

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening, Los Angeles, and thank you for joining us. I hope you all had a restful Easter, a good weekend, and thank you for all you did to stay at home when I know this was traditionally a weekend we would have loved to be outside, to be with family over dinners. Thank you all. And I hope for those of you that were marking Easter, it was a meaningful day full of the services, remotely, that connected us with something bigger than ourselves and reminded us that we will get through this because of the connections that we share as a city family and as human beings that care for one another.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I know this can be a befuddling crisis, almost feels like driving down a foggy road that is bumpy. You never know when there's going to be an off-ramp, when next bump will hit. There is so much that seems unknown. The dates of the future when we will go back to life as we know it, the moments in which we will be able to see and hold loved ones again. But I want to reassure you tonight that there is a lot that we do know. For as much as we do not know today and we are learning a lot about this virus, we are learning a lot about how to potentially re-open society, there is still a lot that we do know. And that is what I want to focus on tonight with each one of you, to share with you the data that I get from some of the best people in our city, our country and around the world, whether that is doctors and public health officials, economists, statisticians and others that are helping guide the decisions I make on your behalf to make sure that we save as many lives as possible and restore as many livelihoods as possible as well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But today let's start as we always do with today's data before we get into that richer conversation. Today in our county there were 239 new confirmed positive COVID-19 cases, bringing the total to 9,420. It was a 2.5 percent increase from yesterday. In the City of Los Angeles, there were 113 confirmed new positive cases, bringing our total here in the city to 4,205, a 2.8 percent increase since yesterday. In the past seven days our city has seen an average daily increase of 441 new cases, down from a peak of 559 cases last Monday, and the total number of cases have been now doubling approximately every 20 days. Only a week ago, there were doubling every seven days.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This is also the eighth day in a row of a single-digit increase in confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. That is great news. But there are two important parts of that statement. Single digit and increase. The single digit part confirms what we hoped, that by all of us staying at home, we are flattening this curve and that is great. But the second part of that statement, that every day is still bringing an increase, means that this is still getting tougher each day. Just because the rate of increase is slowing, it does not mean that the number of hospital beds that we need, the number of cases that doctors have to tend to, the potential deaths won't continue to increase. So balance those two things, that your work is paying off and those single-digit increases, the single digit part is great, but until we have a day in which there are no increases and more people are coming out of hospitals than going into them, we still have our work cut out.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And today, most tragically, we learned of 25 news deaths here in Los Angeles County. That brings the total number of fallen to 320. And that is an 8.1 percent

increase since yesterday. As we see, that statistic is increasing still at a higher rate than our overall cases, which means that still for some time the toughest cases and the worst resulting in deaths will still keep staying with us for the near future. Our deaths are now doubling every six days.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So we are making some progress, but since my last briefing on Friday, we've lost 79 Angelenos. And our heart breaks for the families that mourn those people today. Those are real people with real lives, their families and friends today feel that pain and we are with you. As we prepare for the peak of hospitalization, we continue to closely track hospital bed inventory as well. Across the county in our general emergency hospitals, there were a total of 2,132 beds available with 1,601 acute care beds and 531 ICU beds and an inventory of 1,025 available ventilators. Excuse-me.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Testing is absolutely critical to ability to track this outbreak and flatten the curve. And so we are scaling up and ramping up this effort. Most of the test sites are drive-thrus where the tests are done in the patients' car. This has been convenient and, of course, in a car-based culture, something that Angelenos love. But since many Angelenos don't have cars, we began partnering with local clinics to provide walk-in testing. We opened our first location, Carbon Health in Echo Park a couple of weeks ago. And tomorrow we will launch, I am very proud to say, our second walk-in facility, and this will be in South Los Angeles in the KedrenCommunity Health Center. This is very important because it is the second move we have taken to serve African-Americans and lower income Angelenos when we saw troubling statistics that this was disproportionately hitting black community and low-income Angelenos. We now have 24 testing locations across the city and the county, and we've now tested more than 46,000 people. And today alone we had slots for 6,500 tests, our highest number yet. Excuse-me.

