

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening, Los Angeles and thank you for joining us this evening for the latest update on COVID-19 here in Los Angeles. And thank you as always for everything that you're doing in the most trying of times to save lives and to rebuild livelihoods. It's a pleasure to be here in the San Fernando Valley where I was born and grew up and to be here in Reseda, the Jewish Home for the Aging, which has been one of the pillars of our community for so many years of breathing hope and help back into lives of countless Angelenos. I'm joined here by some superstars, and I want to single one out who couldn't be here this afternoon, but who's been an amazing partner, Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, who together with his staff in Council District 3 have given so much support over the years to this place and had been such key partner in the work that we're doing to save lives and to save livelihoods. Thank you, Councilmember Blumenfield, to you and your team.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But as you can see, we have Chief Ralph Terrazas that's here with us, Assistant Chief Katie Kepner, and who's the lead on our mobile testing program as well as Dr. Noah Marco, a friend who's also the medical director here at the Jewish Home for the Aging. And before I talk about COVID-19, I just want to say something about our firefighters. This was a very emotional and tough weekend. On Saturday night many of you saw after the fire that we saw downtown, 12 of our brave firefighters had to go to County USC, some of them with what were critical injuries, and thank God I was praying the entire way from my house to the hospital, hoping it would not result in any of their deaths. Thanks to the great medical professionals, the courage of our firefighters, all of them are alive still today and we expect all of them to live. The toughest injuries there were surgery on today for one of our firefighters and that went well, and we now still have four that are hospitalized, three at County USC and one out here in the Valley. But we're doing everything to pray for their quick recovery.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The brave men and women of Los Angeles Fire Department put their lives on the line when we see fires like that. There was another large fire at 4:00 a.m. this morning at a fabric warehouse near downtown, and 112 firefighters responded, and fortunately there were no injuries. But you've also seen our firefighters on the line at our testing centers, something I wanted to talk a little bit about today and testing in general, as well as the ways we can save lives. Tonight we're going to talk about what we're doing to save lives, some new announcements of some openings, and also talk of always about the data that drives this.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But we also have to protect those heroes that protect us: Doctors and medical professionals, firefighters and others, and that begins with the decision we make, the decisions as individuals and businesses, as community members to reduce the spread of coronavirus and to save lives. Decisions that make sure that our first responders can roll out to fewer calls. Our doctors and nurses see fewer COVID-19 patients, decisions that allow us to get back more of those things that we cherish so deeply.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Now, as we begin to reopen more businesses and open more activities and spaces for us to be in, we must continue to do four things to stay safe, healthy, and secure and continue reopening in our city. First, stay safer at home. Second, keep practicing physical distancing. Third, wash your hands and sanitize surfaces. And fourth, wear face covering. It's that simple. These things unlock the possibility of more and more and more steps in the days to

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

come. The more of you that stay safer at home now, the less of us will have to say safer later. The more that you keep your physical distancing, the quicker we'll be able to return to even more spaces. The more you wash your hands as you enter your home, the faster we'll stop the spread.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And studies indicate that we could dramatically limit the spread of respiratory droplets by just covering our faces. So to everyone who's begun wearing a face covering in your daily life, I just want to say thank you. I know it's a change. For some it feels like an inconvenience, but they will make an enormous difference. These four actions including face coverings are part of a system to stop the spread of this virus, to give us back our city and our lives, to see a day in which people aren't dying and a day in which we're thriving throughout Los Angeles.

