

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening, Los Angeles, and thank you again for joining me for our nightly briefing on COVID-19. Tonight is the first night of Passover for the Jewish people, a night in which all of us know the story of the redemption of those who were once enslaved moving to the Promised Land. It will be a very different Passover this year as instead of gathering at tables for satyrs with families, Jews here in Los Angeles will do this virtually or in smallest groups. Just as we will see Christians on Sunday celebrate the Holy Day of Easter in a different way than we have in the past. But I hope that we all can feel and see that light and that hope that we refuse to live in fear. Today, there was the news that came out of China from Wuhan which was the epicenter of where the COVID-19 crisis began, of folks finally being able to come out and to go back to some normalcy of the lives that they once had, 76 days after they had their stay-at-home order. It shows us that this will not be an easy path, but it will be one that we will walk through.

MAYOR GARCETTI: There will be a day, and that day is somewhere ahead of us, on the calendar, in which we will return to seeing each other in three dimensions instead of two, in which we'll be able to hold and to hug each other, which schools and businesses will be back. But until then, we have to do everything we can to accelerate that date by staying at home and doing our part. And I thank you as always for what you do to make this city work and to save lives as well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We always make decisions that are routed in the advice of our medical professionals and in the data that we are seeing. So let's begin as we always do right there. We continue to monitor what we as Angelenos are doing to slow the spread of COVID-19, and as you know, this is an army of people out there, doctors and nurses, public health professionals led by Dr. Ferrer and other county officials, cities and government officials, bus drivers, grocery clerks, people who are in the warehouses making sure that we can live during this crisis but that also this crisis is as short as humanly possible. I've shared with you that our overall momentum, our movement in terms of our acceleration and the number of cases is down.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But we also saw today that the number of cases continue to rise. And I also want to share you other data about our movement in the city. I mentioned that we had been rated in A, we were down to a C, we've been a B- and back to a C, let's do everything we can, especially this week and the coming week, to stay at home. We monitor our traffic patterns and we're seeing more movement on some of our roadways. We are receiving also concerned calls to our hotline about this movement which means that people are back in the cars. If you look at some of those traffic maps, we see, for instance, on PCH some moments when PCH South of the LAX area is yellow. We see some pinch points where we don't have any red in the city but it's not all green. So please, make sure that you're staying at home, that you should only be driving if you absolutely need to.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And even if you need to, if you can't stay home, please try to as well. And so I might ask is that you get off the road as we've gone and downgraded by Unicast, I'm challenging us all to try to get back up to an A, which means more about staying in the neighborhood, preferably be staying just at home. If you exercise, stay close to where you are to

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make sure there isn't spread between neighborhoods and communities as well. So let's dig into the data for today. Today, there were 620 new cases, numbers which are huge compared to what they were just a week or two ago.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And that brings the total number of cases in Los Angeles County to 7,530 cases. The slightly positive news is that this is the third day in a row of an increase less than 10%, this represents a 9% increase since yesterday, but the third highest number of cases that we've seen. And most tragically, the second highest, sorry, the highest number of deaths, 29 deaths that we saw, bringing our total to 198 fallen Angelenos. This was a 17% increase since yesterday and our deaths continue to double every four days. If that doesn't sober you up about what is ahead, nothing will. And these aren't numbers, these our people and as always, especially if we enter these holy days ahead, our hearts aches for those that are lost in this journey that we are moving through.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But as we prepare for the peak, we are also focusing very carefully on the beds that we have available in our hospitals. And hospitals and medical professionals are doing an amazing job, being able to expand those beds, move the architecture of hospitals around, build out other places from obviously the USNS Mercy, the Convention Center and others. But today at our General Emergency Hospitals alone, there are 1,548 available beds including 247 ICU beds and an inventory of just north of a 1,000, a 1,042 to be exact, ventilators available. This testing, as you know, has been absolutely critical to our ability to know who has COVID-19 and to get them the help that they need. I shared with everybody earlier this week the good news now that anybody who has symptoms, not anybody without symptoms, but anybody with symptoms can go to coronavirus.LACity.org/testing, and go to a city or country drive-thru, or walk-up center. And we now have over 18 of those throughout the county, this is great, great news, and we're working with other providers who are working with our senior population, our population of people experiencing homelessness and others to continue to grow this capacity.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Today, we had a whopping number of tests, 4,000. The first day we had that many tests in a day, bringing us to 28,700 tests completed through these centers on top of what hospitals and providers are doing. And we are going to reach the 30,000 milestone that I talked about last week, a day ahead schedule tomorrow. Even if slots are filled up for a given day, I remind you that if you logon and they say there is nothing else available, it will now kick you to the next available day, so keep going and check midday if you haven't been able to, because sometimes we're seeing about 15 or 20% of people not show up, so you may be able to get an afternoon appointment even if you weren't able to get one the night before. With that, let me share a few announcements on our new steps to keep Angelenos safe and to support all of those neighbors of ours that are doing their good work to stay at home.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Each year, I know it's one of the great traditions of Los Angeles to head to the park to celebrate Easter, maybe it's for an Easter egg hunt, maybe it's after church services to sit and have a picnic. But this isn't a normal year. And So I'm announcing that on Sunday our parks will be closed, before we've closed the facilities and the trails that are in our parks. But for this Sunday, the parks will be altogether closed except for the bathrooms which are being used

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right now, people experiencing homelessness and others. We'll have park rangers and LAPD out there. We can't be everywhere at all times, so I am counting on all of you. And I know that your heart breaks like so many of the things that we've have to do. This is such a fun moment for our kids, this is such a great tradition that many families have, but we can't afford to have one cluster of just even a few people together, spread this disease to more people and kill them. We are doing so well so far, I'm so proud of each one of you, and while we can always do more, we want to ensure that we don't slip while we have these better days.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So it'll be absolutely critical, it will be closed from the evening of Saturday, April 11th through the morning of Monday, April 13th. The county has taken the same actions, and that includes lakes and botanical gardens as well. All the closures we've announced in recent days remain in place, our trails, our facilities, our beaches, our playgrounds; those stay closed today, Sunday and after Sunday. But this is just for the walking through a park or spending time in a park on Sunday to stay safe.

