

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening, Los Angeles, and thank you again for joining me. We are back here at City Hall and I want to thank everybody again at our Emergency Operations Center last night who showed all of you out there what our tireless team is doing every single day to make sure that we meet to challenge of this crisis, of this threat and of this moment. I am so honored to work alongside them and to work alongside each one of you who is doing your part, whether it's staying at home, whether it's going the critical work, or whether it's helping each other out. Los Angeles is setting the bar, not just for ourselves, but around this nation and around this world for the caring, to the cure and for all the work we are doing together.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I know a lot of people have compared this to a kind of sudden shock, a moment like a Pearl Harbor or an earthquake or a 9/11. And yet I think it is not quite the right metaphor because this isn't about one single day and then rebuilding from it. It is a threat that gets worse every single day, one in which it is tougher and tougher on each one of us. Certainly for me, to share the numbers that I do each day, I know for those that are on the frontline in our hospitals, folks who continue to provide us with food and the badly needed things that we need to continue living while we are at home.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And so, I know that on each one of these days, I don't breeze through these numbers just as data. But recognizing the human beings that are behind them. The everyday heroes who are driving buses and taking nurses to the hospitals. The first-responders who are there to answer those 9-1-1 calls. The doctors and nurses, the janitors who are working in hospitals. Every single one of us has been a hero, and I thank you for the work that you continue to do.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Each day, just like the threat as it grows stronger, so those our response. That's part of what I get the honor of sharing with you each night, that each day, whether it is more testing, whether it is expending bed capacity, finding new spaces for hospital beds or the work that we are doing to procure the equipment that we need for our first-responders and healthcare workers. We are every day stepping up to the challenge of this, and outpacing, hopefully, what this virus is doing. Each day you stay at home, you cripple this virus a little bit more. Each day we continue to grow the work that we are doing in government with help in private sector and philanthropy, everyday donations from folks like you, that helps us get ahead of the virus and look at each day with a little bit more hope.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We know that each day we meet this threat is with hope and resolve, with love and with determination. So let me jump into the questions we ask each night. We ask those basic questions: How we will help each other get through today and through tomorrow? What about the anxiety around our paychecks, the rent, access to medical care? And how can we protect public health and public safety? And ultimately, how do we save lives? That is the most important question we try to answer each night. Tonight I will be joined by another one of the amazing field marshals in this effort, Gene Seroka, who is over here to my right. A great friend, somebody who has represented all of you, leading the busiest container port in all of the Americas, somebody who has an incredible set of experience, a breadth of experience and a

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depth of knowledge to help us get our hospitals and our first-responders and all of us, the goods that we need to win this fight. And you will be hearing from him in a little bit.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But let's start today as I always do with today's data snapshot. Today was the worst day of this pandemic in our nation. Today more people died of COVID-19 in the United States of America than any previous day. At least 1,632 of our fellow countrymen and women. And I want to send my love to everyone across this country who is grieving. And here in Los Angeles and across our county, across California and across the United States. And of course, this dreaded virus unite us across borders. Something that we know about here in this diverse city, but today it is estimated that more than 7,000 people across the globe lost their lives to COVID-19.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Here locally we added 550 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. A 9 percent increase, bringing our numbers up to 6,910 confirmed cases. This was the third-highest number of cases in a single day, and as I shared last night when we had just a 7 percent increase, a great number compared to what we've had before, I said, "Take Monday with a little bit of a grain of salt." But even on Tuesday, to see 9 percent, that is decent news. We don't want to see any increase. And we can't wait for the day when we will actually see a decrease. But for now, it shows that the double-digit increases of just a week ago, and the 20-plus percent days that we had just two weeks ago, have now been met.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Here in the city we increased the cases by 279 confirmed cases to a total of 3,130 cases. You can hear in the background the fire engines and the great first-responders who are often the first ones to respond and to transport these cases. That represents a 9 percent increase here in our city. And we have 22 deaths, unfortunately, to report today in Los Angeles County. Our second-highest number. That brings a total number of fallen angels here in Los Angeles to 169, a 15 percent increase. Simply put, we are doubling our deaths still every four days.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So for anybody who thinks that our work is done or that we can see that light just in front of us at the end of the tunnel, we still have a way to walk together. And I need your help. We're discovering more about COVID-19 every single day, and today Dr. Ferrer shared some very important information about the racial breakdown of the deaths in L.A. County of victims of COVID-19. An early data on death shows us that no group, no age group, no gender, no racial, ethnic, religious group is immune from COVID-19. But like many things in our society, this disease, especially the way it kills, is hitting folks with pre-existing conditions like diabetes, obesity and other conditions disproportionately found in poor communities and communities of color, the hardest.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And second, based on initial data, the virus is disproportionately killing African-Americans here in Los Angeles County. A reminder that while this virus has narrowed our sights on the immediate challenge before us, long-term racial disparities still exist. And while this is a virus that certainly doesn't pick who it infects based on the color, the effect that it has on our communities can be disproportionate. It is not just here in Los Angeles. In Chicago, black Americans account for 68 percent of the city's 119 deaths, 52 percent of the roughly 5,000

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confirmed coronavirus cases, despite just making a 30 percent of that city's population. Here with 17 percent of the deaths in a county where African-Americans are 9 percent of the population.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And in Michigan and Illinois, two of the earliest states to produce such data, African-Americans account for about a third of coronavirus cases and about 40 percent of deaths, even though they make up just 15 percent and 14 percent, respectively, of the states, of those states' total populations. And what we know that this reflects some of the pre-existing health conditions that are disproportionately affected in our communities of color, the Loyola Marymount University poll that I mentioned a couple of times and whose final results we'll be looking forward to sharing next week, showed something very interesting as well, that just 21.7 percent of African-American respondents were very worried that they or a member of their household would get the coronavirus. And that compares to 35 percent of the population at large.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So let me be very clear. We need every community to understand that this will affect you, every person. If you are young, this will find you and can kill you or a loved one. If you are strong, this can find you or a loved one and kill them. And no matter what community you live in or come from, this is a threat to you. As we prepare for the peak, we continue to do the good work, though, of making sure across our hospitals and in new spaces, that we have the necessary bed inventory to meet that peak.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Today, I'd like to report we have 1,406 beds available in our general emergency hospitals. 258 of those are ICU beds. We have 1,010 ventilators that are ready to serve people who need them. And we also have, throughout Los Angeles, many hospitals that are stepping up to move beds around, create new spaces and to make sure that they can meet this threat. There are 30,000 tests that we will conduct through our drive-thru centers by the end of the week on top of the 31,000 that were done in our providers and 21,000 that we have done to date through our drive-thru centers.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This is good number. I was doing the statistics earlier today. If L.A. City were an independent state, we would be ranked fourth in a per capita test, just behind New York, Louisiana and Washington. L.A. County would be in the upper part of the middle part of the pack. We need to do better and my goal is to get to the very top of that to keep adding as many tests as possible. And I want to thank so many folks who signed up. We had a record number of sign-ups since we announced yesterday that anybody with symptoms, and that is very important for me to state again, because some people said, "Oh, anybody can sign up."