MAYOR GARCETTI: That's why tonight I can announce a few new businesses that we're reopening in the city of Los Angeles. Effective immediately, all pet grooming and training retail businesses and mobile services are allowed to operate. Customers will be able to drop off and pick up their pets outside the store, but like other retail that has opened, only employees can enter these shops, so you must give your pet to the groomer outside the store. Retail locations must adopt the county's retail protocols, and mobile services must adapt the county's physical distancing requirement and any mobile service provider should not enter a customer's home.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And additionally, we're now opening all car washes, and they must adopt also the county's retail establishment protocol. We've previously allowed only automated and self-service washes. All of these protocols are easy obtainable, you go to coronavirus.lacity.org/business. These are really important steps forward, and data is a critical tool to guiding each one of those decisions. So let's check out today's data.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Today the county reported 1,183 new cases, bringing the total to just under 40,000 cases diagnosed here in Los Angeles, 39,573. This was a 3% increase since yesterday, and on average over the last seven days we've seen about 940 new cases diagnosed each day. In the city, there were 480 new cases, bringing our total to 19,020 cases, also a 3% increase. And today we learned of 76 new deaths countywide, bringing the total to 1,913 fallen Angelenos. This is a 4% increase since yesterday. Yesterday, we had a very low number and today a very high number, if you average those out, we're still staying steady, but this was today, at least in a 24-hour period, the second-highest number of deaths that we have seen.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So anybody who thinks that we're out of the woods, we are not. This remains as dangerous today as it was on day one. What has changed is we're getting smarter about how to combat it. And that's why we're asking you to wear a face covering when you're outside. If you figure out how to get to yes, help us say yes to more and take more steps forward by being responsible with our actions each day. Good news still in our hospitals, our county general emergency hospitals have 1,133 beds available, 938 of them in acute care and 195 of them for ICU beds. And we have an inventory of 1,321 available ventilators. That is good news, that meets many of the metrics that either of the state or nationally accepted standards allow us to say we can check that box off for now.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: But we want to protect the highest risk individuals so they don't have to go into hospitals, and I'd talk a moment about our mobile testing program in senior centers like this one. We're also meeting the challenge of this disease through Project Roomkey, which is our partnership with the State of California and the County of Los Angeles to get Angelenos who are experiencing homelessness off the streets and someplace safe in our hotel rooms and motel rooms across LA County. Tonight, I'm proud to announce that we've secured a second hotel in downtown Los Angeles where we know for four decades, we've had the highest concentration of people experiencing homelessness. This will deliver a 150 more rooms, as well as a hotel in Mid City that will provide nearly 100 rooms, that's 250 new rooms just today.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Together these additions have increased our overall number to more than 3,500 rooms countywide in the last six weeks, and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority has filled these hotel and motel rooms quickly, mostly within two to three days. I know there's an article today about how half of them were unfilled throughout the state, but I'm very proud here in LA County we're at very high occupancy and we're moving fast. When we talk about stopping the spread and saving lives, the challenge that's greatest is in skilled nursing facilities like this one right here. We see that borne out in the data, and I really wanted to talk to all of you about this tonight because as we get smarter in combating this disease, we can disproportionately save lives by focusing our efforts in places like this where we've unfortunately seen, not specifically here, but in senior nursing facilities a disproportionate number of those that we've lost.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Fifty-two percent of all of our deaths in LA County have been in institutional settings with most of those been in skilled nursing facilities. Early on in this crisis it became clear that many nursing facilities did not have the resources or the connections to be able to get the test to detect the virus and to prevent the spread. We had infection rates in some as high as 80 to 90% among residents in some facilities. The city acted quickly to address this threat, and on April 2nd we deployed the first LAFD rapid response team to bring testing straight to nursing facilities. And I want to thank Senator Henry Stern who contacted me on March 28th and said, "This facility needs help," and this happened to be the first place we rolled out to.

MAYOR GARCETTI: To get the job done after that first team, we added two more mobile teams and charged them with testing every resident and staff member at each skilled nursing facility in the city. It was mammoth task at the time but an important one, and as of today I'm also very proud to say that with three mobile testing teams we've completed testing at 101 of the 135 skilled nursing facilities in the city of Los Angeles with more than 25,000 residents and workers in these facilities tested.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We're getting this done through the power of partnerships. Early on we contacted those folks who run these facilities, but we needed to supply a steady set of tests to them, ones that they could use in these facilities. So thanks to UPS and Everlywell, the lab that had the tests and the company that could transport them for free, we were able to start rolling these teams out and rolling these tests out. And with the County Department of Public Health providing us with tactical information about where positive cases were coming from, as soon as

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

we heard, we'd surge over to those places. And with Dr. Noah Marco here at the Jewish Home working with the city, we began to identify facilities in need of testing.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Now, some facilities have been reluctant to conduct testing or told us they're doing testing through private resources. So I required through an emergency order, the first big city in America to do this, that all skilled nursing facilities in the city of Los Angeles had to conduct testing for all residents and workers at least once per month. And the order also required that facilities have to deliver notices of that testing date to all residents, to all workers, and any member of the public, press or government who asked for it. This up-to-date notice must also be publicly displayed at the main entrance of each facility to ensure accountability.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I want to thank Dr. Noah as well for his advice on this. Skilled nursing facilities may request testing kits from our city's LAFD rapid response mobile team if they cannot provide them on their own. We'd like to see folks be able to do them on their own, that's the goal, but if you can't we're here for you. So please go to coronavirus.lacity.org/testing and scroll down if you are a skilled nursing facility and we'll roll our teams out to you. As a reminder to all Angelenos, anybody can get tested. There're more than 30 testing locations across the county, doesn't matter what city you live in or what part of the county, it doesn't matter whether you have symptoms or not. Today we have the capacity to test 21,000 people a day. The threshold metric for opening more up is 15,000 a day for LA County. So we are able to do that each and every day, another checkmark for opening more up.

