership that makes up this city's LA love. We've seen it at every stage of this crisis. It's the spirit of generosity that we've seen as people donate to their local food banks or to the Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles. It's played an essential role in bringing meals to our seniors, providing shelter and services to survivors of domestic violence, to provide childcare for our first responders and hospital workers, and delivering financial relief to all Angelenos, including immigrants who've been hardest hit by the economic recession as a result. Some of those populations were written out by the feds but not here in Los Angeles. So to do our part, we rolled out the Angeleno card initiative. And so far, we've distributed more than \$12 million to more than 35,000 Angelenos. And we're on our way to distributing \$20 million to serve 60,000 Angelenos in the weeks ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We all know it's not enough. We have to keep doing more. Hundreds of thousands of neighbors need help, and every dollar we get with no overhead goes straight to another Angeleno in need. So if you can, please donate. If you can donate again, please donate. If you to mayorsfundla.org/angeleno you can donate today to help an Angeleno in need. And the generosity we've seen extends beyond individuals doing what they can. It's coming from some of our most iconic companies as well. As many turn to HBO to escape the reality of this crisis, this network is confronting that reality with a one-million-dollar donation to the Mayor's Fund. Thank you, HBO. And if you haven't gotten caught up on Westworld, it's a good season.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I want to thank their leadership for stepping up to the plate, and I also want to thank another company for a 500,000-dollar gift, the PepsiCo Foundation is focusing especially in African-American and Latino communities across America that've been disproportionately hit, they are donating \$500,000 to get more Angeleno cards into the hands of everybody here in LA. You see, we can only meet this moment and save lives if we're all in. I've always said this virus loves division and it hates unity. When we come together, we are armed to defeat and to continue to slow its spread, to be able to take brave steps, open up our

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economy and our spaces and places. When we're divided, it thrives, it shuts the door and we don't do things together, that's when this virus can move forward.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But in this great season of suffering and of loss as we face down this pandemic, we can return to the extraordinary heroes we remember and treasure on this Memorial Day, take a lesson from their legacy, commitment from their courage, inspiration from their willingness to put country before themselves. You know, we are a great country, but we are greatest when we are a good country, when we are good to each other, when we lay down sacrifices, whether it's in small ways now or the ultimate sacrifices that our service members have given us.

MAYOR GARCETTI: That's the American spirit and that's the LA story. And we can tap into this spirit again. I have no doubt, it will carry us through this daunting chapter today that we can end this horrible chapter with a good ending and start a brave new chapter together. So let's this weekend do our part. Let's make sure that we stay safe and stay healthy and whenever we can we stay home. And when we do that, we will see those continuing brighter days, those bolder steps and those sacrifices that have been made for those who come before us shine even brighter. Strength and love to each and every one of you in Los Angeles. And with that, I know it's been a busy week, let's take some questions. Thanks so much. First question, please.

OPERATOR: Our first question comes from the line of Claudia Peschiutta with KNX News Radio.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Claudia.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: Hi. I have a couple of questions.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: One, I'm wondering what your reaction is to this letter from the Justice Department saying that the actions you're taking, county officials are taking, are arbitrary and heavy-handed in terms of the stay at home orders, and I'm wondering how the city will respond to that. Also, earlier in the crisis you had mentioned something about painting lines on Skid Row to space out tents and, you know, now we've seen these circles and squares to space people out in San Francisco, so I'm wondering, you know, is that ever going to end up happening here in Los Angeles? Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure. I'll go backwards. I've no plans to do that on Skid Row the guidance we've done. I think over 10,000 wellness checks now out on the streets of LA for people experiencing homelessness. So that is, and it was something that was considered. I think they saw that in Las Vegas and for sorts of reasons, both public health officials, folks who are service providers and just the dignity of folks that didn't seem to be a best practice.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, I don't believe there is, but we are continuing to do aggressive testing on the streets, we are continuing to provide more and more hotel rooms as I announced this