MAYOR GARCETTI: No. Now it is anybody with symptoms can see whether there is a test available. And we've opened up the aperture to allow more folks to have them. But we are finding something interesting I wanted to share with you, that about 15 to 20 percent of people are not showing up for their appointments. So if you are turned down at night or in the morning, check in again midday or in the early part of the afternoon because we have the capacity to serve more people. And we certainly don't want have one single test that is available that day wait until the following day.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: As always, you can go to coronavirus.LACity.org to find--slash testing, excuse-me, to find out whether you can get an appointment and get a test right now. We also need to protect those workers that are on the frontline, the everyday heroes that I mentioned, that are in our grocery stores and pharmacies, people who are out there working hard so that we can get the food and the medicine that we need to get through this. And that is why we are reserving, though, N95 and other medical-grade masks for our doctors, nurses, medical personnel and other first-responders.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But tonight I am putting forward an order, a worker-protection order to give our non-medical essential workers more tools to stay safe and to keep us all healthy. Starting this Friday, April 10th, at midnight, Thursday night, Friday morning, all employees of many non-medical essential businesses will be required to wear cloth-based coverings over their noses and mouths while at work. Employers are required to provide these face protections or to reimburse employees for their cost. This applies to workers in grocery stores, drugstores, restaurants, hotels, taxis and ride-share vehicles and construction sites.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Among others, other essential businesses. And they will soon have the protection of this cloth-based coverings. We wanted to wait until these were available, we can see people now selling them on corners, online. Our capacity thanks to the amazing apparel industry here, has expanded and people can buy them online, I will get to that a little bit more in a second. These businesses that we are singling out as well, must also make sure that their employees have access to a clean and sanitary restroom along with proper cleaning or cleansing with products like soap and sanitizer, and allow their employees to wash their hands every thirty minutes.

MAYOR GARCETTI: They are required to implement physical distancing measures as well for customers, visitors and workers. We are also encouraging all essential retail businesses to add Plexiglass barriers between cashiers and customers. We know there isn't yet enough Plexiglass to go around but we do hope to work to get as much of that is possible. Right now this is an encouragement that we hope that employers will adopt. And every Angeleno will share this responsibility with employers to keep workers and everybody else safe, which is why we are requiring customers to wear face coverings when they enter those businesses that I mentioned. If you are shopping for groceries, if you are picking up your prescription or visiting any other essential business, you will need to cover your face. And if you are not covering your face by Friday morning, an essential business can refuse you service.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I want to thank the leaders who have been so instrumental in helping us to get to this worker order. Many people worked on this. Councilmember Herb Wesson, Curren Price from the city council as well, both who were an amazing team together with John Grant, who leads the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770. Ron Herrera, who leads our Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, the California Groceries Association, who've you seen me stand with before, and workers at essential businesses across Los Angeles who go to work every day so that Angelenos can stay safer at home.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: We consulted and got feedback from Dr. Ferrer on this from Los Angeles County. And as always, I have included Supervisor Barger in this, and I know mayors like Mayor Garcia in Long Beach are also looking at the same language so that we can do this across L.A. County together. So cover up, save a life, it is that simple.

MAYOR GARCETTI: My LA Protects manufacturing initiative has seen a surge of interest from garment manufacturers across L.A. As of today, I am proud to report we have 800 companies that have signed up, and 384 local companies have already been approved for operations to meet the needs of the public for face coverings and the more than 600 essential businesses that have requested 911,000 non-medical masks through this effort. My team has sent businesses are database of L.A. Protects manufacturers so they can source here locally, spend those dollars that we need to help our economy in this tough moment, put workers back to work right here safely distanced but in our garment industry, and we started directly matching larger essential businesses to manufacturers.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Major grocery store chains are working with UStrive Manufacturing, which is producing non-medical masks and other items for local hospitals. And we have connected other essential businesses like La La Land, NANA, Upcycle LA with those folks that need masks as well. And they have the capacity to produce over 400,000 non-medical masks that need the specifications that Kaiser Permanente helped us develop. That means restaurants like Sweet Green, essential stores like Home Depot and non-medical staff and patients at California Hospital Medical Center, can now place an order directly with the manufacturer to get the masks that they need.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We know that there are a lot of small businesses and individuals that are looking for a way to buy non-medical masks too. So if you are in need, please go to coronavirus.LACity.org/laprotects. LA Protects is not just about protecting people in essential industries. It is also about making sure that we can protect those who are unsheltered on our streets and put a strong emphasis on trying to get these face coverings onto the streets of L.A. where the most vulnerable unhoused Angelenos are. Today I can report that one of our local manufacturers, Two Bees, who I want to give a special shout out to, has produced an initial batch of 2,000 non-medical masks to help keep unhoused Angelenos and outreach workers who work with them safe. Thank you for that.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And the first two orders of non-medical masks with deliver last week and Let's Go Uptown Apparel, another LA Protects manufacturer is on track to produce 30,000 of these to be delivered on Friday to LASA, to YMCA and to other homeless service providers. And finally, let me thank Reformation, who has been the lead company in really helping us do LA Protects. You have been extraordinary, whether it's developing specs, helping give advice to other companies or marshalling this incredible network we have of manufacturers in L.A. You have been absolutely incredible.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We are using every resource at our disposal to keep Angelenos safe. And so, now I want you to hear a little bit from Gene Seroka. As I mentioned last week, I asked Gene to step up to a special and absolutely critical role, to be for the first time our city's Chief

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Logistics Officer. We have all heard the stories across the country of people battling it out to get masks, to get equipment, to get some of the respirators, ventilators that we need. All of these things have made it difficult for everyday hospitals, businesses, frontline workers to get what they need. And we wanted to ensure here in Los Angeles, we are taking an advantage of the brilliance that we have from Gene, from longshore workers, from logisticians, from folks that every single day provide 43 percent of the goods that come by sea into America through our joint Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to apply that brilliance to this challenge.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So not only did we appoint Gene as the Chief Logistics Officer for the city, he launched a new business-to-business website as part of Logistics Victory LA, our campaign to get us what we need to fight this battle. And that is at coronavirus.LACity.org/lovla, like love LA without the “e.” So Gene, why don't I turn it over to you to share with Angelenos what we are doing to make sure we have what we need to fight this fight. Thank you.