MAYOR GARCETTI: By the end of today, we'll have tested nearly 400,000 people. It's a staggering number, and I have to thank my brothers and sisters in the fire department, all the volunteers and corps and everybody else who's helped. We're trying to get a couple of hundred tests at the beginning of this in a week, now we're nearly at 400,000 tests, nearly equivalent of 10% of the population of LA City but that's countywide. So to get tested, go to coronavirus.lacity.org/testing or call us. If you don't have an internet connection, call us at 213978-1028 or after 5:00 p.m. you can just call 311.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Being here at the Jewish Home for the Aging isn't solely about highlighting these bold actions to protect the Angelenos. And nothing makes me sadder when I hear people say, "Oh, mostly who is dying are people who are already sick and old." These are lives and these are our family members. These are critical people who have so much to still give to their families, to this city, and to our world. Nobody is disposable or dispensable. And it's a reminder here that everything we do is rooted in our commitment and our values as Angelenos, that we care for our seniors and our most vulnerable, that we look when immigrants are left behind by federal legislation, that we look at a disproportionate death rate in the AfricanAmerican community, that we see our seniors and people who are sick already and we protect them, that we look at those people experiencing homelessness and we give them masks and tests on the street and offer them beds to come off of the streets. This is who we are, Los Angeles. This is what we are about. And this will be the chapter we write together.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And that's what you have the power to do every day when you stay, when you wear your mask, when you wash your hands, when you physically distance. You can

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

save lives, so keep staying healthy, keep staying safe and whenever you can, keep staying home. As always I want to wish you strength and love, and I'm going to turn it over now to LAFD Chief, Ralph Terrazas who say some words and introduce Assistant Chief Kepner and Dr. Marco. Chief.

CHIEF RALPH TERRAZAS: Thank you, mayor. First thing I want to say is thank you to the outpouring of support, to all the people from around the world, from throughout the country and the region regarding the safety and well-being of our firefighters that we injured last Saturday. Now to the topic at hand. We've been partnering with Mayor Garcetti since the start of this COVID pandemic. We focused in four primary areas. The first area has to do with our ability to set up test sites for drive-thru testing. We now have eight sites throughout the city. Initially it was staffed completely by firefighters, but with the arrival of the CORE organization led by actor Sean Penn, we've been able to transition to a volunteer model, and I must say that the volunteers from CORE are doing an outstanding job.

CHIEF RALPH TERRAZAS: The second area has to do with providing testing and training at retirement homes and skilled nursing facilities. As you heard the mayor say, we're almost completely done with going through the inventory that are located within the city. The third area has to do with people experiencing homelessness. When we were tasked with the mission to provide testing to that population, we set up a model and located it within Skid Row. It has become very successful. We've been able to streamline that and we're now able to take on the road to go to other areas of the city where we can test people experiencing homelessness.

CHIEF RALPH TERRAZAS: The last area has to do with testing of first responders. We have been managing the testing of our firefighters and our police officers. Next week we'll be ramping up that testing to our recruits. We have 75 recruits starting our drill tower training academy. That's a 22-week process. We'll be testing them weekly to ensure that they stay healthy. No matter the cause, no matter the reason, whether it's a fire or health crisis, the men and women in Los Angeles Fire Department are to step up and do whatever is necessary to protect lives and property for the people within Los Angeles. And for that capability I'm extremely proud. Now I'd like to introduce somebody who has more detail about our testing. Her name is Assistant Chief Kady Kepner.

KADY KEPNER: Good evening. On April 7th of this year myself and Chief Fortman received a phone call from the mayor's staff saying that he would like us to implement a rapid response mobile testing group to test some of our most vulnerable population: residents and staff in our skilled nursing facilities. This was something that had never been done, so we have to take a very innovative approach as there was no standard operating guideline. We immediately called in Chief Linda Cessor, a battalion chief with our department, who developed a six-member team within one day, six members from our Los Angeles Fire Department that were dedicated and hardworking and were ready to go implement this process within one day.