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week. We are continuing to have our shelters at capacity and continuing to look for solutions on the back end, so people don't hit the streets when this is done. I'm committed to helping people who are experiencing homelessness not get COVID-19 and making sure that they don't just become homeless after this crisis as well. I know you didn't ask, but I want to update you in testing too because you've been very good about asking that and you've been right that there had been a backlog.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We expect to get back this coming week to test on this coming to a 30hour turnaround time. We had a lot of talks with our lab, they had a big push and it was taking, there was cases as much as like you said, over a week, but it was taking five to six days, that's too long. We had the lowest, we believe, in the country turnaround time of a big city with 30 hours. We feel confident or they have told us we can get back there this week now. They've made some changes and hired up.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The third question was the letter. Look, we're not guided by politics in this, we're guided by science, we're guided by collaboration. So talking to industry and talking to business owners, and talking to employees and labor groups, together with science and numbers will always guide us forward. There's nothing else. There's no games, there's nothing else going on, and that's the way we're going to continue to safely open. And I want people to shift their mindset from those of us who did the right things and were hardcore about closing. We're able to do this and save lives. Now, it's time for us to test things moving forward, and I think the proof's in the pudding. We've doing that, we've doing it safely and we'll monitor those numbers because people's lives are at stake. Thank you. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: Our next question comes on the line of Joseph Serna with Los Angeles Times.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Joseph, how you doing?

JOSEPH SERNA: Hi, Mr. Mayor. And thank you for the time. I just want to follow up on that question about the letter. Were you surprised at all by Dr. Birx singling out LA in her comments this morning about areas that are still seeing the virus spread? And do you think at all the targeting by the DOJ and the doctor on LA is political in all?

MAYOR GARCETTI: I'll that up to you, guys. I just know we're not guided by politics in this stuff, we're guided by science, we're guided by collaboration. And look, we follow these numbers very closely. I can tell you all the statistics where I think of major counties in America and I don't want to speak for the county. I'm the mayor of the largest city in this largest county, but we're I think ranked 82nd in terms of deaths, in terms of the cases that we have per capita. So we're nowhere near the top of the infection rates, the cases and the deaths. We have very steady progress as I've announced. Those numbers don't lie, each one of these briefings and as the county does, we've got the capacity, the ventilators, the beds available.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We've seen a plateau and we shared that data publicly with everybody about the seven-day average, it's holding where it is, which is dramatically different than where it was a month and half, let alone two months ago. So we feel confident about the measures, we've

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got testing above the minimum the state has established to be able to move forward. I know the county is hiring more and more people to do contact tracing and moving county workers. And we've offered city workers, which they're going to take advantage of to help that capacity. But right now, they're able to turn around the contact tracing. So look, we welcome, I always say when Washington, D.C. is talking about you, it's a good day because we could absolutely continue to use help. But I feel very confident where we are right now, and I'll let you figure out if there is politics behind things. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: Our next question comes to the line of Ray Carter with Los Angeles Daily News.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Ray.

RYAN CARTER: Hi, mayor. That's Ryan over the Daily News, thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Ryan, how you doing? As I got to know a Ray over Daily News but I'm glad it's you, Ryan. Go ahead.

RYAN CARTER: Thank you, sir. Thanks for the time today. I was wondering if I could just have you flash forward to the next big holiday, the 4th of July, and I kind of wondered if, you know, regarding this goal of getting the county's businesses and its churches and its malls and larger venues open by July 4th. I wondered about your vision for what the city of LA business and social landscape might look like by then.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, you know, I've learned over time that you have to be really careful in this crisis, that everybody's tuning in and watching, and then how things get reported, that people follow the smallest words that are said. In fact, when Dr. Ferrer said that of course there'd still be health orders in place for another three months, it got reported that everybody would be locked down, a phrase I've never used, by the way. We've never been fully closed, I'm proud that we had the construction trades continuing, that we had critical businesses open and that not everybody did lose their jobs. And we showed how to safely keep parts of the economy going even from the beginning of this while we bent the curve.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So that's still the vision that I see. Let us be smart, let us be guided by science but let us have the input and trust of and trust from industry. I know that, for instance, when I talked to leaders in the film industry and unions that represent the workers in the film industry, they cared the most about their members and their employees. They know their names, they're their friends, and so when they're coming up with plans, we should trust them, be flexible and give them the time to develop those and bring them to us. And if the state can sign off and the county can sign off, let's not wait one day longer than we have to.