MAYOR GARCETTI: While we've asked everyone to stay safer at home, not everybody has a place to call home. And so from the beginning since January, we've been focused on what we can do for our fellow Angelenos who are experiencing homelessness. Testing today moved forward for Angelenos experiencing homelessness, and now we have 10 locations where people who are homeless can now go, with trusted doctors and clinics that they already go to for their health concerns. And thank you to those clinics, those community clinics, those doctors who have stepped forward to ensure whether it's Skid Row or another part of the city that testing can be there for folks, regardless of whether we are housed or unhoused.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We know that folks that are experiencing homelessness are both susceptible and vulnerable, they are susceptible because of living on the streets, and vulnerable because so many of them have underling health conditions already. And I hope all of us, after we get through COVID-19, will recognize that being on the streets, you have twice as likely a chance to die as those of us that are housed, so that we keep this momentum going.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Public health isn't just about COVID-19; it's about the humanitarian emergency we have on our streets every day. And from the beginning, I've been committed to improving our sanitary conditions, where our unhoused Angelenos live. Putting more than 300 sanitary stations for washing hands on our streets, dozens of port-a-potties, but I was disappointed to learn that many of those hand-washing stations didn't have water or soap or paper towels. So thanks to Judge Carter, to my Deputy Mayor, Christina Miller, for the fast action, we had talked to the folks that are our vendors, and instead of being checked once a week, they will now be checked daily to ensure that people living on the street can maintain sanitary conditions and all of us can help stop the spread of COVID-19. That will begin starting tomorrow.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And we're continually adding capacity to our emergency shelters, at our rec and park facilities, to meet the need as well as bringing motel and hotel rooms online. And through the state, Project Roomkey, which is supported by the city, LAHSA, our Homeless Services Authority, and the county as well as many non-profit partners. And a total of 1,069

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beds at 15 hotel sites are secured and moving to staff up to be made operational. And I thank so many folks who have brought us hotels; Councilman Joe Buscaino today had one down in his district by the harbor and we've seen hotels from Van Nuys to downtown, close to Skid Row and others step up. We need more, we need to get them faster, I'm committed to that. So please to our hospitality community, talk to us, let's sign a deal and let's get more rooms today. Project Roomkey works to bring particularly vulnerable homeless individuals indoors, those who are elderly or who are medically compromised and provides an opportunity for everybody to step up.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So I'd like to make a big announcement with these two to speed up what we are doing. Tonight I am appointing for the city of Los Angeles, Jon Vein to lead this effort, as my ambassador to the hotel and motel community. It was his day in this role yesterday but Jon is a business leader, he's already the President as a volunteer, the President of our Convention and Tourism Development Board. So he has relationships with our hospitality industry, he is a proven leader and somebody who I know will help save even more lives, thank you, Jon for your help.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And So to the hotels and motels that want to get involved, let me tell where you can go, coronavirus.LACity.org/rooms. It is that easy and we welcome your help. When we talk about saving lives, it's not just about lives, it is also about livelihoods. And so I want to spend a second today because so many people are suffering. They've been laid off or they have fewer hours, they don't know what their future holds. Some of them don't qualify for the federal assistance, they can't make the rent and they fear being homeless when this is over. This is a time of immense stress for folks that are working-class and our lowest income Angelenos and even everyday Angelenos who have something in the bank but wonder how long it will still be there.

MAYOR GARCETTI: COVID has hit our economy extremely hard, and in future addresses, I'll start talking about what we are doing to think about how the economy gets restarted; the investments we can make in making sure that people have jobs, that companies and businesses don't go under that are our key employers, and all the things we can do to have a stronger social safety net to catch people who right now are suffering so much. As you all will remember, we launched an 11,000-million-dollar small business emergency micro loan program. That's about two out of every hundred dollars in the country that local government have offered out of their own budgets to make sure that we can get capital in the hands of small businesses so they can keep employees on the payroll. And we've had a fourfold oversubscription and we are looking for dollars to continue to put in there but some of those loans are already moving out the door. But as much as the city can do on our own, I've always said it's really our federal government and our tax dollars in Washington that while we have pennies, they have dollars upon dollars to help us with.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Washington's Coronavirus Legislation, the relief legislation, helps a lot. But as I've said before the \$349 billion in small business administration loans, are a start to survival, not a road to recovery. And so I've been in close contact with our national leaders, congressional leaders, folks in the Senate, in the House, in the Administration and together with

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fellow mayors to ensure that we get in the next round the priorities that we need to see to save livelihoods here in Los Angeles.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The Relief Legislation establishes two types of loans: economic injury disaster loans and the Paycheck Protection Program, you probably heard it, it's described as PPP. And there is a lot of confusion about which one is right and which one to apply to. On top of that frustration, many businesses are going to banks and they're being told they don't qualify, they've never done businesses with those banks, those banks are oversubscribed, so they're helping out the companies that they already work with. And smaller businesses in particular, who are already undercapitalized, who don't have those connections with banks, are being lost in the lurch.