KADY KEPNER: The very next day we went to our first skilled nursing facility to help facilitate testing. As of today, six weeks later, we have a team of 25 people and a huge collaborative effort. Of those 25 people, we have individuals from the mayor's staff, the LAFD,

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

the LAPD, our disaster service workers and, of course, the CORE organization who has come in to help in all facets of the testing. With that group of 25 team members, every day we are able to make contact and help facilitate testing with multiple skilled nursing facilities.

KADY KEPNER: You heard that there are 135 facilities in Los Angeles City and we've made contact today with every single facility and are in some phase of the process with each of them. So it's been an honor, truly, to be a part of this mobile testing group and what we've developed and what Chief Cessor has developed. She has really streamlined the system so that we can get skilled nursing facilities registered and tested within 72 hours, and often within 24 hours. It's our responsibility to get the information of who needs to be tested, register them into the system and then our teams go out to each facility, bring them tests and train them on how to properly administer these tests to everybody that needs it in the facility.

KADY KEPNER: We go back and we pick up these tests within the next few days, transport them directly to the lab and get the result as quickly as possible for these individuals. And testing them one time is not the only thing we need to do. As the mayor stated, it needs to be ongoing, so what we also do is set them up with Everlywell and UPS, so after our immediate response testing they can then get ongoing testing monthly for each of their staff and residents that need it because we understand that if one test comes out negative, that doesn't mean that next will, and we need to catch it as soon as possible so that we can be proactive. So thank you very much. Next up will be Dr. Marco for speaking for the Jewish Home of the Aging.

DR. NOAH MARCO: Thank you and welcome to the Los Angeles Jewish Home. We currently have 1,650 staff serving over 1,200 older adults with the average age of almost 90 years old. In February, we recognized that our population would be particularly susceptible to the coronavirus disease and initiated our disaster planning drills. This was well before the federal government initiated it as a federal disaster. As national efforts to contain the coronavirus sputter with insufficient supplies, insufficient testing and mixed messages from government leaders, we launched our comprehensive plan to protect our patients and our staff. We are so grateful to Deputy Mayor Jeff Gorell who contacted me on a Sunday and asked if I would partner with the city to offer testing to the seniors in our community.

DR. NOAH MARCO: Our testing program, as the mayor said, began on APRIL 2nd, and we've been using both the Mobile Testing Program from LA Fire Department and the testing kits that we got directly from the mayor's office. We've tested 1,455 of our staff and 685 of our residents. Those numbers constitute all of the staff and residents who provide care and live in our nursing facilities. Our focus for these tests was to test those that were not displaying the disease, not displaying the symptoms of the disease. Like many others, we knew that the virus is brought into facilities like this from the staff who are asymptomatic and living in the community and then spread it in the facility by the asymptomatic residences.

DR. NOAH MARCO: So the tests provided to us from Mayor Garcetti allowed us to find 12 asymptomatic staff and 4 asymptomatic residents. Because of our testing efforts and our focus on infection-prevention, we've had only a total of 19 confirmed infections in our 1,200 residents. Regrettably, we've had three deaths. May their memories be a blessing. The Joyce

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

Eisenberg-Keefer Medical Center right behind me has 225 residents, and only one of them turned positive for COVID-19 and she was picked up by asymptomatic testing and she has done well, survived the illness, and is well on the road to recovery.

DR. NOAH MARCO: Our experience, like the experience of so many other programs that test, proves that nursing homes don't have to be death pits. We encourage all facilities to follow Mayor Garcetti's orders and test their staff and their residents. If test kits are available, and they are becoming more and more available, not testing your residents and not testing your staff is medically unethical and just plain wrong. Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you, Christopher, and thank you so much to Dr. Marco. Thank you to our incredible fire department and thank to all of you. With that I'll be happy to answer questions and I'll do my Spanish remarks as usual. Yeah, nice to see a reporter in the flesh. Thank you for being the pool reporter. Great, super.

REPORTER: First up, you talked with the firefighters--

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yeah.

REPORTER: --and you (unintelligible).

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yes. Everybody is expected to live. I think, we've said publicly there was one firefighter who had bad burns and today had surgery on those hands, others are still--everybody who is incubated has been excubated, so, we're optimistic and there's more that are still hospitalized. The other eight have gone home.

REPORTER: (Unintelligible). Is there any wrongdoing in terms of how they've been running the (unintelligible)?