MAYOR GARCETTI: As I reminded folks, anyone with symptoms can now get tested. If you go to coronavirus.lacity.org/testing, you can see if you can schedule a test. Now, with that local data in mind, tonight I want to take a picture, a look at the bigger picture with you, how this pandemic is playing out by the numbers across our country. Now, I want to reassure, I've coughed a couple of times. I want to reassure people it's not a COVID-19 cough. My daughter had a cough and I caught it a couple of days ago, I was tested and I am fine. So bear with me tonight.

MAYOR GARCETTI: With that local data in mind, I want to look at this bigger picture. The United States now has more cases of COVID-19 than any other nation on Earth. And unfortunately, we have lost 23,000 American lives. New York remains the epicenter of this outbreak, followed by New Jersey, Massachusetts, Michigan and Pennsylvania. In terms of absolute number of cases and deaths, California is sixth with 23,500 cases and 683 deaths. Per capita, though, the numbers are a little bit better. We are 28th in cases per capita and 45th of the states in deaths per capita. And I wanted to underscore that because it says how important it was that we early, on March 15th, took the actions that we did in the city. And later that week that the state took actions throughout California.

MAYOR GARCETTI: There is no question in my mind that so many deaths were averted because of those actions. In our state, LA County has, of course, the highest population and the highest number of cases of any county in California. We have the second-highest rate of infection and the highest rate of death with 88 cases and 2.7 deaths for every 100,000 people. Put differently, we're about 40 percent of statewide cases here in LA County, LA City about 17.9 percent. A variety of groups have been creating models that local at projections of the future, they look at national and local trends.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation shows us that California may experience our peak hospitalizations on April 17th, this coming Friday. And that we may have our peak in new deaths on April 19th, this Sunday. But these projections, and as I mentioned, there are many out there, only work on the assumption that we keep up our work of the physical distancing that we have done and must continue to do. If we take our foot off the gas right now and stop physical distancing, models show that our hospitals could be overloaded by May 12th. Meaning that there is not enough beds for the number of patients that we would have.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And we have numbers for what relaxing and aggressive measure might mean. Folks have asked me all the time, "Can we stop now? What if we just went back tomorrow?" Well, let me play those projections out. Epidemiologists, including those at the county, tell us that if we relax the physical distancing and stay at home orders now, we can see as many as 95 percent of LA County residents contract COVID-19 by August 1st. And I do not want to tell you what that would do to our healthcare system, how many people would die because we would not have enough beds. So it underscores the importance of why we double down on what we are doing.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So the only way to stop that from happening, is to continue to stay safer at home, to practice physical distancing, to only go out for essential trips and to try to limit those as much as possible so that we don't see a spike that overwhelms our hospital system. We know the consequences of stepping back too early because we also have history to guide us. So let me talk to you a little bit about that tonight. Over the last century, there have been four flu-related pandemics, the most devastating being, of course, the influenza pandemic of 1918. Now data reporting in quality was a little bit limited back then. But we have some interesting information. And it was estimated today that about half a billion people were afflicted with that influenza, that H1N1 Influenza, and that about 50 million people died, more than in the World War I.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In the U.S. alone, the death toll is estimated to be at 675,000, more Americans than died in our bloodiest war in history: the Civil War. We've all heard the comparisons between the H1N1 influenza of 1918 and today's novel coronavirus, known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2, which causes the disease known as COVID-19. Both viruses were brand-new when they hit, so nobody had immunity. Both were highly contagious and both had high death rates. The fatality of the H1N1 in 1918 was estimated to be about 2%. We don't yet know what the fatality rate of COVID-19 is, but it'll a long time for us to understand that full scope. But at this stage, the fatality rate is believed to be 5% to 6% globally and about 2% to 3% here in the United States. And it's important to remember the 1918