MAYOR GARCETTI: That's why tonight I'm urging the Los Angeles banking community to be part of the solution with us, in announcing the LA Cares Corps, this is a partnership between the city and the county, the private sector and volunteers to help provide small businesses with the help they need to apply to those federal loans. Remember, these are competitive loans so if another part of the country is better at this than us, that means there will be less money for our businesses to apply to. We've got to be fast, we've got to be knowledgeable and we've to assume that a lot of people don't know how to go through the red tape of the applications. So this Care Corps are angels who literally, virtually, not face to face, help people out to apply for these loans, figure out which one is best, also which ones they can apply to the city, county, state and federal levels. And there is an informative website that we already have up we're announcing today at coronavirus.LACity.org/carescorps, that's with C-o-r-p-s, Cares Corps. And business owners can obtain a clear explanation of these two different programs, and we have a call-in center at 833-238-4450 where business owners can obtain assistance from train loan counselors and completing these SBA loan applications.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And finally, for businesses that aren't eligible for SBA loans, and know that if you are a non-profit employer, you are eligible both for the city and federal programs. So whether it's a religious institution, a non-profit, an educational institution, you too can apply for these. There is information on how to apply for our city's small business loans there as well or to obtain assistance through one of our business source centers. I want our small businesses to know that our city is here to help, but I also want to send that message to our immigrant and undocumented communities as well, because they've been bypassed by Washington. They are an intergroup part of our city; they pay taxes, but besides through their children may be getting some additional SNAP or food stamps. There is nothing that's been passed by Washington to assist those workers.

MAYOR GARCETTI: That's why Congress needs come back to the table and give relief to the estimated 2.5 million undocumented immigrants in our state, including the 375,000 here in the city of Los Angeles. Countywide, we estimate there is about 650,000 undocumented workers who today may not be working, over half of their jobs are in dangered by the COVID-19 crisis. And it's estimated that at a minimum a quarter of them will be lost. Governor Newsom has taken a positive step moving forward to fill this gap by announcing \$50 million in micro loans to small businesses including immigrant-owned businesses that aren't eligible for federal relief. And I am

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very encouraged and want to thank Governor Newsom for working with the legislature on a package for undocumented immigrants. Families in need don't have time to wait for a lifeline, they need one right now.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And let's be clear to folks here, if we don't have immigrants spending on main street, our entire economy won't come back. We are all in this together. Every life matters and every person matters. We need to make sure we are in this boat together. That's why today, along with several of my fellow mayors in California, Mayors Breed in San Francisco, Liccardo in San José, Steinberg, up in Sacramento, Schaaf in Oakland, Pulido in Santa Ana, Garcia in Long Beach, Tubbs in Stockton, I'm again calling on the State to fill the gap for our undocumented community by retroactively extending the California earned income tax credit to all Californians regardless of their immigration status.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This step would immediately provide 600,000 individuals of which 200,000 are children with much needed relief to get through these tough weeks together. To learn about how much you can save, and this is eligible to all lower income working-class Californians, go to caleitc4me.org. That's caleitc4me.org, that's [Cal E-I-T-C-4-ME.org](http://CalEITC4ME.org), and click on "earn it" to see how much you can get if you are eligible. This is a commonsense and compassionate action, and I hope we can all get behind this, regardless about party, regardless of zip code, regardless of our ethnicity. We all need the help.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I also want speak about immigrants too. I mentioned this yesterday in a question, but there is absolutely no place for the discrimination and hate crimes that we are seeing across this country and even in this region against members of our Asian and Pacific Islander community. There's no excuse for that and it will be dealt with and prosecuted. Please, report any such anti-Asian hate crimes that we see. Report any hate crimes ever, but in particular during this crisis by calling 877-ASK- LAPD, if there's something that's ongoing, of course, call 911 or avail yourself on 311. This is a proudly Asian and Pacific city, one in which our destiny has always being built and included folks who trace their ancestry back to Asia, and we have no place for that sort of bigotry in the face of this crisis that should be bringing us together.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Now, there are more than a dozen ways right now that we are helping everyday Angelenos to deal with this moment, and from the start of this crisis, Angelenos have expressed concerns about what happens if you lose your job and you can't pay the rent. So let me spend a couple of minutes on this as well. Today city, county and state and federal agencies are helping low-income individuals and families to get food, to pay for basics necessities like rent and medical care, to get supplemental income and to qualify for safety net programs. In the coming days, I will be welcoming a county official here, who together with me can walk through what some of these programs are and the confusion.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Together they are a very strong arsenal to meet the crisis of this moment. When it comes to housing, we are doing our part as a city, early on issuing the toughest protections for residential tenants to ensure that nobody will be evicted if they can't cover their payments due to this pandemic. And the courts at the state level have joined us in halting