MAYOR GARCETTI: I'm going to turn that over to the chief. There's an active and ongoing arson investigation. Obviously we can only share, we can share, but chief, if you want to address that?

CHIEF RALPH TERRAZAS: Thank you for the question. Yesterday I attended a briefing of the Joint Task Force comprised of LAFD, LAPD and ATF. They're out there on scene today. Cumulatively we have about 50 or so investigators on scene. They're going to be looking at every aspect of the incident. The fire itself, the video of the fire, of our firefighters coming down the area was very compelling, and I'm amazed that our people survived that. To your question directly, I don't have any information as to any illegal doings. I'm going to wait until the investigation is complete and then we're going to focus our efforts from the Los Angeles Fire Department to canvass the city to look for businesses of this type to make sure that they are in compliance with the fire code.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good afternoon. More questions for the chief before.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

REPORTER: (Unintelligible) this is from NBC Los Angeles.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure.

REPORTER: Mayor, the business that burned in downtown LA over the weekend (unintelligible) LA City firefighters (unintelligible) appear to be one of numerous unlicensed, unregulated marihuana-related enterprises (unintelligible) flammable materials yet none of the firefighters sent the report of smoke had any warning that hazardous materials were inside. What's to be done about that?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So I can't confirm yet, obviously, as the investigation goes on. I'm glad that we have ATF and others that are involved now. That said, we've made it a priority for some time to bring down as many of the illegal cannabis businesses throughout this city, both from a fair business perspective, a public safety perspective, and of course, as we've seen too, the skirting of the law can put more than those individuals in danger. This business is very lucky, we could have had dead firefighters as a result of what may have gone on in here, and I don't want to confirm yet what that is, but there is no question.

MAYOR GARCETTI: That's why we have a LAPD Task Force, Building and Safety, DWP and Fire Department who all have the ability, when learn about things, to take down--and I can give you the stats--we've taken down literally hundreds of illegal businesses related to cannabis. This has to be something that is licensed and regulated just as the legalization of alcohol in Prohibition was. This is something that is now legal, under state law, but that doesn't mean you can do anything. And as we've seen very tragically this weekend, the cost potentially of illegal activity, again, we need to confirm that, was firefighters nearly losing their lives.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, we can be rest assured the full weight of the law will be brought against this business, if we find any of those things out. And just know we have heroic people every single day that are taking down those businesses when we hear about them. Where we don't hear about them, it can be tough and that may be the case here.

OPERATOR: Okay. The next question comes from Cory (unintelligible) issued in order to provide housing to people living under LA's (unintelligible). What is your response to this (unintelligible)?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, I think during the last briefing people were saying the order existed and I was saying there was no order because it can literally come down during the press briefing. Let me just say I love Judge Carter, I love his energy, his impatience, and his courage. I found a kindred spirit in him who wants to address this problem of homelessness with the kind of not only passion and commitment, but speed that has been lacking. Things cost money, and I--many men know that I called for FEMA-like response to homelessness two years ago. Now in this FEMA response we are having with COVID-19, we finally have resources we've never had before.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: And so, we've been contacting him, discussing with him and the other parties the best way to use those resources. A better as they are, they are still not enough. So we this week and today with the county are in those discussions, submitting what we can do to not just help those folks come off the streets, but stay off the streets they are in hotels and motels first priority. And secondly, what he put out on Friday, we moved people away from the underpasses and overpasses of freeways where so many see the tragedy of homelessness, every single day we get and off of freeways.

MAYOR GARCETTI: That's very important for their health but I don't also want to spend tremendous resources moving people 20 feet when the health guidance is not to move people at all during COVID-19. I want to give offers of where people can move not 20 feet, but perhaps a mile or two and get into housing, get into hotels. So we are going to try to balance those two things, but love the passion, love the direction. I'll be speaking with Judge Carter directly, we have a good relationship, and I hope that this week we can come to common agreement about the next steps with all the parties including the oversight from the judge.

OPERATOR: Okay. Our next question comes from the (unintelligible). Mr. Mayor, the discussion that you're having with members of the (unintelligible) worship (unintelligible) measures. What (unintelligible) are you looking at (unintelligible)?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, I know everyone wants a date, it depends on the state, first and foremost. When the state says we are moving from one phase or have another step in another phase four, then we are able to do that in LA County. Then we have to wait for what LA County permits. For the city, this is the guidance I would give anybody from the state or the county that's asking. Obviously we know super-spreader events have happened at funerals, at religious services, at choir practice. It is among the most dangerous places where this virus thrives and can spread.