flu spike saw not one, not two, but three separate spikes, and many cities and countries across the globe it was the second spike that was the most deadly. One of those places that was hit was San Francisco, the Bay Area was hit in the fall during the second of three waves, and this was at the peak of the pandemic at the point in which most Americans died.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But in 1918, San Francisco acted fast, the mayor with the Board of Health and the Red Cross did something that will sound familiar to Angelenos today: told people to practice physical distancing, cover their faces to stop the spread of the virus. And most San Francisco obeyed the order to cover up and stay apart, and as a result the city saw a huge drop in numbers of people who were becoming sick and who were dying. So in November 1918, the city eased up. They said, "We've done our job." Schools reopened, distancing measures were relaxed and people were allowed to take off their masks. And within two weeks, the flu was back and in December alone; San Francisco had 5,000 new flu cases and many deaths. Meanwhile, as San Francisco had relaxed its social distancing, here the city of Los Angeles declared an emergency and maintained its ban on all gatherings. And the two cities saw pretty different outcomes. According to a recent MIT Federal Reserve Bank study, LA suffered 485,000--sorry, 485 deaths per 100,000 residents, San Francisco much higher with 648 deaths for every 100,000 residents.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And after the flu pandemic was over, Los Angeles, with its longer physical distancing saw 69% employment gains, compared to 42% employment gain in San Francisco. In other words, less lives were lost and by staying in this longer, the economy came back quicker here than up north. This lesson tells us three things. First, the steps that we're taking right now to flatten the curve, to do this work, is saving lives. Second, it's critical to be able to relax or tighten restrictions as things change.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But most importantly, as the head of the World Health Organization said recently, "Lifting restrictions too quickly could lead to a deadly resurgence." And unfortunately, we're already seeing that with COVID-19. There's news that Japan's northernmost main island has declared a state of emergency less than a month after they lifted their stay-at-home order. They started to open schools, to allow public gatherings, and had nearly a week of double-digit increases in a number of cases. These are the hard truths that guide me, the data that I am using to make these decisions each night.

MAYOR GARCETTI: When we think about the process of safely reopening, as I consult with my colleagues, and today I want to thank my fellow mayors who got on another conference call that I led with the mayors across Los Angeles County, who are struggling with these same issues. And of course, the marvelous leadership we've seen from the county, from our Board of Supervisors, its Chair Kathryn Barger, and our own Dr. Ferrer, who has led all the Public Health decisions. As we looked to the past for lessons, we're also watching how cities and counties and countries across the world are navigating this question of reopening.

MAYOR GARCETTI: With our infection a few weeks or more behind other countries, we are in a good position to watch them take these moves first and learn the lessons of what works and what might not. Two places we're studying closely, of course, where the epicenter of this started

in Wuhan, China, and also in South Korea, which have very different approaches and outcomes. Both places are dealing with the reality we all will deal with, even after this wave of infections ends the threat of another wave doesn't go away for all of us who don't contract COVID-19. Wuhan was the first place that had to deal with this, saw over 60,000 infections and more than 3,000 deaths in a single city. And last week after a 76-day lockdown, the government reopen its borders but kept many restrictions in place. South Korea and the United States confirmed their first cases of COVID-19 within a day of each other, but South Korea had more success, managing the virus with far fewer infections, with many more tests, only 10,000 infections and 200 deaths.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Without implementing the kind of total lockdown that we saw in Wuhan, South Korea has used technology and testing, public information, tracking and tracing of cases to stem the virus and to keep society relatively functional. In the coming days and weeks, we are going to continue to monitor how these steps take hold in China and South Korea, how folks begin to go back to work or look at things like reopening restaurants. We are going to look in Europe where some countries have started looking and have announced that soon they will begin in limited ways some reopening so that we can adopt those best practices and bring them here.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The road ahead, while still foggy, is becoming clearer every day. There is a lot that we do know, things that are helping us keep Angelenos safe now and that will help save lives down the road. We know that we should prepare now for a second and even third spike of COVID-19, history teaches that. We should all be prepared, even if we come out, that we would probably have to go back in once or two times more. We know that places with robust testing and tracking and tracing facilities have done a much better job managing this crisis, making sure their hospital systems are paced and are not overwhelmed.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And we know that the sooner the cities and countries have mandated aggressive behavioral practices, the more effective they have been at controlling the spread of the virus and preventing or mitigating its resurgence. As we move forward, data and evidence will guide every one of our decisions, and I want to share with you, this is the deck I get every single night. It has all of the data and the charts that show up relative cases, the deaths. This is marvelous that's been put together by my chief innovation officer Amanda Daflos, and her team, and I said, "We should be sharing this with all of L.A."