GENE SEROKA: Thank you, Mayor. The LOVLA site, which was launched today, will bring together hospitals and their specific needs. Manufacturers and suppliers with what they can bring us here to our medical frontline folks, as well as what we are building in the city of Los Angeles as a stockpile of inventories. As an example right now, in L.A. City, we are using about 1.6 million of these N-95 medical grade masks per month. In the county, it is more than three and a half million. And our job starting right away is to bring more of those masks into the pipeline and build our own stockpile right here in Los Angeles. So this marketplace of sorts will be built and designed by the medical community for the medical community.

GENE SEROKA: And that leads us into the next area of how are building the stockpile right now. With Mayor Garcetti's offering and the blessing of the Los Angeles City Council, we have now compiled \$20 million to begin purchasing these crucial medical goods. And not only the masks, but we are looking for ventilators, exam gloves, face shields and so many other products that are critical to our frontline medical personnel. And that starts with an order I put in working with our General Services Department and the best buyer in the business, John Trevgoda, to get one million masks on the ground by the end of this week. And they will be distributed through the LOVLA website to those hospitals that are in the greatest need to begin with. And the procurement is going to be very important because we are looking for other channels to be able to bring to those products in and using the great power of the city's buying and purchasing capabilities, is really where we are going next, to amp up those decades' worth of relationships with our vendors and suppliers and have them focused in this particular area of the medical supplies.

GENE SEROKA: And our job is to expedite the goods, as the mayor mentioned, with the Port of Los Angeles and LAX. We are the keen line of sight through our technology as to where these medical shipments are. We can highlight them and speed them through our system right to our hospitals, emergency management folks, and critical care units. Those highlighted shipments will move through as quickly as possible so we can, again, keep building stock right on the front line.

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GENE SEROKA: In addition, we are also looking at how we can bring new companies in it and working specifically, look the California manufacturer and technology association led by Lance Hastings. We have companies that are retooling their plants and their production flows to get into the medical supplies business. So we've looked at an OMNI channel take on our supply chain of what we can bring in, and hitting the ground running with so many folks that are chipping in right now, Mayor, I think we are off to a good star but there is so much work to do to realize our vision.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Well, thank you. I hope you can see why I've always been so impressed with Gene Seroka. For those of you who don't see the studio here, that was no notes, no teleprompter, that's just off of his head and he has done an extraordinary job marshaling these resources, bringing the brilliance that we see every single day at the port. As I mentioned, we can do all the work in the world but if it isn't for those longshore workers, those truck drivers, warehouse workers that are doing the work when those ships arrive, we couldn't get anything done. So a big shout out to ILWU and the Teamsters and our truck drivers and everybody getting this work done.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Finally, let me turn to two other last things. One is, we saw finally, with federal action, that our federal government has brought some help to everyday Americans. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act was passed last month which expanded unemployment benefits and increased food assistance that guaranteed free testing for uninsured Americans but it also expanded paid family leave for our workers, allowing people who are 65 or older are required to quarantine or caring for a parent or child to take paid time off. But there was a major gap in the policy. It only protects businesses that employed between 51 and 500 people. In other words, Congress came up with a solutions that excludes about 80 percent of American workers.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And so now that responsibility falls to us to fill the gap and to extend those protections to all Angelenos. That's why your city council passed an ordinance to deliver the same benefits to Los Angeles workers and businesses with more than 500 employees, allowing tens of thousands of folks to stay safer at home. These workers will receive 100 percent of their wages for maximum of 10 workdays, and I am grateful to the council for their swift action on this. And especially I want to thank Council President Nury Martínez, who led the charge. Her dedication to our city's most vulnerable is incredible. And I want to thank the entire council for leading with compassion, clarity and courage.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Building on this action, I think we can do even more to protect jobs, workers and businesses. And as it is currently written, the ordinance doesn't credit many of the businesses that already have very progressive policies in place. It could also cause many chain or franchise restaurants to close and create some staffing shortages in critical industries, especially our hospitals and medical care workers. So I will be enacting an emergency order to fill in the gaps of the ordinance, and then I've been speaking with Council President Martínez, and we'll make sure that those both harmonize in the days ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I look forward to that work and thank the Council again for their leadership that has been the most progressive in this nation. Finally, I know that these days for

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all of us are not just difficult but traditionally these are very special and holy days. For many people of faith in our city and across the world were entering the holy season, tomorrow is the first night of (unintelligible), this Sunday is Easter Sunday and Ramadan starts just in two weeks. And these are days that we gather together to pause our lives, to spend a moment with our love ones and to reflect on what our year has been, to renew our faith in each other and in God, and to spend time together. This year is going to be very different. Satyrs are going to be done virtually or in small numbers. Easter Sunday won't be in church, and if (unintelligible) breaking with the fast during Ramadan won't be done in big community gatherings.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I know that this is hard. These holidays are moments when we're supposed to unite with our community to find the sense of hope even in these darkest of moments. Whether we are people of faith or hold no faith at all, I hope each of us can take meaning from what we are going through in this moment, that we need each other, that it is the connections between human beings and to something larger than ourselves that will help us light through the darkness. Exercising our freedom depends on taking responsibility for one another, so while that freedom often means being able to go out and celebrate, to go on a high cut to the beach, to gather at these holy moments, this year those will be more private, but we can look back just as the stories of Passover teach us and the story of Easter teaches us and the time of Ramadan allows for us, to know that this is a time of redemption, a time of rebirth and a time of sacrifice for each one of us. That we will be able to look back and say we did something to save the lives of our family members, of our neighbors and of our city.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So right let's celebrate apart, and I wish you all the blessings as we begin these holy days. I hope that those blessings may look down on us to keep us safe and to keep us strong, and so as always, I say let's do our part, stay healthy, stay safe, and stay at home. Strength and love, Los Angeles. Thank you all, and now we'll take some questions. First question please.

OPERATOR: Question from the line of Mary Beth McDade with Channel 5. Please go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Mary Beth.

MARY BETH MCDADE: Hi. How are you?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good.

MARY BETH MCDADE: I'm going to just turn off my TV here. So I am looking at the IAME model that you referred to yesterday of the University of Washington.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Correct.