MAYOR GARCETTI: At the same time, let's not be pushed by politics or some other reasons to go one day earlier than is safe because people's lives are at stake. And let's get smarter each day. I think that if we continue to focus where we see the deaths, especially in our nursing homes, I'm very, very proud as I said earlier in this week, that the city of Los Angeles out of 135 skilled nursing facilities, we've been in contact with all of them and already completed testing in 101 of those. I don't know if there's another city in America of this size that's done that well. We've surged that because of ire department tests that we found out there from UPS and Everlywell, we

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stand up, we go in there. If we hear about one case, we can surge it that day. We have to do more of that and have, you know, the state, and I know the county is doing a great job building that up. We can probably cut deaths in a half, more steps forward for the economy.

MAYOR GARCETTI: If we can do retail in a smart way, and I'm so sympathetic with a local clothing store that says, "Hey, we never stop allowing people to shop for clothes, they just get to do it at Target, at Costco, why not on the Main Street?" Amen. So let's figure out a way to do that safely, and I commit my city departments to help businesses make sure that they have the proper spacing and ventilation, that they can get the PPE they need for their employees, learn maybe how to do contactless payments, etcetera. So we're really, I've 12 different working groups that are listening to different industries and different sectors because it's not just the private sector, it's things like schools and recreational spaces.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I'd like to see us just keep moving forward. Last thing I'll say is I know that in the county one, Kathryn Barger said, "Sure, it'd be nice if by July 4th things were open," but nobody said the county is planning to "open up" all the doors to everything on July 4th. Let's keep taking steady steps, let's keep being guided by the science, let's keep listening suffering that is out there of business owners and employees. And I think that we in Los Angeles have shown how to balance those, manage them, and have the tripwires that if things get bad and they could not because we're not doing everything right, but just the way viruses work, we know now what to do to save lives. We can do that quickly if necessary, but otherwise we can keep moving forward. I hope that answers it, Ryan. Thank you. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: Our next question comes to the line of Elizabeth Chou with LA Daily News. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Liz.

ELIZABETH CHOU: Hi, mayor. So a question regarding the Judge Carter's order. He said to move ahead with it despite objections from the county and also what the city saying, can we have two more weeks and if it goes into effect, then can you stay the other while the appeal is being reviewed? And I was wondering, could you give a reaction to the judge moving forward anyway and what the implications of all this might be for the city and the county. And also, I guess just one more thing related to that, he commented that this agreement between the city and the county on funding appears to be primarily a minor disagreement, and so things could be moving forward. So I was just wondering if you agree with that characterization, a big disagreement of being minor.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yeah, thank you, Liz. Look, as I've said each night live when asked about last Friday when the minute order came down and then on Tuesday when we talked, I love this judge, you know, I love his impatience, I love his focus, I love his passion, and I love that he is offering the broad shoulders of the federal court to continue to build on the progress that we've laid down here. The two largest measures in American history before voters from homeless services and homeless housing of which thousands of units are opening this year and breaking ground this year for the next two or three.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: The services that have come in from the county measure H, the federal assistance that has come in in a FEMA-like way as I called for two years ago, which is allowing us to spend FEMA dollars to house people experiencing homelessness together with state funds under this great governor who prioritizes homelessness. And has said, "We'll spend money and match that here locally." So I don't know actually of disagreements between the city and county. You know, I talked, for instance, to one county supervisor today who has a piece of property here near downtown Los Angeles and saying, "Can we partner together to build some housing in the next few months at a very low cost so that when people move out of hotels they have a place to go?" And we're going to do that together.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I've talked to each of the five supervisors, and they a 100% want to see that move forward, and we do too. So on Wednesday we submitted how the city could do that, the county I know is going to take up this week as well. And I love that it's not just focusing on the people that are moving into our shelters and moving into our hotel and motel rooms, but that it could expand to other areas like those who we see every day when we come on or off of the freeway who are all around our freeway on ramps and off ramps. We've to do it the right way; we have to do it in a humane way as the judge said. And we have to do it in accordance with the health directives that we have not to move people during COVID-19.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But the judge put that in the order, acknowledges that, and has been very consistent on the record about that. So I'm very optimistic, and I think all parties can come together. We've certainly said, "We're going to put some of our coronavirus relief funds into this area," the state is saying that they'll match local governments to do that, so that's lined up, and I know the county wants to do this as well. So they're going to work out the details about how and I think we're going to have a pretty historic partnership. And again under those broad shoulders of a federal court, this finally is a moment and we can see in Los Angeles not just baby steps, but I hope some bold steps out of homelessness. Thank you, Liz. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: Our next question comes to the line of Rumi Shah with Valley Star News.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, good evening. Are you there, Rumi?