MAYOR GARCETTI: So starting tonight, what I get every day, you'll get every single day. In fact, you can go and find this right now at coronavirus.LACity.org/data, easy to remember, coronavirus.LACity.org/data. And we also know as much information as you need to know, there is a lot of disinformation that we want to make sure--or misinformation, rather, that we want to make sure you can dispel. There are so many myths swirling around. I've dispelled many of them in these evening addresses, but folks are worried they'll be arrested for going outside, confusion what it means to be asymptomatic. So we are launching another page tonight that is about dispelling this misinformation and disinformation at coronavirus.LACity.org/myths. Check it out today so the next time your friend texts you or you see something up on Facebook, you can point them to the truth.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: We would learn from history. We will continue to listen to experts. I will rely on those professionals, not people who are making political decisions, but who are making medical decisions for us. And we're bringing people together to already start talking about how LA can one day get back to work. One of the most decisive actions we have taken to save lives came last Friday when we joined this County Department of Public Health to extend the city's safer-at-home order through May, 15th. I know it was heartbreaking for a lot of you to hear and it was heartbreaking for me to say. But that said, we know that it reflected our commitment to stopping the spread.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And today, along those lines we heard from LAUSD, the Board and Superintendent Beutner that LA's G schools will remain closed through the summer. It's the right decision and I thank you for that. While we are focused on the here and now; we do need to begin to think about how we will reopen the economy. And I look forward to working very closely with Governor Newsom, who I spoke with on Friday, and the mayors of the 13 largest cities in California where we're sharing this conversation about how we can do that from San Diego to Long Beach and Santa Ana, Riverside, Los Angeles and all our friends in the Central Valley and Northern California. But as we track all this data, we remember that behind every number is a neighbor, these aren't statistics, these are stories.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Our flesh and blood, fellow human beings, or in our families, in our communities, and they need our help. There is so much suffering going on out there, I know there is suffering for some who don't like being at home, but for others, they're not just at home, they don't know if they'll be able to feed the family, they don't know if they'll be able to make a rent, they don't know if they're going to get through this, even if COVID-19 doesn't get them. And no matter what we promised--sorry, no matter when we promised assistance from Washington, we know that it simply won't be enough. What's coming from Washington isn't enough, and it doesn't go to enough people. The magnitude of what we face requires something even more urgent and complete. That includes the private and non-profit sectors, who as I shared with you each night have stepped up in an incredible way to help us build up our capacity to help others with cash assistance to families, and that's exactly what's needed right now. Fortunately, our Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles, which I know sounds like it's something at City Hall, but it's 501c3 non-profit not controlled by me and not in City Hall, who was able to partner with a national non-profit organization that I also helped create, Accelerator for America, and MasterCard's City Possible Network, to create the Angeleno card initiative.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Angeleno cards are very simple, no-fee debit cards that provide cash assistance to families here and individuals in Los Angeles who need the help. Your household is eligible as an individual to get \$700, \$1,100 or \$1,500, depending on your income and household size if you meet three criteria: If you live in the city of Los Angeles. Second, if your family's total annual income had fallen beneath the federal poverty line prior to the COVID-19 crisis. And third, you and your family have fallen into deeper economic hardship during the crisis because at least one family member has lost their job or experienced reduction in income of at least 50%. You can apply online. We now that there will be more demand than money, but I am committed to every single day picking up the phone and still calling more. And I hope folks out there that can help will continue to help us because just as we did with the grocery cards that in