MARY BETH MCDADE: I'm just little bit confused because I look on here, I see that they're saying that California, that California, that it is seven days until (unintelligible) resource use on April 14, meaning the, you know, that (unintelligible) we're going to need all these beds and ICU beds, ventilators, and they're also saying that we're ten days out until the peak projected day

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of the most amount of deaths on April 17, so I'm just confused as to why I'm hearing other numbers from (unintelligible) governor's current conference, the county, they're saying that it's going to be more in May, possibly June.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So projections are just that, Mary Beth. And there's a number of really excellent people who are working across the country, and so each one is just one snapshot and best estimate. Even those estimates, for instance, changed four days from an earlier estimate on April 2, so these are very fluid, very dynamic things. The data that the governor's projections are using do say that it will be later and I tend to think it will be latter. This is not just looking at California. This methodology was looking at all 50 states and you can pull any one state out of their methodology.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And remember, an average of a state doesn't necessarily say what will happen here in Los Angeles. Northern California had a bigger outbreak earlier than we did. So I expect ours to lag a week or two, and I think when the governor is talking about that, he is talking about the entire state. I haven't heard projections that go into June yet, but there are many that you push into later April or beginning of May. Truth of the matter is we won't know till get through those, and as we've see in certain places, deaths can lag because people get sick and obviously are sick for a number of days before they die. So we can have a peak in cases that were the day that has the most new cases be earlier than the day that we have we have the most deaths.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But there is no question too, that the peak is not a day, a peak plus one in which everything is rosy, it's still going to be the second or third worse day. We might see it beginning to come down, but just as this built slowly, it can also go down slowly and will require us to have the discipline of a number of weeks. We try to look at this data all the time and we are working with a number of sources to see if we can have specific LA County projection. So hopefully if we can get that, you know, by week's end or the beginning of next week, we'll be able to share that with you as well. There's a lot of different things that going to this, and a lot of things people still don't know about the coronavirus.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So each model has to make assumptions that are not 100 percent medically correct yet that are about how many people are spreading, what's the doubling rate, the impact of weather, also sorts of thing go into these models. But the University of Washington, one, has very sound methodology. I would say if that is one of the earlier ones and you have later, it's a law of averages. We can expect that sometime later in this month or the beginning of next month we'll have a peak and we should be acting like every day is the peak. Today you should act like peak. We heard Dr. Ferrer saying this is a good week to not head out because this is certainly when we are beginning to crest, and whether that comes this week, next week, two weeks or four weeks for now, we should be prepared to know that this is a very critical week and stay at home as much as possible. Thanks, Mary Beth. Next question.

OPERATOR: Next question comes from the line of Robert Kovacik from NBC. Please go ahead.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi Robert.

ROBERT KOVACIK: Mayor Garcetti, how are you?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good, hanging in there.

ROBERT KOVACIK: This has nothing to do with a timetable, but earlier today the Los Angeles Department Public Health told us the plans are under way for reopening, but it will be, and I'm quoting here, a gradual lifting of the restrictions that will come about from this emergency order. So for those hoping to get back to work, opening businesses, opening restaurants, etcetera, can you elaborate what this gradual lifting of restrictions means and what this return to normalcy is going to look like in the beginning?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure. I don't want to speak for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, but I know their planning for, I don't think that they have a set serious of dates. There's no secret room that we all going in to and we have dates that we are not sharing with folks. I am this transparent every single night with all the data that I get with everybody out there. But we are preparing, whether cities or the county for, as I've told people, this is not going to be a light switch that suddenly goes on and everybody comes back to an economy that is exactly the same with as many workers and everybody comes out of their homes simultaneously.

MAYOR GARCETTI: There're going to be those that are still more vulnerable because of preexisting conditions, because of age, and other factors, where they may be recommendations from County Public Health to continue staying at home, while other workers can head out. Now, an important part of that is our serology or blood test. Those tests that allow within 15 minutes or less to see whether somebody has care--is carrying the antibodies that show that they have had COVID-19. It's not necessarily a good test for finding out if somebody has it right now and is infectious. That's still the swab-based test that we are doing, but these ones would allow us to know somebody who might have not even known that they had COVID-19.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But now have some built-up immunity and that will allow us to take the advice of Los Angeles County Public Health and say some people can return or maybe we've been able to not just bend the curve, but flatten it down so much that most people can return to work. So we are preparing for those and starting just the initial conversations of how that could be done, watching places around the world from China to Italy, to others who have either done that or are talking about that because we do want to get people back as soon as possible. With this last caveat, as I shared last night, look at history, and a lot of places that did a good job in 1918 with the influenza epidemic. One of them was just up the coast, San Francisco. They patted themselves on the back, went back to everyday life quite quickly because they had pushed down the cases dramatically. And they saw a second surge almost right away that killed, I believe, almost as many people as the first surge.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Los Angeles was a little bit more conservative in 1918 and waited longer and we did not have that second surge. So I think it is really important that we be conservative,

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but that we also acknowledge there will be steps not just one day when suddenly the economy just flips back to where we were before. Thanks, Robert. Next question.

OPERATOR: The next question on the line of Lee Roth with Fox News. Please go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Lee.

LEE ROTH: Hi. Good evening, Mayor.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening.

LEE ROTH: My question kind of follows up on those who hopefully will, I think, it was a little more than a week ago, Mayor, you and Washington issued a nationwide shelter (unintelligible). Now while that hasn't happened, it's true that most of the country is now staying at home. And at that time you said, and I'm quoting here, this virus is nasty, it will cross borders and ignore states, it is no longer about containment. It is about uniformity of action. When it comes time to reopen, it's your assessment that the feds are waiting to perpetuate uniformity of action, is for a national call to reopen, even if it's later than some communities, perhaps Los Angeles, they want?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Look, I think we would all benefit from more uniformity at the national level, and even at the global level. The World Health Organization was very clear with its warnings with COVID-19, but too many nations ignored that or did not take it seriously enough. We need to strengthen that at the international level so that when we get guidance, it is something that countries around the world uniformly adopt and take measures against.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Second, we need that in Unites States so that we don't have the unevenness the we've seen where some people decided it's political, it's about your party or your geography or other things. The virus is not a political thing. A virus is a medical thing. And there's no question when we get back to restarting the country that national guidance would be very helpful. But it is also going to be about capacity, and I would love to see our nation's leaders help us not try to get the exit, do the exit on our own, as we've had to deal with the onslaught too often on our own.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We've had to figure out how to do testing here locally. That's kind of crazy. I have firefighters and paramedics who are standing in the rain as people drive through on city facilities with tests that we bought instead of there being national leadership on that. We have states that don't have the resources and they're going to be hit even harder than those of us who have doctors and hospitals, especially in rural areas. So we've been on our own at the beginning of this, but wouldn't it be marvelous on the outset if they said, "Nationally we have helped to get 350 million tests, blood tests, so that we could all know whether we've carried this, have kind of immunity passport so that people were then permitted across the country to go back to work, to go back to school, if they had that side of immunity?"