RUMI SHAH: Hi, hey there. So I'm just wondering if you can talk about the effect of the pandemic on the budget for our community colleges, you know, LACCD, and should community college students be expecting lower class offerings or are you expecting lower enrollments? If there are any budget deficits, what is your office doing to address that? Thank you, mayor.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure, not thank you, Rumi. So the community college district is its own government with its own budget that exists outside the city government formally. But I've, with the chancellor and with the presidents and the board; we've done so pretty historic things together. For instance, to make community college free, not just one year but two years and here now you got a free laptop, you get free rides on Los Angeles DOT Dash buses and many other things that help students get through. So first thing I'd say, I know it wasn't exactly the question, students who are graduating, who are saying they're going to put college off, don't do it, please.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: Go to a community college even if some of those offerings may be online this fall, we need you to continue with your dreams. Your dreams are much bigger than this pandemic and don't let yourself be put a year or two behind or maybe never make it to college. We believe in you, I want you to go to college. Our community college district is extraordinary. It's not just the biggest, but one of the best in the country. But there's no question that they are in every level of government hard hits to budgets. I don't have the specifics for the community college district, but we have reach out saying how can we help especially those college promise kids which are the ones that were coming out of LAUSD who could least afford community college who now have it for free.

MAYOR GARCETTI: What can we do to help guarantee that they can get there? But I know they're reassessing right now and preparing for whether it'll be in person classes, whether it will just be online. So I think we'll know more about that in the summer, and my advice to the Community College District and to any school district is get ready to open, but let's wait and see what the state and the county allows. But I certainly hope that all of our children and our students even at the college level will get the chance to see teachers and each other face to face safely in the fall. Probably not in the capacity that we used to, maybe not with as many course offerings, but let's not fall behind, LA needs you. Thanks so much, Rumi. Next question.

OPERATOR: Our next question comes from the line of Gina Kolata with LA IFT.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Gina.

GINA KOLATA: Hi. So we're getting a question from a lot of readers about how they can figure out and weigh the rest of going out right now when, you know, even if they're wearing a mask a lot of people are saying that on the trails, on the beaches, maybe half or less people are wearing them, and I think people are a little bit concerned about that. And so I think the other thing people are wondering is they're still getting the message from health officials to stay at home unless absolutely necessary, but at the same time things are opening up. So what would you tell them to kind of think about when weighing that rift?

MAYOR GARCETTI: It's a great question because as I've said, we've never been in the black or white, we've never been fully closed and until, you know, we are out of the woods and health officials say, "This is over," we're never going to be fully back to normal. We're going to live in that grey. And some are more comfortable living further into those shadows and taking an abundance of caution, that's smart. We say physical distance whenever you can, wear your mask when you are out in public and coming in contact with people, wash your hands, and, you know, continue to make sure that there's space between you and other people.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So that's good guidance always, but we know that as more and more is permissible, more and more people will be out. I believe we can manage this, I believe we can get through this if we're smart. In terms of the mask question, we want to turn our city employees into helpers, not into folks that are cracking down and saying, "Okay, here is a ticket for not wearing a mask." But as I've said in previous briefings, you know, give masks to our city

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employees, whether they are park rangers or police officers or firefighters. If you see somebody without one, maybe we can help you get one. We've had great success doing that with people experiencing homelessness.