evictions, closing a very important loophole that could have allowed people to be evicted the day after this emergency was declared over.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I also froze rents for all rent-stabilized units, representing about 80 percent of our city's rental units and all of our lowest rent ones, and I want to reiterate tonight my support for federal direct assistance for renters and for mortgage holders. Those landlord mom and pop folks to get past the payments that they have to have for our lowest income residents. They don't have jobs, they don't have income, they can't pay the rent. For many of the folks who also own these mom-and-pop apartments, they can't make their mortgages, they can't pay the rent. We need the federal government to directly assist them to be able to help them to get through these times.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I join with other mayors, I'm proud to see the city council introduce motions along those lines, and I will be signing each and every one of them when they come to my desk. Getting through this emergency requires us to be flexible and understanding. So let me give you some more advice if you are a renter and/or a landlord. It requires renters and landlords to work together. First, with renters. Know your rights. If you can't pay your rent, don't leave your home, but understand that your landlords might be struggling too. So communicate with them. That's good for you in terms of your legal rights, it's good for us all in terms of the communication. Let them know in writing about your economy circumstances as a result of COVID-19 as soon as possible. Do it tonight if you haven't done it. Make a plan for how and when you'll start paying back your rent and look at income assistance, so that that can be taken care for you, whether it's from the federal government or local efforts like the Angeleno Fund that I ask folks to donate to each night that is giving cash assistance to Angelenos and families in need.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Landlords cannot force you to provide documents of lost income or hardship. That's a misconception, and you're not required to sign any payment agreements. And our Housing and Community Investment Department is here to help. They're investigating tenant complaints and informing landlords and renters about the rules. They can answer your questions, provide you with a simple letter, and you can go to their website, it's called HCID. So H-C-I-D-LA.lacity.org. That's hcidla.lacity.org. And as we work to protect our vulnerable tenants and to support responsible landlords, we're also making it clear we will not tolerate illegal activity by property owners that threaten public health and people's life.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We received some disturbing reports of property managers who are renting unpermitted short-term rental operations that violate city law in apartment buildings. In some cases we've learned of illegal units that are being used for parties that defy our safer at home order. We've heard from residents, including seniors and those with medical conditions who fear for their lives because the landlords are reducing rents and letting tourists occupy nearby rooms. These operators are not only flagrantly violating city code, but critical emergency orders that I put forward to protect everyone's health. That cannot and it will not be tolerated.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Let me reiterate it. Short-term renters are allowed only in a property owner's primary residence and only after securing a proper registration number from the city. If

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illegal short-term rentals continue and endanger those who are following physical distancing rules, then we'll take aggressive enforcement actions, including fines and criminal charges. To that end, we have taken now enforcement actions against the operators of the Ellison Suites in Venice. City Attorney Mike Feuer and his office, working together with councilmember Mike Bonin, have filed a 26-count criminal case for substandard conditions at this site, along with a civil suit to prohibit this property for being used as a hotel.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This global pandemic is not a chance for unscrupulous actors that take advantage of us. I won't stand for that in this city, and this is a crisis or not, we will not allow these activities to stand, period. Now, on a more positive note, the strength of Los Angeles has always been the way that we pull together, the good that we appeal to in one another, that extraordinary neighbor who's getting groceries for her senior neighbor, that person who is going out and working at a food bank, the people who are donating to help us with the efforts to make sure that there's cash on the hands of families that can't make the rent and can't buy food.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Los Angeles philanthropic community has been absolutely stunning during this, and each night I try to highlight some of the folks who have stepped up and who are helping us. For 70 years the W.M. Keck Foundation has been an integral part of southern California, endowing the Keck School of Medicine at USC and being a key supporter of PBS here in the southland, and I very grateful to report the Keck Foundation, led by chairman Robert Day and co-presidents Joe Day and Steve Keck have contributed \$500,000 to the Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles to help us with those efforts, child care for our healthcare workers, senior meals and cash assistance to families.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Joining them is another 500,000-dollar donation from the Ring Foundation, headed by dear friend and former colleague, former city councilwoman, Cindy Miscikowski. It's been after her husband, Doug Ring, and his late mother, Norma Ring, who were two of LA's incredible pillars. A friend of mine, Doug Ring, and a great man and Cindy, I thank you in his memory and your great work for joining us in this effort. These funds are being put to work right now as I mentioned, grocery carts that have already gone out the door, cash assistance that is coming this week, senior meals that are being served as we speak. These things make a difference and they are part of our safety net here, to show what a city of angels really is about.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I'm also grateful to our working men and women who comprise the United Brotherhood of Carpenters who stepped up with a half a million dollars as well. Folks who are working hard right now to do things like building our homeless shelters in our critical infrastructure, and who reached with their own dues in their own pockets to give \$500,000 to even needier folks that out there today. Thank you. And I want to thank Dan Langford, as well our general president, LA native Doug McCarron, for their commitment to rebuilding the middle class and helping us all hang on.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Finally, all of us in LA know that while there's movie stars that bring the tourists here, it's really the set carpenters and lighting technicians, the behind-the-scenes, blue-collar workers in this industry who have helped us, and we have yet another incredible

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donation that comes from one of the most famous companies right here in Los Angeles. And I want to thank the Fox Corporation, whose historic studios and backlot are an iconic part of our city, and tonight, they have donated \$1 million dollars to the Angeleno Fund to help folks in greatest need here in LA. Thank you so much.

MAYOR GARCETTI: All of you can help at MayorsFundLA.org. Every donation counts. It's the five-dollar donations that help as much as those million dollars ones, especially if you are on a fixed income or you don't have a lot of savings, and I'm so moved by people who write stories or talk to folks on the phone saying, "I know how bad things are for me, but there is somebody worse off, and I'm giving tonight." There's nothing that's straightforward or simple about this moment. There's nothing easy about what we go through, but let me end where I started tonight as some Angelenos sit down at a seder with a few fewer people this year as we celebrate what this night means to many of us. My rabbi, Sharon Brous, put out in a sermon here today that this is a decision we can all make each day, Passover reminds us in many of religion holidays to not live in fear, to know that in the stories of humanity we have had dark moments of pestilence, of slavery, of moments when we didn't know when the light would come, but if we refuse to not live in fear, anything is possible, and we can take what it's called (unintelligible) moving from darkness into light. That is my wish for all of you tonight as many gear up for Easter, as Muslim community gears up for Ramadan a week and a half later, that we can all take this moment to be grateful, not only for what we have, but of the idea of something bigger than ourselves, of saving lives and helping our fellow human beings.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And for those of us of faith who can see that Made in God's image, we are all expected to do something bigger and greater than who we are. So as always, I would like to the end by saying stay healthy, stay safe and stay at home. Chag Sameach for those who are celebrating tonight. I wish you all God's blessings and all strength and love, Los Angeles. With that, be happy to answer questions. Thank you.