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MAYOR GARCETTI: That's the sort of leadership that I am absolutely looking for, but if other places don't provide that, specifically Washington, and we have capacity here, we will as we've had to go in many parts of this, go it alone. But I think public health folks have been very clear that don't open up your city early just because you're doing well. This virus can come back, and it come back with a fury. So we need America to do well. We need America to get through this together, and then the whole globe because as we've seen in China, people returning can also spike this back up or threaten to spike it back up as well. Next question.

OPERATOR: Next question comes from the line of Emily Albert Reyes from Los Angeles--

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Emily.

OPERATOR: Please go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: How are you?

EMILY REYES: Hi, Mayor. The audio cut out just as you were (unintelligible) what the change was they made on key (unintelligible). Can you repeat your announcement--

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure.

EMILY REYES: --and explain if there are any changes to what the council approved? Why you're making those changes?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure. We've done this in conjunction. I spoke with council President Martínez, I think there was some stuff, as I said a couple of days ago, that was done quite quickly. I'll give you one example. There are a number of employers that already give this kind of paid leave and they said, "Oh, if I'm doing--if I already give 30 days of paid leave, does this mean I have to do two more weeks on top of that?" And I think all of us agreed of course not. Those have been good actors and who already provide this for their employees, they shouldn't be cut out.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And there are other things as well with some industries that are really on a razor's edge that have made it clear, not only would they not be able to give this to anybody, they would go out of business. And so, we've clarified that it is for folks that are 500 employees and larger, who have at least 500 employees in the city of Los Angeles or above a certain number of total employees nationwide. So some of it is just the fine tuning of that. I think we've all agreed that those are necessary and the easiest ways, since the counsel couldn't take that up, given the Brown Act requirements quickly, and putting that into an order and then we'll make those things harmonious together. You have a follow-up on that or is that clear? Okay.

OPERATOR: Next question--

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you. Next question.

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OPERATOR: -- is Steve Gregory with KFI News. Please go ahead.

STEVE GREGORY: Hi, Mayor, good evening.

MAYOR GARCETTI: How are you doing?

STEVE GREGORY: I wanted to ask about homeless encampments. I took a drive around the last couple days, and I'm noticing there's still, the three that I noticed in the valley, in the San Fernando Valley, are still, have large groups of homeless folks all together.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Of course.

STEVE GREGORY: And I'm wondering if you are having any success reaching out to these people, because it seems as though they seem to have become isolated from what's going on.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yeah.

STEVE GREGORY: Also, but also, I mean (unintelligible) hold on. So the other question was about the bus drivers, we're being told by a group of bus drivers, (unintelligible) two bus drivers that said that they are really in fear for their safety and their health because of not getting enough protective equipment, protective gear, and so can you tell us what's being done--

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure.

STEVE GREGORY: --with mass transit to help keep those people safe?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Absolutely. Let me start with that, and I want to thank bus drivers, our train operators who are doing incredible and heroic work. I stopped in at a safe distance with my mask on and his mask on. I was talking to a bus driver on the street on the way of work yesterday. They're proud of what they're doing. There's an amazing video, I think that Metro put out that shows heroes don't just wear surgical masks in an operating room, they sometimes drive the bus and take those hospital workers there, take people who are feeling sick to a hospital because it that's the only transportation they have.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We've enacted a number of things, and at Metro, there is personal protective equipment. I know there's worries of some whether it'll be enough. That's exactly why we have Gene Seroka what he is doing. This isn't just for city workers. This is for public employees, for our medical workers, for folks that are working in our shelters and other places that are vulnerable to make sure everybody has a steady supply throughout this, and we will not leave our bus drivers behind. We will not leave our train operators behind, and those folks that are out there cleaning the stations, cleaning the equipment each night are also our heroes too.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Those people are doing critical, critical work. So we feel confident we'll be able to get that equipment for them in future days, that we have it now and that we're being smart about rear-boarding and things like that. We will not cut off public transportation. It's too

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critical for people who need their medicine, who need to go to the store and who need to work as critical workers, but we have also downsized the number of trips that are taken, the hours, so that we're allowing more of those workers to work fewer hours which also helps protect them from any dangers that they have.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In terms of the first one, the homeless encampments, as you know, this is, you know, countywide 60,000-plus people so, of course, this isn't, again, one of those things you snap your finger and it's done right away. But yes, we are getting very good results. Every shelter that we open is 95% filled within a day or two. The first couple of days there was hesitation, now people are really coming in. One man who said, "This has been better than anything I've seen. I'm some place safe, I know that I'm protected, I get my temperature checked twice a day, there is food. I know that there's somebody here who is a medical professional," and where we found anybody who has tested positive, we are able to immediately put them someplace with medical attention that's secured and isolated and quarantined." That wouldn't happen on the street. But the real solution to this is going to be even as we've opened now 20 shelters and four more open this weekend, it's going to be these hotel and motel rooms.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And we have simply got to go quicker. I think the state is well-intentioned, the county is well-intentioned, LASA is well-intentioned, the cities are well-intentioned, and many of the hotel and motel operators are well-intentioned. But if it requires a more aggressive stance and requires some of the emergency powers I have to commandeer those rooms, we need to get people into those thousands of rooms today. So I'd encourage any of the hotel/motel operators to continue helping us. There were 900 rooms last week, we're probably over a thousand now, but those are the ones that will help quarantine people who are positive, who are on the streets, and also, take people to a safe location who are at a risk of getting coronavirus, the novel coronavirus. So both of those are going to be just a giant lift and one last point I'll make, is I certainly hope after I called for a FEMA-like response to homelessness over 18 months ago and now because of this crisis we are finally getting it.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Our federal government, thank you for the first time as letting us pay for and get reimbursed for putting people in hotel rooms on the streets before the crisis hits them and before they are positive. We need to make sure that that federal assistance helps us make exists from our shelters and from our hotel rooms, to housing so that these folks don't just go back to the street because while we are looking at statistics that maybe that number of deaths could have doubled in this crisis, I think we won't get that high, but could have doubled for all of us this year. Living on the street, you already have a double chance of dying. And if we're not looking that as a public health crisis and not bringing the resources after we get through this one, to our unhoused brothers and sisters on the street, we will have failed to take advantage of this moment and to do what is right. So I'm hoping that we will see that kind of support. Next question, thank you.