MAYOR GARCETTI: That said, allowing houses of worship to meet with people who are in dire times to have those kind of personal meetings just as when we open up finally hair salons and other places, barber shops, that will probably be the model, and I think Governor Newsom spoke to that, that the next step when religious institutions will be open, it won't be for mass services. But it would be for somebody to meet with their priest or their rabbi or their imam to be able to schedule time, to be able to get staff back into those facilities to provide many of the critical faith and spiritual and counseling services. So I think that's what's next before we are going to be back in church or synagogue anytime soon with a lot of people around us.

MAYOR GARCETTI: With all of these steps, I want to reiterate what I said. We want to go as fast and as safe forward as possible. And that's tough for a lot of people who have said close everything down. We did the right things to earn this plateau that we've had in cases, but we have to also realize the suffering that people have out there right now. But that shouldn't be an excuse not to do it the right way, so safe, fast and look at the data and where the numbers tick up, step back. Next question. Thanks.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

OPERATOR: This question comes from Steve Gregory from KFI News. President Trump (unintelligible) including shop commerce (unintelligible) that the mayor of Los Angeles did not want to (unintelligible) he said people like the LA Mayor don't understand there is deaths on both sides of this pandemic, of personal and professional.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yeah, it's funny to watch words that you didn't even say, not only be not accurately said, but be caricatured. Two weeks ago when the County Public Health Director Dr. Ferrer was asked about how long there would be a health order, she said at least you know, three more months. That got interpreted as everybody would be locked down for the next three months, which is not what I heard, not what she said, and she clarified that. Then I heard that I was the one that said it, and then it became a talking point that has gone, I guess all the way up to the commander-in-chief. Look, I want to thank him for the help that he's given us and members of his administration that has been critical at many critical moments. I never make these things personal, and when somebody is a president, I'm going to work with him or her, no matter who they are. At the same time, I'll call BS when it's BS and that's BS.

OPERATOR: All right. I got a few Spanish (unintelligible). Okay. This is from Claudia from KFI. (Unintelligible). So here's her question, she says, Chief Michel Moore's wife (unintelligible) said that you (unintelligible). What kind of message do you think it sends to the public when the chief's family would ignore rules. You and the chief are urging the public to follow. And then the second question is, if we continue to hear from people (unintelligible). LAPD says the average (unintelligible) five days. You said wait (unintelligible) How good is it that people are waiting (unintelligible).

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure. That's five or six questions. I'll try to get to as many as I can remember there. Asymptomatic, as we heard from Dr. Marco, testing is critically important. If we didn't do that here, we wouldn't have found, was it 16 people? I think? Four and 12--Yeah. 16 people here who could have killed other folks that live here. Asymptomatic testing is absolutely critical. Second, we are seeing those wait times come way down. A come of people who said they've gone the last couple of days and it was a three-day turnaround. But we want to bring those back down the 30 hours where we had them, so we are going to continue working with the laboratories. We wish that was solely in our power but that's not. That's with the laboratories.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Third is it's going to be important for us to mass testing where we need it here, and in senior nursing facilities. That's done separately, and those can take, unfortunately, longer period time. There's no good options out there right now for quick turnaround times, but we got it down to the lowest level and what I think we'll be able to return that we'd feel confident in the coming days, there's just been a little bit of a backlog. In terms of the first question, I'm not about calling people out, but yes, of course. It depends on all of us to make sure that we are abiding by the orders. That's the way we are going to stop the spread. We're never going to be 100% perfect, but we have to, and no matter who we are and no matter where we go, make sure that we are bringing and/or spreading this disease. These next months will be critical. If we can prove that we can live with COVID-19, easily but safely, we can keep taking steps forward. But that requires all of us to be marching together. Thanks. Next question.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

OPERATOR: Okay. (Unintelligible) we have Spanish questions.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Okay.