OPERATOR: Hi Mayor. We have a question from Elex Michaelson. The line is open.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Elex.

ELEX MICHAELSON: Hi, Chag sameach, and happy Passover to you and your family.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you very much, you too.

ELEX MICHAELSON: Let's talk for a moment about the issue of antibodies and the antibody tests. There's been a lot thought that if you can test an antibodies, you might be able to see if somebody had a coronavirus already which would potentially make them safe to go back to work. What's the status of that and are you working with any companies locally to kind of get that sped up?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Absolutely. We have a small number of those tests. We are using them and trying to figure out where to best deploy them, and also working with USC, County Public Health, Stanford and others, people like Shawn Parker, who are funding studies right now to look

at. These are great to see prevalence. In other words, how many people have this virus, who might not have symptoms, but we can get a more honest number. You take a few thousand random people who are representative of the county, for instance, give them each one of these antibody tests. And we can really see a true percentage.

MAYOR GARCETTI: What we report every night is not the percentage of people who have the novel coronavirus. It's only reporting the number of people who have been tested positive through the test that have been giving to them. And we know there is many, many more. I do not know that it's the tip of the iceberg, but it is a fraction of the overall number. Second, we hope that the national government will help us scale this up across the United States. If there is one place that I would love to see Washington step up and help private sector, it would be to make sure not only these tests work and have a good response rate, because early on some of them, there's some false positives but they're looking pretty good now.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But secondarily, to see how can we get as many of these spread around the country as possible. Today I spoke with many of our business leaders on a conference call. I spoke with our faith leaders as well. Many of them talked about this. Could we ourselves, a business, test all of our employees and then see the ones that are immune and have them start coming back to work in the future? And I think that is a sound plan. So we're putting, just those initial conversations, I know the county's also working on that, but we need to have one, the quantity, two, the quality of them, and then three, the process by which we would kind of allow people to do that.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In China people have a red, yellow, green card. You know, we have a different society here, different freedoms, we'll have to see what works well with our system but the idea of folks having an immunity passport or something that allows them to be able to work certainly would accelerate, for me, our economic recovery, and my ability as mayor to lift the orders for some people in coming weeks. But I don't want people to have false expectations. That's still a while off. And Wuhan, which had a very strict lockdown, like I said, it was 76 days. Here, I think we intervened earlier but we have not hit the peak, we won't hit the peak for anywhere between one or two weeks and a month by most of the projections. So that is something for us to be able to consider for May and June, but if we can get that ready now, I would love for Los Angeles to lead the way, and we are having those conversation with companies with researchers and seeing if we can get that kind of quantity for the future. Thanks Alex. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: Thank you. I will go to Claudia Peschiutta with KNX News Radio. The line is open.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening, Claudia.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: Mayor, happy Passover.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: I wanted to ask about testing. When you give the numbers, you are talking about individuals tests, correct? You are not talking about people who have been tested because sometimes people get multiple tests, and then, also I'm wondering if you know if first responders and healthcare workers are getting tests, you know, before they start showing symptoms, so for the general public you have to show symptoms, but I'm wondering for people who have come into regular contact with people who are COVID-19-positive or possibly positive, if they are getting regular testing even without symptoms?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yes. We actually started with our first-responders when we opened up the first drive-thru center. We had a few other people but it was mostly for firefighters, police officers and others on the frontline or who had wondered if they had been exposed but were not necessarily symptomatic. That started with 200 people the first day in a parking lot near Dodge Stadium. Now that is a set group, it's a small fraction of the overall tests, now that we have so many but regularly, yes, and anybody who is one of those healthcare workers and/or first-responders who needs a test, we are providing them. In terms of the first question, no. This is individuals, the number that I give, individuals. So if I didn't make that clear, I'm sorry. If you looked at overall tests, you're right, because some people do have two or three tests. It will be a much higher number of overall tests given. But that's the number of individuals now through our drive-thru centers and that one walk-in center as well our distribution through our now homeless and senior networks that we are doing. Thank you. Next question.

OPERATOR: Thank you. We'll go to Elizabeth Chou with Los Angeles Daily News. Please go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Liz.

ELIZABETH CHOU: Hi. I was wondering, so the hotel and motel rooms, there is a goal to reach 15,000 rooms, and I was wondering how that would be paid for, and if that's a feasible goal to be able to reach quickly? And also, what are some steps you are taking to quickly set up more permanent housing for people after perhaps the three months lease that you have, that period (unintelligible) the physical lease with the hotel/motel rooms that are (unintelligible) these people.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So the 15,000 goal that the county put forward, which I support 150 percent is admittedly a very ambitious one. And that is why I announced tonight some help by having kind of a czar of the hotel and motel rooms with Jon Vein from the city side to help increase deals even more quickly. Though I do want to thank the state and the county who have done this. Initially, there was state money for this, but the good news was that FEMA said this is a reimbursable expense. So while we can use that state money up front that was given to us for homeless response, emergency response, that should be mostly reimbursed 75 or 100 percent of that from FEMA.