MAYOR GARCETTI: You see a lot of people who are experiencing homelessness who have masks now that we've given out tens of thousands of them on the streets. So be smart, take personal responsibility, we're going to continue those three E's of Education, Encouragement and Enforcement. But Enforcement would be in very rare cases for, you know, businesses that are clearly endangering people, people who are flouting the law way before things are permissible at state level. Those are times to bring enforcement, but really it's education and encouragement, and I'm so proud that LA has done that.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So how do you assess risk? We each have to do that on our own, but I think you look at the county dashboard, see where we are, listen to these briefings, and if we say things are stable and okay, I think it's okay to take a step forward. But don't dash forward, don't go crazy and stay out all weekend. Don't, you know, get as close as you can to as many people, don't go out without a mask. If you see people without masks, avoid them, every mask gone helps us a little bit more, the more people, the more help. Hopefully we can get to everybody because that is the order, but it's also something that just saves more lives including perhaps your own. But I'll always in these briefings let you know where I think things are at, if it ever a red light moment, I'll say it, but I think we're now at a cautious green to take these steps forward. Thanks so much.

GINA KOLATA: Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: You bet. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: Our next question comes of the line of Sara Donchey with KCB.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Sara.

SARA DONCHEY: Hey, Mayor. Thanks so much for thanking to us, I appreciated.

MAYOR GARCETTI: You got it, always.

SARA DONCHEY: I know you briefly touched on this earlier, but I want to revisit that letter if I may really quickly.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure.

SARA DONCHEY: One of the allegations in the letter suggested that some of these lockdowns and the suggestion that they may last for another couple of months and stay at home orders, I should say more specifically, are unlawful. And we've heard in recent weeks from the Attorney General Bill Barr who had suggested that the Department of Justice will actually take legal action either on behalf of plaintiff to intervene with cities who in their minds have crossed the

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lines of legality. Can you address specifically why you feel that the city is acting lawfully when they issue these stay-at-home and stay-safe orders?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure. First of all, I'm bound by state law and I'm bound by county law. So there are things that we did early on where we could keep people safe, and I did where I can go further. But we can't accelerate beyond what the county and the state allows. Second, we will always be guided by science. We'll be guided by science and industry working together to figure out the steps forward. And the last thing I'll say is there is no, you know, city in the world that right now doesn't have some sort of orders and restrictions because we know this virus kills, full stop. Thank you. Next question. Is that it? All right.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I was told that was the last question. I'm going to move to Spanish, I want to thank everybody who has tuned in. Have a good safe Memorial Day, remember our fallen, remember these steps forward, do your part and let's keep walking forward. Each day, there's more sunlight, each day is brighter but each day who have to stay safe. Thank you all and have a great weekend.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Muy buenas tardes, Los Ángeles y gracias por venir. Este fin de semana es el día de recordación, y no podemos reunirnos como siempre. Pero siempre recordemos los héroes quienes han dado sus vidas para nuestra libertad. Y este mismo espíritu de sacrificio nos sigue guiando en esta crisis para lograr un futuro más seguro y más saludable. Yo sé que los sacrificios que han tenido que hacer para proteger a sus familias han sido difíciles. Estamos aprendiendo cómo vivir con esta nueva realidad. Este virus no se ha desaparecido. Lo más importante es cuidarse, mantener la sana distancia, lavarse las manos con frecuencia, quedarse en casa si no es necesario salir y llevar una cobertura facial cada vez que está cerca a otros. Si siguen haciendo esto podemos tomar pasos adelante cada día, cada semana, cada mes. Hoy estamos abriendo los estacionamientos en las playas Cabrillo y Venice, tanto como los senderos para bicicletas además de abrir los senderos y estacionamientos a capacidad parcial en Dockweiler, Will Rogers, Zuma y Surfrider Beach. También se permite montar bicicleta en las playas finalmente, pero aún no se puede tomar sol ni juntarse con otros ni jugar deportes en grupo.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Las tiendas en la playa siguen cerradas. Y esta noche también estoy orgulloso de anunciar la apertura de dos zonas de recreo alrededor del río de Los Ángeles empezando el lunes para que puedan disfrutar del río siempre con una cobertura parcial y sana distancia. Para más información de estos espacios cerca de nuestro río visita lariverrecreation.org. Hoy también estamos abriendo más negocios. Nuestros centros comerciales pueden ofrecer servicio de compras para llevar para sus clientes. Todavía no pueden entrar al centro y estamos recomendado que los centros determinen zonas donde sus clientes pueden recoger sus compras y mantener distancia. Ahora todos los negocios minoristas y restaurantes están permitidos de operar con servicios para llevar. Negocios pueden encontrar más información sobre protocolos de seguridad en la página coronavirus.lacity.org/business.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hoy también estoy anunciando dos más sitios participando en el programa Calles Lentas, Eagle Rock y Mid City, para que sus residentes disfruten de más