OPERATOR: Question comes from the line of Claudia Peschiutta with KNX News Radio. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Claudia.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: Hi, Eric, I think you touched upon this in your last answer, but I (unintelligible).

MAYOR GARCETTI: Okay.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: So I said something. But we keep seeing reports on people including Judge Carter that handwashing patients, down (unintelligible) for water, and others were facing concerns about an outbreak on Skid Row. We're seeing a growing number of positives cases among homeless people. And I know that there are (unintelligible) numbers and that (unintelligible) motels and hotels and they're opening emergency shelters, but we all know that we don't know where near enough rooms or beds to get tens of thousands of people off the street. So if there is a big outbreak on Skid Row, worst scenario, what is the plan, what actions can you immediately take with that large number of people off the streets quickly?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So the more beds that we have, the more that we can do that, and I think there are actually plenty of rooms. We have tens of thousands of rooms in our hotel and motel inventory across this county. The goal that LASA set and that we support as well is 15,000, that would be unprecedented. And we are spending 18 months to build 2,000 new shelter beds and that was the fastest pace in the nation. Imagine doing 15,000 hotel and motel rooms in just a matter of weeks. That's the stretch goal. I believe that it can be done but we need everybody to be aligned and we need almost a czar who is making these deals every single hour to ensure that they are there. That said for Skid Row, absolutely, we've been looking at this from the beginning. The Convention Center is available. We have the 250 kind of field hospital, 250-bed field hospital that will be there.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But we have another hall that we absolutely could move people to, and I am looking for more hotels and motels near Skid Row in the downtown area. So we are hopeful, we've had a lot of people reach out, 600-person bed hotel reached out today to us about that, saying they'd like to help out in the short and maybe even the long term. So I do think that inventory is there, this really requires faster signing of this from the state and county. We're here to help in any way that we can, but that will be what we do.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Last piece is testing. And remember, yeah, you do see some new positives; there are more people who are housed proportionally and in absolute numbers with COVID-19 than those who are unhoused. So we have to continue to work with those doctors, those clinics, those places, including a number on Skid Row and we brought and bought tests for this area that now are in their hands this week. There were some that were done today, so that we can make sure we see what the incidence is and anybody who has symptoms, we can find out whether it's COVID-19 or something else.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So bottom line is this is an area since January that I've kind of been screaming for attention. I'm really glad that we've gotten millions of dollars from Sacramento and millions of dollars from Washington, DC. Now it's about executing it and we are here to help our Homeless Services Authority do that. Thanks, next question.

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OPERATOR: Next question comes from the line of David (unintelligible) of the Los Angeles Times, please go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Dave.

DAVID: Hi, there, can you hear me?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yes, can I hear you great.

DAVID: Great. So you are making this order on face covering for grocery employees, and customers who walk into those businesses. Can you talk a little bit more about enforcement? We're wondering who's going to be policing this and, is it the LAPD (unintelligible) what are the fines for any people violating the order? Finally, businesses can deny entry to a customer who walks in without a face covering, if you're going to (unintelligible) businesses, particularly restaurants so far as the revenue, is that going to be an effective way to ensure compliance?

MAYOR GARCETTI: We think everything helps. Our idea is not to be arresting and fining people for the face coverings. Just as tomorrow, if everybody decided to jaywalk across the street, we wouldn't have close to enough law enforcement officers or city workers to stop everybody from jaywalking, so this is about self-enforcement mostly. But we do have something called ACE which is a civil citation, and if we see places in which the workers are not doing this or a worker is saying, "My employer simply won't do this," those are referrals that can be made to the city. And we will be able to go out there and issue citations. But 99% of this, like most of things I've said, are about our own discipline and our own self-enforcement. We are not, you know, arresting people when they're on the streets asking for their ID and saying, "Are you a critical worker?" or "Are you permitted to be outside?"

MAYOR GARCETTI: We are relying on people to use their judgment, to use their own self-enforcement and the miraculous thing that happens is when you ask people to do that, they actually do step up. We've been unafraid with businesses and others to prosecute, to be able to take folks up, but it's graduated. And we're not going to one time because somebody isn't doing something, go after them, fine them or throw them in jail. We are going to help educate people, help let people know where they can get these masks, let them know about the website, let them know their rights, but also let them know the responsibilities. And we hope all Angelenos will step up and be a part of that. Looking at best practices around the country, that seems to be the best and the most realistic way to move forward. So we want people to abide by this, but it's going to be up to you then, you know, 99% of the time. Thanks, Dave, next question.

OPERATOR: The question comes from line of Adrian Albert with ABC.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Adrian.

OPERATOR: Please, go ahead.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: How are you?

ADRIAN ALBERT: Good evening, Mayor. Just to follow up on that question with the order going into effect on Friday. I catch some people flatfooted. Any considerations to especially outside of pharmacies, having a point of sale for face coverings so that people will be able to get them there if they wouldn't have one?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yeah. So there're plenty of places to get them now, whether it's folks that you see, used to sell flowers or still are selling flowers, you see them on corners right now, on off-ramps, you see them online. And the LA Protects website that I mentioned, so that's coronavirus.LACity.org/LAprotects, shows places that you can get them online today. We wanted to wait until we knew that there was capacity, we feel confident that there is capacity instead of announcing like a lot of other orders, this starts tomorrow. It's giving us a few days before it comes into effect. We think that's the responsible way, and we are confident that people can get them. In fact, even since we suggested it, just drive around the city, it was night and day. It wasn't a 100% but it was over 50% of people that I see in those environments.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And to be clear, because a lot of people get confused, it's not when you are jogging by yourself; it's not if you're not coming within six feet of people. It's when we go to these environments: our grocery stores, when you might be in a taxi or rideshare, when you are at the pharmacy, a construction worker, these critical places where we do come into contact with each other, that is a place where we now are telling you, you have to wear and those workers must wear also official covering.