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four or five days were gone, we know that this will be gone too, and we need to keep getting these carts out to people who need our help now. But you can sign up at H-c-i-d, HCID, hcidla.lacity.org any time between 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4:30 p.m. on Thursday. And if you don't have access to the Internet, you can call in those same hours.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I want to be clear, you can't go online other hours, we want to make it fair for folks who don't have an Internet connection and who rely on a phone that they wouldn't have everything taken by those who have access to the Internet. So for both the phone and Internet, it's from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. starting tomorrow, and you call 213-252-3040 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, so that's tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday. But please, only call if you don't have Internet access so we can make sure that people without Internet access can get through.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I'd like to thank the staff of our HCID Department, our Housing Community Investment Department, and our Family Source Centers, which have been there for years for LA city residents, for providing critical support for Angelenos in need. Those who prequalify based on their online or telephone applications will be given an in-person appointment at a designated community center. And please note that these centers can't help anybody without an appointment. So that's to keep our workers safe and to maintain a safe social distance, we can't accept walk-ins. So please go through the online or phone call system, get an appointment and come on in.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And please know that applicants will not be asked anything about their immigration status, nor will immigration status be considered in determining eligibility because we are all in this together, we are all Angelenos. And I hope that our federal government will listen to that too, those we are cleaning our hospitals, those who are picking our food, those who are working at our warehouses. It doesn't matter what their legal status is today, they are here as Angelenos, and we will help them no matter what.

MAYOR GARCETTI: To be clear, this initiative is funded entirely through private and foundational donations--foundation donations. It's not a city program and any assistance through this fund is not considered a public benefit, so it's not subject to any public charge rule from the federal government that might scare some away. You are safe, don't have any fear, please, if you need help, reach out. And households maybe eligible regardless of whether workers within them earn or earned W-2 or 1099 income or were otherwise independently employed as domestic workers, day laborers or street vendors, for example, if you are a seasonal worker in agriculture or tourism, and households currently receiving public benefits including unemployment are not disqualified if income requirements are met. The Mayor's Fund, Accelerator for America and MasterCard's City Possible Network specifically designed the Angeleno card to help Angelenos that are overlooked by other federal cash grants, as well as the unbanked or other populations who we know might be left behind if we didn't step up.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I want to thank, say thank you to this partnership for creating a solution for how to physically distribute financial assistance and serve those ineligible for federal aid. We will remember you and thank you. And with applications opening tomorrow, we will

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get debit cards in people's hand beginning one week from tonight. The number of people we will be able to help depends on all of us. I certainly donated, I hope all of you will consider donating amounts from 5 to \$10 to as high \$2 million. We've had people step up all around the city, and due to limited resources, if the number of qualified individuals exceeds the number of available cards, Angeleno Card recipients will be randomly selected from among the qualified individuals for this round and folks will be kept on that list for hopefully future rounds as well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: If more donations come in, we can help more people. So please go to MayorsFundLA.org/angeleno or text LALove, sorry, text 20--no, it's LALove to 21000, and we rolled out, actually I make sure I get that right. It's texting 21000 to LALove, but I think that might backwards. I'll make sure I clarify that. We rolled out grocery gift cards last week as an initial step towards providing debit cards and we exhausted our supply of \$1.2 million in gift cards generously provided by Jack Dorsey and Albertson's and Kroger in just four days. And yes, I have confirmed, it's 21000 is the number you text. LALove is the data that you put in that message that you can donate directly.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So we need to know that demand, sorry, we know that the demand for this will be immense and we need your help more than ever. So I know that's a lot of information to digest. I hope that this data deck will provide useful to you and to your love ones. It's this information that is knowledge and this knowledge that is power, power for us to get through this, power for us to reassure each other, power for us to feel our way through this. And we are preparing for whatever comes next. The city is going to continue working, I'm going to keep working every single day. Haven't taken a day off yet, and I won't until we are done with this. That means all of us are going to have dig deep into reserve to reassure one another, to show that LA love to one another, to demonstrate the strength of LA and to make sure we get through this together. So keep doing your part by staying safe, staying healthy and staying home. Strength and love to you all, Los Angeles, with that, I'm happy to answer questions. Thanks.