OPERATOR: (Unintelligible) This comes from Telemundo. Several fashion district (Unintelligible) downtown (Unintelligible) said they can't pay the rent because their businesses have been closed and have not made any profits. What do you (unintelligible)?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, I'll say in English and then in Spanish, the question was about fashion district businesses that are being asked to pay the rent. So we made sure that our moratorium on evictions wasn't just for residential renters, but also for commercial businesses. We knew this would be the toughest times for small businesses and don't get me wrong, I know landlords have also mortgages to meet, which is why it's very important the federal assistance give money to backs in exchange for that money being passed on to mortgage holders in exchange for rent being forgiven or financed to our renters, whether they're residential or commercial.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So my message to those businesses is you cannot be evicted. You still need to owe that, and you still need to pay, you have a period of time, three months, to be able to pay that off. In the meantime, if anybody is trying to illegally evict you, please contact us and we will let them know that that is not permitted under the law. And I know it's very tough for businesses out there. I hope to be rolling out a second round of small business assistance grants and/or loans from some of the coronavirus relief funds that we've had, and so look for that hopefully in the next couple of weeks together with Council President Nury Martinez, City Council as well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: En español, yo quiero decir unas palabras de esta pregunta de los negocios en el distrito de ropas en downtown. Todos los negocios en Los Ángeles hay una prohibición desalojo de evicciones no--este protección no solamente es por los inquilinos residenciales, pero inquilinos comerciales también. Y si tú tienes un dueño que está dando a usted papeles o otras cosas para un desalojo, este es ilegal. Y usted tiene tres meses después del fin de este crisis para pagar su renta.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Segundo, yo tengo programas para asistir las compañías, los negocios en Los Ángeles, y yo espero tener una segunda programa en estos próximos dos semanas para préstamos y para dinero directamente efectiva a los negocios de Los Ángeles. Yo soy un nieto de dos negociantes de negocios pequeños, un barbero y una persona, mi abuelo al lado de mi mamá, fue un tailor, un persona que tiene un negocio como estos en downtown Los Ángeles. Es una prioridad para mí para salvar sus compañías, sus negocios y también los trabajos en estes compañías también. Gracias. Next question.

OPERATOR: (Unintelligible) and so what do we expect the City of Los Angeles (unintelligible)?

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yeah. Before she is misquoted and then that goes to the next level and a senator or president misquotes her, it's really important to listen closely to what people say, Kathryn Barger was asked today when plans for the county strategies for reopening would be done, that was June 30th. Somebody asked about July 1st. She said, "I had hoped we could be open by then," but she didn't say we are planning to open there, that's a deadline. Look, we want to continue opening up things safely. At the same time, I can't tell you two weeks from now what the death rate will be. I can tell you two weeks from now, and I can make a good decision based on that, together with the county. But these are all aspirational goals, and I think we should avoid saying specific dates. We should look every couple weeks of where the data is and get ready to open. Do all the preparation work, be prepared to, but of course we hope, we hope for it to be tomorrow. We hope for it to be July 4th. We hope for it to be as soon as possible, but we have to ground that in the safest way to open up, not just the most hopeful one, so I listen very carefully. I love Supervisor Barger. She's been an amazing co-partner in this, and I know she was just saying, "Hey, we'd love to be open by then," but that doesn't mean the county is planning on that today.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I could come earlier, it could come later. And by the way, the idea of opening the economy up, this will be done in one fell swoop. That's never going to be it, it's going to be a series of steps. The county has been clear about that, the state's being clear about that, even our federal government has been clear about that. And there are not places that are wide open and others that are wide closed that are shut narrowly closed. Everybody has some things open and some things closed. It's how quick we can go according the data and the deaths in our community. Let me say that as well in Spanish.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Este día fue palabras de supervisadora Barger, y es muy importante tener apreciación en estas palabras. Ella dijo que fue su esperanza abrir más de la economía por el 4 de julio, el día de la independencia de los Estados Unidos. Pero este solamente es una esperanza, una meta, pero no es una decisión. Y en semanas antes de julio, nosotros abriremos más. Cada paso está basado en los datos, la información, los muertos, y no podemos dar una fecha específica, pero cada día nosotros podemos dar a ustedes la información crítica y las decisiones de este día, la próxima semana, etcétera. Este es muy importante porque las palabras de los oficiales, especialmente en el condado en esta dirección o esta dirección se ha reportado en una manera que no es la verdad siempre. Y con esto este es una meta, una esperanza, pero no es una fecha específica. Any other questions?