MAYOR GARCETTI: One other note that Dr. Ferrer has also pointed out too, though, is be responsible about how you use them because there are a lot of people who don't understand. Wash them at night. Don't just put them down everywhere because you can actually pick up germs if you just put them down on surfaces when you get to work or other places. Treat them, you know, like that you would need to keep them a very secure and sterile as much as possible and then use them just in those environments where we've have advised. It's not something you have to wear all the time. I've seen a lot of people who, you know, are walking by themselves, just in the neighborhood wearing a mask, that's certainly fine, but is not something that is mandated nor something that you need to do. And one last thing I'll say is that we've said for folks that are using facial coverings, please don't take those N95 and surgical masks that we need.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I do want folks to know that there are people who are immunocompromised out there of the general public who do need to wear those masks. So if you are healthy, don't use those, but of course, if your doctor has told you to wear those, don't go after somebody at the grocery store who is wearing an N95 mask and say, "You shouldn't be wearing that." You don't know whether or not they could be immunocompromised and they are doing that for their own protection. Thanks, next question.

OPERATOR: Next question comes from the line of Clarisse (unintelligible) with Asian News Journal. Please go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Clarisse.

CLARISSE: Hi, good evening, Mayor.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening.

CLARISE: already you had mentioned a very important part that this does not discriminate against age, gender or race, but a mayor within the Asian-American community are acutely aware at this point, the Asian community has been targeted in acts of hate, discrimination related to the virus. I don't know if (unintelligible) and we know about the 311 county hotline, but are there any resources or initiatives at the city (unintelligible) organizing to help people with who reported this after being (unintelligible) mitigate this update in anti-Asian discrimination?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Absolutely. And this is something I've mentioned in other nights and I am really glad you raised it again, Clarisse. While this virus doesn't discriminate, human beings still do, unfortunately. And we're seeing--we saw this early on when people weren't going to Asian and Pacific Islander-owned businesses. We've seen it in hate crimes across the country, people have been beaten up, and people have been yelled at. Hate crimes are hate crimes, and so the biggest resource is the Los Angeles Police Department if you are in the city of LA, the sheriff's if you are in the county, or one of the cities that uses sheriffs or your local police department, report these crimes because that's what they are, they are crimes.

MAYOR GARCETTI: They aren't just discrimination, they aren't just somebody's ignorance, they are crimes, and they have a consequence. And they also have penalties that are enhanced if another crime has been committed as well. There is no place in our city for this discrimination, I was appalled to hear some of our national leaders call this, you know, all sorts of names that I won't repeat, this is a virus, this is a health crisis. It could have started anywhere in the world and it doesn't matter where it started, it matters that across the world we are all fighting this and fighting it together.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And we have no place in Los Angeles for any hate or no discrimination. So please report that. Call LAPD and let them know if you have been the victim of a hate crime and they will follow up with up with detectives and make sure that folks are brought to justice. Thank you, next question, please.

OPERATOR: Next question comes from the line of Alina Selyukh with KPCC Public Radio. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Alina, good evening.

ALINA SELYUKH: Hi, Mayor. Can you tell me what was it that (unintelligible) to issuing a order where they faxed this week from the (unintelligible) for example, and grocery store workers have many that have been wanting it for weeks and weeks now. (Unintelligible) what made it, you know, this week there are (unintelligible)?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So I wanted to move as quickly as possible. We are the first city in the nation to kind of push forward this advice. Many others followed and we've heard CDC finally give advice as well. So we are proud that Los Angeles continues to lead, that was in a voluntary way. And part of the reason why was I wanted to make sure that folks knew, educated themselves about the difference between regular medical masks and these facial coverings. We wanted to make sure there was capacity so we've been working for a couple of weeks. And we have the confidence now that there is the capacity for anybody to get a facial covering. We worked and listened to the grocers, listened to the workers, listened to other folks about the best way to craft this so it didn't just come down from City Hall. I always believe in bringing coalition of folks together and listening to those concerns. And when we could address everybody's concerns together but still not move backwards and say, "This is something important."

MAYOR GARCETTI: We felt the confidence of having that today, and we wanted to give a couple of days before it becomes mandatory. Look, if you can, start this tomorrow but starting at midnight, Thursday night, Friday morning, this will now be mandatory in those situations. So it seemed like a point where we had the masks that were available, we had the education out there and most people who are already moving that way. So anything we could do to further that, a lot of people said, "Why not make it mandatory?" Tonight we are. Thanks, next question.

OPERATOR: And the next question comes from the line of Abel Alamillo with Spanish Media, to let them know, Channel 52, please go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Buenas tardes, good evening.

ABEL ALAMILLO: Buenas tardes, Alcalde. Yes, just, I have two questions here. It was noted today that people who are living in wealthier communities have had better access to testing, have been tested more than people that are living in lower-income communities. What is being done to remedy this? And you talked about the importance of these two weeks in terms of flattening the curve. Are you satisfied with the numbers you have seen so far?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So I'll answer both of those in English then as I do, and I appreciate a Spanish Media doing this so that we can make sure you have a set Spanish set. I'll go to Spanish and then I'll begin my Spanish remarks, and let me--I was hoping some questions would come for Gene, he is a wealth of information, but let me also just start again by thanking Gene, allowing him to get back to Emergency Operation Center and the great important work that he is doing after I answer this.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So in terms of the folks that are being tested that are wealthier, absolutely, that was something we saw early on. We saw the cases in wealthier communities too. Some said that maybe those communities traveled more internationally so the spread was more accessible to them. But also, these are folks who have better access to healthcare so they got through their private healthcare, and much of the testing goes still through providers. They were able to have access to testing early on when there weren't many tests.

MAYOR GARCETTI: What did we do to remedy that? Everything that I've talked about for the last two weeks: Having public testing sites that don't ask about your insurance, don't ask what part of town you come from, don't ask how much money you have in the bank account. But simply allow--for free--you to be tested based over the last two weeks on whether or not you had, you know, extreme symptoms, right age and vulnerability, now anybody with symptoms. So I am very proud that that has leveled the playing field. Unfortunately, what that has brought is now we see numbers coming up in our middle income and lower income communities because it's more of a fair assessment. In terms of the second question was, what was the second one? Could you ask the second question one more time, I am sorry? I am worried about the numbers, I think it was, right?