MAYOR GARCETTI: First time ever I talked about this, I think a couple of nights ago. This has never been in the history of the United States. It is something I called for three years ago when I said it would be great to have a state of emergency at the national level, where before

remember when El Niño was coming and I said, "Why can't we get FEMA dollars to help folks who are living on the streets not die or in riverbeds?" But the policy back then and for administrations before was not unique to this, FEMA only reimbursed after something bad happened, not when we knew something bad was coming.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This is the first time that we're able to house people who have not yet contracted Covid-19. So they will be reimbursed and so it's partially FEMA reimbursable and that's allowed us to be so aggressive. So I hope that we'll continue to try to get thousands of these. To the second part of your question, what happens afterwards. That is also a point I have been making until I am blue in the face. We cannot let this be a moment in which the federal government and/or state gives us these dollars and then says, "Hey, when it is done, good luck" and these people are back on the streets. I mean, that would be one of the greatest tragedies of this moment.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I don't harbor the idea that one for one will get a hundred percent of people out of motel and hotel rooms. And everybody will have a quick and happy ending of going into housing. But we better get as close to one to one as we can. So I have asked a separate part of my team to start working with our Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, whether it means more construction, very tough to do in, you know, two months to stand up new housing is virtually impossible, but there are some modular things that we could do. Or potentially with some of these motels and hotels, as I think I shared with you, there was one hotel that is looking to help out right now, but said that its funding has fallen through for its development project, and they would be maybe interested in selling us the entire hotel that we could then keep for folks who have been experiencing homelessness to stay off the streets.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We have to look at each of those buildings, make sure that we can staff them, make sure that they are facilities for people to live there. But I do think that this would be a wasted opportunity if we don't get as many of those thousands of people who go into hotel rooms and motel rooms permanently either at those places or through other housing house. So we are ramping out for that while we will simultaneously be trying to find those rooms to put them in today. And thank you so much for that question. It is a really critical point. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: We go to Steve Gregory with KFI News. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Steve.

STEVE GREGORY: Mayor, good evening. Happy Passover.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you.

STEVE GREGORY: I wanted to ask you real quick, what is your thought on freelancers? And we are getting a lot of feedback from listeners about the impacts of ED5 have had on freelancers and people in the community, they seem to be stuck in the middle where they can't really get resources and you know, because of the new law, it's kind of messed them up a little bit. Also

how soon before the city starts seeing federal dollars, actually start getting in to the budget here, into the coffers here. And finally, when this is all said and done, kind of looking down the line a little bit, as of now, do you see anything that might permanently affected or changed as a result of this pandemic? Anything in the city, any policy, anything that you can kind of see in the top of your head, you know what? That's been changed and it is probably going to stay that way after the fact?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yeah. On the last one, it is probably too early to say specifically, but I certainly hope so. I hope that we learn the lessons on how quick we can come together when we need to. And so whether we are addressing poverty or racism, whether we are looking at homelessness, whether we are looking at issues like domestic violence, and I want to thank everybody who stepped up and is donating to help us continue to expend domestic violence beds in the midst of this. I hope that we can continue to cut red tape bureaucracy. At the federal level I hope that we'll have something change permanently that allows us to get reimbursed for disasters that are every day on our streets, like our homelessness crisis here and throughout California and Washington and around the country.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I hope that, too, we will look at ways that we can help one another. In a negative way, will we change things or will we have fewer interactions, will we have more Zoom meetings, will we, you know, have moments in which people are a little more hesitant to be close to each other? I think in the medium term, yes. I think sporting events will be slower to come back, concerts, things like that. But I do not believe that they will be permanent. I think human beings want to come back together, want to congregate, want to celebrate. We love our sports teams, I have been watching too many replays as I go to sleep of old games and I love watching Lakers Show Time, but I miss our current teams playing and seeing that as well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: To the second question, federal money, it has not begun to flow to us but we know it's coming. It has flowed already, probably, we have to assume, to some businesses because some of that money went out the door the first day, but I don't have a number and SBA hasn't given us a report for the Los Angeles area but we do have the biggest SBA office in the country and a very good one, again, through the banks that the SBA has the umbrella over. But we know they are good for, we know what the specific amounts are, and now we know many of their requirements. And I want to thank, again, FEMA who has done really an extraordinary job, good to see them in charge of things and helping us, whether it was getting the Mercy or whether it's getting the reimbursements for the hotel and motel rooms. That's really been an extraordinary stepping forward.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And then with the freelancers, you are right. This predates this crisis but AB5, some love it, some hate it. It certainly was an opportunity to make sure that freelancers aren't left in the lurch, but that it was different than other states. Some freelancers have complained, well, my company is not doing business anymore in California and I lost my job. I hope that we can be part of the nationwide movement to recognize that all work matters, that people should have benefits no matter who they are. And as we're seeing even in this something like the PPP, the Paycheck Protection Program is great for a company that has regular employees. But what if you are not a regular employee? You are left in the lurch. You might get

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some of the cash assistance that is coming to all Americans. But short of that, why shouldn't you be able to through the company that you freelance for also get that sort of assistance if they get that? And I'd like to see that addressed in the federal legislation that moves forward from here. Yeah, these were the three questions. Thanks so much, Steve. Next question.

OPERATOR: Go next to Adrian Florido with NPR. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Adrian.

ADRIAN FLORIDO: Hi. Mayor, a number of cities have announced the creation of funds that will actually put public money into direct payments for undocumented immigrants. I know there's this mayor's fund, it's unclear to me whether it's public money in there, and I am wondering if that is something that you are looking into or willing to do and if not--

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yes.

ADRIAN FLORIDO: --why not?