OPERATOR: That's it.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Okay. All right. Now I'm going to go to Spanish then. Thank you to everybody who's tuning in on English. I wanted all to say for those who are watching on Channel 35, Councilmember Krekorian's Town Hall, meeting for seniors is going to be at 9:00 a.m. It'll be televised 9:00 a.m. tomorrow 'cause I know some folks were tuning in for that. And thank you, Councilmember Krekorian, for your leadership as the budget chair as well. Let me speak in Spanish now and thank you to everybody in English for tuning in, we'll see you very soon.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: Muy buenas tardes, Los Ángeles, y gracias por venir esta noche. Es un placer estar aquí hoy en el valle de San Fernando, lugar de mi nacimiento. Y aquí en la Casa Judía para Personas de Tercera Edad en Reseda, en el corazón del valle. Y estoy aquí con el jefe del departamento de los bomberos Ralph Terrazas. La jefa asistente Katy Kepner, quien está liderando nuestro programa de pruebas móviles y el Dr. Marco, director médico de esta residencia. Hay un serie de pautas para mantener nuestra salud y protegernos. Primero, quédense en su casa lo más posible. Segundo, siga practicando la sana distancia. Tercero, lave sus manos. Y de último, cubra su cara.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Si toman estas acciones, lo más pronto podremos regresar a espacios públicos en el futuro, más trabajos, más sectores de la economía, más prosperidad, más libertad con estas acciones. Y los estudios indican que podremos mejor contener el brote con cubrir nuestras caras. A todos quienes han estado llevando cubreturas faciales, les agradezco mucho. Por eso hoy estoy anunciando algunos pasos adelante. Efectivo inmediatamente, servicios de peluquería de mascotas, paseos de perros y negocios para mascotas ahora son permitidos. Incluyendo servicios móviles. Nuestros mascotas recibirán cortes de pelo antes de nosotros, pero está justo.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Los clientes podrán dejar y recoger a sus mascotas afuera del negocio. Al igual que otros negocios, sólo los empleados pueden entrar a la tienda. Además ahora se permite la operación de todos los lavados de auto. Anteriormente sólo se permitirían servicios de express o autimizados. Las pautas para la operación segura de estos negocios se pueden ver en la página coronavirus.lacity.org/business.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Los datos de hoy. Hoy hubieron 1,183 nuevos casos en el condado de Los Ángeles, llegando a un total de 39,573 casos. En la ciudad tuvimos 480 nuevos casos, llegando a un total de 19,020. Y hoy supimos del fallecimiento de 76 personas más en el condado. Este es el segunda más alta número en durante este crisis, llegando a un total de 1,913 muertes. Este es el segundo número más alto que hemos visto hasta ahora. Estamos muy lejos de estar libres de este riesgo.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Por eso estamos tomando pequeños pasos hacia esta nueva realidad. En nuestros hospitales tenemos buenas noticias. Tenemos ahora 1,133 camas disponibles y entre ellas, 195 están en las unidades de cuidados intensivos. Y tenemos 1,321 respiradores disponibles también. Esta noche estoy anunciando, puedo anunciar que la ciudad ha logrado un acuerdo con un segundo hotel en el centro de Los Ángeles con 177 habitaciones, tanto como un hotel en Mid City que proporciona 92 habitaciones. En total, tenemos 3,500 habitaciones disponibles en el condado para nuestros vecinos sin hogar.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Al principio de esta crisis era muy claro que las residencias de ancianos estaban en riesgo y que no tenían los recursos para detectar el virus con suficiente tiempo para intervenir. Tomamos acción inmediata. Desplegamos el primer equipo de pruebas móviles para proporcionar pruebas a las residencias de ancianos que han tenido brotes. Hoy tenemos tres equipos de pruebas móviles. Y han completado pruebas para 101 residencias. De en total de

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

135 residencias en la ciudad de Los Ángeles. Y más de 25,000 residentes y empleados han recibido estas pruebas.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Establecimientos de enfermería especializada pueden solicitar kits de pruebas de la ciudad en la página coronavirus.lacity.org/testing. Y les recuerdo que todos se pueden hacer la prueba aunque estén enfermos o no. Tenemos la capacidad de hacer pruebas 21,000 personas al día, y para el final de hoy habremos hecho pruebas a 392,000 personas en la ciudad y condado de Los Ángeles. Visita coronavirus.lacity.org/testing o llámanos al 2139781028 o al 311 después de las 5:00.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Estar aquí hoy nos recuerda que todo lo que hacemos es parte de un compromiso profundo de cuidar (unintelligible) y a nuestros residentes de la tercera edad y los más vulnerables. Y ustedes todos tienen el poder, el poder de hacer lo mismo con sus acciones. Mantener la sana distancia, lavarse las manos, llevar una cobertura facial y quedarse en casa. Quédense protegidos amigos. Quédense en buena salud y quédense en casa. Gracias y mucha fuerza y amor, Los Ángeles. Hasta pronto. Thank you so much.