ABEL ALAMILLO: (Unintelligible) flattening.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Oh, the flattening the curve, thank you. So no, I mean, I am never satisfied until we flatten the curve towards something in which we have fewer cases than we had the day before. Until we have a negative number, I won't be satisfied. But I am encouraged by all of you, I am encouraged that we are seeing those numbers come down; I am encouraged that we are seeing single-digit increases where we used to see double-digit increases. We'll see what happens this week, that's up to everyone that is watching. But where we had a 27% average increase two weeks ago per day, last week a 17, sorry, an 18% increase which was a reduction of a third. If this week we are in single digits, that could be as much as cutting that in half, but any increase is still an increase. So let me try to answer that in Spanish. Thank you again to all of our English language viewers. I look forward to seeing you tomorrow and strength and love, as always.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hay dos preguntas aquí. Primero, el acceso a las pruebas, al comienzo de esta crisis, fue más de estas pruebas en áreas ricas de la ciudad de Los Ángeles. Ésta es una aflicción de acceso a cuidado de salud. Desafortunadamente, muchas comunidades pobres no tienen el acceso, especialmente a doctores y las pruebas al comienzo de esta crisis. Pero yo tengo mucho orgullo que la ciudad de Los Ángeles, y ahora con el Condado de Los Ángeles, ha empezado ahora 13 centros, 13 locaciones para estas pruebas gratis para toda la gente, no importa su salario, dónde tú vives, el dinero que tú tienes en el banco, es igual para toda la gente. Y espero que toda la gente irá a [coronavirus.LACity.org](https://www.lacity.org/coronavirus) para una prueba gratis. Si tú tienes síntomas, es importante encontrar si tú puedes calificar por una prueba.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Segundo, no, necesitamos tener más de una reducción de la curva. Pero estos días son mejores de los días en la semana pasada y las dos semanas pasadas. Por ejemplo, hace dos semanas el dato de aumentación fue 27%, en la semana pasada fue solamente 18% y los dos días de esta semana fue un aumento de 8% no, 7% ayer y 9% hoy. Éste es un reflejo de las acciones de la gente de Los Ángeles, y gracias porque si tendremos más de estos días, finalmente tendremos una semana donde el número es negativo. Y cuando el número es negativo, tenemos la oportunidad finalmente de parar esta crisis y ganar esta batalla contra el virus.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Con este yo quiero dar unas palabras por la gente de Los Ángeles. Muy buenas tardes, y como siempre, gracias por venir. Ayer estuvimos en el Centro de Emergencia, Operaciones de Emergencias por la ciudad de Los Ángeles, estamos aquí en la alcaldía otra vez pero hay mucha información que yo tengo, información crítica para la gente de Los Ángeles. So primero hoy hubieron 550 casos nuevos, llegando a un total 6,910 casos. En la ciudad hubieron 279, llegando a un total de 3,130 casos. Hoy aprendimos que fallecieron 22 personas más, éste es un número, el segundo más grande durante esta crisis, llegando a un total de 169 fallecidos en el condado.

MAYOR GARCETTI: En el condado tenemos 1,400 camas de emergencia disponibles y 1,010 respiradores disponibles. Y seguimos en camino para lograr hacer 30,000 pruebas de detección para el final de esta semana. Y ésta es una buena noticia. El dato de las pruebas en la ciudad, si la ciudad de Los Ángeles será un estado independiente, será número cuatro en los Estados Unidos en este nivel de pruebas. Tenemos que proteger a todos quienes nos protegen a nosotros, por eso estoy anunciando hoy una nueva orden para la protección de trabajadores. Empezando el lunes 13 de abril, todos los empleados en negocios esenciales no médicos, tendrán que llevar coberturas faciales sobre sus caras mientras que estén en el trabajo. Los empleadores son obligados de proveer y cubrir el costo de estas coberturas para sus empleados. Estos negocios también tienen que asegurar que sus empleados tengan acceso a un sanitario limpio y permitir que sus empleados laven sus manos cada media hora. Y son obligados a implementar medidas de sana distancia para todos.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Además estamos suspendiendo la prohibición del uso de bolsas de plástico y el registro de cobrar diez centavos para las bolsas de papel. Y estamos recomendando que empresas instalen barreras de plexiglás entre cajeros y clientes. Nuestra iniciativa LA Protects sigue atrayendo interés, más de 800 negocios se han inscrito y 253 han sido aprobados para empezar sus operaciones. Hemos también recibido solicitudes de 600 negocios esenciales para 873,000 mascarillas de uso no médico. Si tu negocio esencial necesita mascarillas de uso no médico, por favor visita la página [Coronavirus.LAcity.org/LAProtects](https://www.coronavirus.lacity.org/LAProtects).

MAYOR GARCETTI: Además, la semana pasada nombré a Gene Seroka como el jefe oficial, Jefe de Logística para nuestra ciudad para procurar el equipamiento médico crítico para la protección personal de nuestros trabajadores médicos. Y este esfuerzo lo llamamos Victory LA, y nos va a ayudar a acelerar este proceso para nuestros hospitales y negocios esenciales. Lea más sobre este programa en su página web [LOVLA.org](https://www.lovla.org), [LOVLA.org](https://www.lovla.org). Hemos trabajado también con líderes federales y estatales para portar alivio para angelinos durante esta pandemia, pero el paquete de legislación que aprobaron en Congreso el mes pasado excluye el 80% de trabajadores americanos en negocios con más de 500 empleados. Esto no es aceptable, y por eso el Concejo Municipal tomó acción inmediata para permitir que miles de personas podrán quedarse en casa y recibir el 100% de sus ganancias durante un máximo de 10 días de trabajo.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Estoy agradecido al Concejo Municipal y a la presidenta del Concejo Nury Martínez por su liderazgo y su visión. Yo también estoy firmando una orden hoy que aplica estos beneficios para los negocios que ya han ofrecido estos beneficios para sus empleos, para asegurar que podamos proteger a nuestros hospitales y miles de empleos en Los Ángeles.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020

Para muchos también entramos una época muy sagrada para nuestras comunidades religiosas. Mañana empieza la Pascua judía y el domingo empieza la Pascua.

MAYOR GARCETTI: En unas semanas también empieza el más sagrado de Ramadán para nuestra comunidad musulmán. Aunque nos acostumbramos a observar estos días juntos, pero este año no lo podemos hacer así. Si tienes planes para reuniones, tienen que cancelarlos, no pueden tener invitados en sus casas. Si están preparando una comida, por favor vea lo que pueden ordenar para entrega a domicilio. Esto es difícil, yo lo sé, estas fiestas son normalmente momentos para unirnos con nuestras comunidades, para encontrar esperanza, pero en este momento, tenemos la responsabilidad de protegernos el uno al otro con quedarnos en casa. Entonces, por favor, quédense en buena salud, quédense protegidos y quédense-- y amor, Los Ángeles.