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espacio para pasear en sus vecindarios. Más de 175 vecindarios, grupos, ya han aplicado para participar en este programa, pueden aprender más y aplicar en la página ladot.lacity.org/slowstreets. También hoy estoy anunciando que se permiten desfiles de autos para que puedan celebrar de manera segura, sea un cumpleaños o una graduación delante de sus casas. Ahora les comparto los datos de hoy.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hoy hubieron 1,072 nuevos casos en el condado de Los Ángeles llegando a un total de 43,052. En la ciudad tuvimos 450 nuevos casos, llegando a un total de 20,391. Nuestra tasa de infección, un número que indica cuántas personas pueden infectar una persona, era entre 3 y 5 cuando empezamos la orden Más Protegidos en Casa. Ahora ha bajado hasta 1, este cambio es debido a sus acciones, felicitaciones y gracias. Mientras seguimos avanzando hacia una realidad más segura, tenemos que hacer todo lo posible para mantener esta tasa a 1 o menos. Y hoy supimos del fallecimiento de 35 personas más en el condado, llegando a un total de 2,049 muertes. Hemos perdido tantas almas en esta lucha, casi 100,000 en nuestro país, y para recordar y honrarlos, hoy he pedido que todas las banderas en la ciudad se baje a media asta.

MAYOR GARCETTI: En nuestros hospitales tenemos buenas noticias, 1,049 camas disponibles, entre ellas 168 están en las unidades de cuidados intensivos y tenemos 1,196 respiradores. Nuestros hospitales necesitan donantes de sangre de manera urgente, si está en buena salud por favor considéralo y visita redcrossblood.org para más información sobre cómo hacerlo. Hacerse una prueba también nos ayuda a frenar el brote, todos se pueden hacer una prueba gratis aunque tengan síntomas o no. Para hacerse una prueba, visita la página coronavirus.lacity.org/testing o llámanos al 213-978 1028. Tenemos la capacidad de hacer pruebas para 21,000 personas al día y para el final de hoy habremos hecho pruebas a 433,000 personas, un nuevo record.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Esta noche estoy contento de anunciar que abrimos un nuevo sitio de pruebas en el estadio de los Dodgers. Con este sitio podemos hacerle pruebas hasta a 6,000 personas al día, éste es tres veces la capacidad que cualquier otro sitio que tenemos. Gracias a nuestros socios por los Dodgers, Live Nation y Red Rock por su colaboración en esto y por demostrar el espíritu de generosidad de Los Ángeles. Este fin de semana en el día de la recordación celebramos el legado de aquellos quienes se dedicaron y sacrificaron para nosotros. Nos han ayudado a encontrar la fuerza para sobrevivir y seguir adelante. Quédense protegidos, quédense en buena salud y quédense en casa. Mucha fuerza y mucho amor, Los Ángeles. Hasta la próxima semana. Thank you.