MAYOR GARCETTI: All of our programs, both the ones that are raising private foundation, philanthropic money, and our public money will make sure that anybody, regardless of whether you are an immigrant or not, papers or not, that any Angeleno is treated equally. So there is access to all of those for everyone. We are working with immigrant rights groups and others who have those networks and quite frankly, the work that we do all the time with folks to make sure nobody is excluded in the way that the federal legislation did. So there is cash direct assistance to folks included undocumented that will come from the Angeleno fund that we are trying to raise 10 million into. We are pretty close and some of that money will keep going, but I think we could easily try to double or triple that.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I am looking all the time and calling for more donors on that. And our city programs where we are using funds, for instance, for our business assistance, that can go to immigrant-owned businesses including undocumented immigrants. So we absolutely, unless there's a federal prohibition on money that we have from the federal government, the state does not put those requirements and we do not put those requirements. So it is absolutely open to everybody and will go to folks regardless of their status. Thanks. Next question.

OPERATOR: We will go to Jintak Han with UCLA Daily Bruin. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi Jintak, how are you?

JINTAK HAN: Hi, there. Happy Passover.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you.

JINTAK HAN: I have a question about your order from yesterday.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yeah.

JINTAK HAN: We looked at a text that you ordered and it said it only applies to certain non-medical essential workers. We are looking at the order and those orders doesn't apply to some workers who are at higher risk of exposure but may not be able to get protection, notably postal workers. How does the city plan to protect these non-medical workers who are – may not be able to get this protective equipment but the orders doesn't also--the order doesn't protect them?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yes. So we try to look as comprehensively as we can. These are dynamic orders we can always add to. Postal workers, I'll have to check with my staff but I think there was not the direct kind of store-type of interactions. And that's why. We certainly have made sure that there's folks like taxi drivers, rideshare drivers, folks that are working in construction sites, etcetera. But those seem to be the ones in which we are told by Public Health the sorts of interactions that they have. The facial coverings could have an impact in slowing the spread of Covid-19.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I want to be clear too, I do not know if this was in the question. We said non-medical emergency workers. Of course there's an even higher threshold that is being used by first-responders and medical workers with N95 masks, with surgical masks, with PPE, with face shields, and with clothing that will help protect them. So that, and it wasn't to exclude them, they have an even higher one, but these other folks were not covered. We keep saying that people who are our heroes, who are our grocery clerks, folks that were helping us drive buses, etcetera, we now wanted to make sure that that was mandated, that employers knew that they had a responsibility, that employees knew that they had a protection and that it wasn't just about the facial coverings, the ability to get to a bathroom, wash your hands every half hour. These are proven things that can help slow the spread, and we wanted to make sure they are covered. But I will follow up if we have anything specific on the postal workers, but that didn't seem to be in one of the categories that was most at risk given advice from Public Health. Next question. Thank you.

OPERATOR: Now next questions are in Spanish and that will come from Abel Alamillo with Telemundo 52. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Buenas tardes. Good evening.

ABEL ALAMILLO: Hi, Mayor. Good evening. Yeah, just if you could please expand more in Spanish on how the earned income tax credit plan can possibly benefit Angelenos, including the immigrant community. And do you think that this plan would actually become a reality?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Great. Okay. Actually I have that in my Spanish talking points, so I am going to do that in the longer speech, if that is okay. Do we have any other questions in Spanish? Or from Spanish media?

OPERATOR: We do have another question.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Okay. Why don't I take that one too? And I will make sure that we put that in there. Okay? Go ahead.

OPERATOR: Okay. Thank you. I will go next to Victor Cordero with KRCH Channel 62. Please, go ahead

VICTOR CORDERO: Mayor, how are you doing? Victor Cordero with Estrella TV Canal 62. My question is also if you can answer in Spanish. I do not know if that you said that you are going to do that right now. But I will ask in English and see what we can do. Just as my colleagues from Telemundo asked you in regards of the tax break for the Latinos, especially undocumented in the city. And number two. Something regarding the order that you did yesterday for the masks. Some of the small businesses and employees are afraid that their boss will not be able to provide them, and if he does not provide the masks, he will probably send them home which means they will not work. What would be the protocol in this case?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Okay. Great. Let me say that in English and then I will work that into Spanish and then I will give my larger address and I'll address the earned income tax credit. So if there are employees who have an employer who say, "No, we are not get you a mask or reimbursed for the mask" because the order says that. So facial covering, either you can give them the bill for it, you know, nothing gold-plated, not hundreds of dollars, obviously, just a normal facial mask. The employer has to pay you for that or provide that to you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So that is the order and that is the law. If you have any questions about that or have an employer who tries to say, "You have to go home" "You can't work", call us, call us at 3-1-1, let us know and we will make sure that we take our Business Ambassador Team out there immediately. That is in violation of the law and nobody should lose their job because they are trying to protect themselves. And we know we added restaurants to this. We know there are a lot of restaurant workers who were working in pretty dangerous conditions. Kitchens are small, it was one of the places we felt we need food, we want to keep our restaurants in business, but also the Public Health advises that was one of the riskier areas. So it is really critical that all employers abide by this.

MAYOR GARCETTI: La ley en Los Ángeles por las mascarillas no medicales. Todos las pequeñas empresas, todo los negociantes deben dar el dinero por una mascarilla o dar una mascarilla a sus empleados. Es una violación de la ley si ellos no pueden hacer esto. Y por favor, llámanos al 311 si tu dueño de su negocio no está cumpliendo con esta orden. Esta orden es muy importante para nuestra gente. Es muy importante por los empleados en restaurantes y otros negocios, tiendas, y esta orden no es una opción, es mandatorio.

MAYOR GARCETTI: With that I am going to do some longer Spanish. Gracias a todos. Muy buenas tardes, Los Ángeles, y gracias por venir esta noche a la alcaldía de Los Ángeles. Hoy hubieron 620 nuevos casos en el condado de Los Ángeles. En total llegamos a 7,530 casos, en la ciudad de Los Ángeles hubieron 230 casos. Llegaron a un total de 3,360. Y hoy fallecieron 21

personas más. Esta es una cantidad más grande en la historia de esta crisis y llegando a un total de 198 almas que están fallecieron aquí.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Y este ya es el mayor número de muertes, y lo siento mucho por las familias que están sufriendo como resultado de este. En nuestros hospitales tenemos 1,548 camas disponibles entre ellas, y 247 están en las unidades de cuidados intensivos. Y tenemos 1,042 respiradores disponibles. Hoy hicimos pruebas de detección a 3,500 personas, más, perdone, más de 4,000 personas. En total hemos hecho pruebas a 28,000 personas en estos centros. Y estamos en camino para hacer 30,000 pruebas para mañana.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Si tienes síntomas de Coronavirus, visita la página coronavirus.LACity.org/testing para hacer una prueba de detección. Este año con la fiesta de Pascua, no podemos arriesgamos a mantener los parques abiertos. Por eso esta noche le he ordenado al Departamento de recreación y parques que cierre todos los parques públicos entre la noche del sábado 11 de abril hasta el lunes 13 de abril en la mañana. Seguimos ampliando los servicios de emergencia para proteger a nuestros vecinos sin hogar. Incluyendo alojado a personas sin hogar en hoteles. Hoy estoy anunciando a nuestro presidente de la Junta de centro de convenciones y turismo, John Vein, como nuestro nuevo embajador en la comunidad hotelera.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Los hoteles interesados en participar pueden visitar la página coronavirus.lacity.org/rooms. Seguimos nuestro trabajo ayudando a pequeñas empresas. Pero necesitamos ayuda también de Washington. y el paquete de estímulo económico que lanzaron no es suficiente. Por eso esta noche estoy lanzando LA Cares Corps. Una colaboración entre el condado y la ciudad para ofrecer ayuda a pequeñas empresas para someter sus solicitudes para créditos federales. Las pequeñas empresas pueden visitar la página coronavirus.lacity.org/carescorps para más información.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Además pueden llamar al 833-238-4450 o visitar nuestros centros de recursos para empresas, para recibir asistencia. Sabemos que la existencia federal excluye a las personas más vulnerables. Y mientras esperamos que el Congreso tome acción, las ciudades estamos tomando acción hoy. Junto con varios alcaldes de California, le estoy pidiendo otra vez al estado que ofrezca el crédito por ingresos del trabajo para todos los californianos, sin importar su estatus migratorio. Este es crítico. Toda la gente de California merecen ayuda durante este crisis, y Sacramento tiene el poder a dar esta asistencia a toda la gente. Los nativos, los inmigrantes, inmigrantes con documentos y sin documentos también.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Durante este tiempo difícil esto le dará alivio importante al 600,000 personas, incluyendo 200,000 niños. Por favor, visita este sitio Caleitc4me.org, [Cal E-I-T-C-4-M-3.org](https://CalE-I-T-C-4-M-3.org) para ver si eres elegible. Pero espero que nuestro gobernador y nuestra legislatura puedan pasar estas acciones u orden de gobernador Newsom inmediatamente a asistir nuestros inmigrantes. Y los programas para ciudad de Los Ángeles por asistencia financiera con el fondo angelino, no les importe si tú eres un inmigrante con documento o sin documentos o no eres un inmigrante. Toda la gente en Los Ángeles son igual. Y esta asistencia de dinero es igual por todos.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: Para aquellos quienes no saben si podrán pagar su renta, hemos tomado acción a nivel local para prohibir desalojos. Y también le estamos pidiendo a los inquilinos y propietarios que trabajen juntos, deben comunicar por escrito, por escrito es importante, sobre su situación actual. Y haga un plan para cuándo y cómo va a pagar la renta que debe. Y usted tiene 12 meses por este. Si necesitan ayuda, pueden visitar la página hcidla.lacity.org. También repito que no permitiremos el uso temporal de unidades de vivienda por propietarios para fiestas ni para turistas. Este pone en riesgo las vidas de vecinos y nuestros residentes. El uso temporal de vivienda es permitido sólo si la propiedad es el lugar de residencia primaria del dueño y sólo después de obtener un número de registro de la ciudad.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Si la renta a corto plazo de vivienda continúa y pone en riesgo las reglas de sana distancia, tomaremos acción agresiva incluyendo multas y cargos criminales para detenerlo. Nuestro futuro, amigos, en esta crisis no está muy claro por el momento. Pero sabemos que Los Ángeles siempre ha superado obstáculos muy difíciles en la historia de nuestra ciudad. La historia de Pascua es una historia de esperanza, de resurrección. Y espero que todos nosotros, personas de fe, de muchas tradiciones, puedan reflejar lo mejor de la ciudad. Y la esperanza de estas historias. Es importante que todos nosotros sabemos que estamos en esta crisis juntos. Entonces quédense en buena salud. Quédense protegidos y quédense en casa. Gracias por todo. Gracias por sus acciones y gracias también por su amor. Fuerza y amor, Los Ángeles, y hasta mañana. With that, thank you everybody. Thanks for tuning in and see you tomorrow night.