OPERATOR: And our first question comes from the line of Claudia Peschiutta from KNX News Radio. Please go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Claudia.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: Hi, Eric. On Friday I asked you about cases among city workers, those who've tested positive and people in quarantine and isolation. I did follow up with your staff, but I've yet to get any information on that so I'm wondering--

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: -- if you have any figures on it. Also, if you could provide more details about virus-related deaths of city workers. You had mentioned two on Friday. I'm wondering if it is still two people and what department they were from. And, third question, do you think we ever get to the point where testing restrictions are lifted, and where testing asymptomatic people to find silent spreaders, and so when might that happen? Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you. So we do have in the city of Los Angeles now over 100 confirmed cases of city employees, 125 to be exact. As I've shared with you, there are 17 cases today from the Fire Department. That's 16 firefighters and one civilian. Eight have returned to duty. In LAPD, it's 55 with 43 police officers and 12 civilians. Ten officers are returned to duty. It is only one, I misspoke, and I apologize, it was a family member. We are not naming what department that is based on the family's wishes right now, but as soon as they say it's okay we will share that with you in coming days if they do.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In terms of testing, and remember, that's out of a city employee group of about 40,000, so knock on wood. We've been pretty lucky and certainly compared to first responders, I especially want to thank our firefighters, paramedics, who are literally the ones doing these transports, and obviously interacting with people who have COVID-19-like symptoms. They've done an extraordinary job of using all the procedures, their PPE. We are behind the men and women of this fire department every single day. They've been out there at our testing centers helping those get up and running too.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So speaking of testing, right now Public Health officials are recommending to us with the growing but still overall limited numbers of virology tests, that it doesn't make any sense to have asymptomatic people take those, we need still need those for people with symptoms overwhelmingly. We do not have anywhere close to 10 million tests, for instance, for all of LA County, or 4 million for LA City. But what is moving forward this week is the first random testing of a thousand folks. We've worked closely, you've heard me appeal for a donor, and thank you to USC for stepping up to make sure that the costs are covered on something that was going to one a month, now we'll go one a week with a thousand random Angelenos to take a blood test, usually a pinprick on your finger, drop of blood, and then to see whether you've had COVID-19 or you've have the coronavirus inside your blood.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So that is something that I hope that we see many, many more tests nationwide. There's only one that's been authorized by FDA, there's a number that I think are permitted by it, not approved by the FDA and many under development. And we need to see not only tens of thousands of those, but hundreds of thousands if we're going to get a place back just in LA alone where we can return some people potentially to work. But I want to be really clear, there will be overwhelming majority of folks who come up with a negative, which means most of us, thankfully, have not gotten this, which means it's a different set of rules. Those folks don't necessarily get a passport, an immunity passport to go to work but it may be those who have survived COVID-19, gotten through it, who have the positive tests who will be able to have some sort of more robust return to society once we decide to make those moves.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So right now it is something in which hope to see more. We've got those thousands a week now going out randomly. There's some limited availability out there. But don't take a blood test to see if you're infectious. It doesn't tell you whether you're infectious. So there are people who don't have the antibodies in their blood yet but who do have coronavirus, can spread it to others, and that's why the virology tests are some important at our

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drive-in centers and walk-up centers. And I've confirmed a third time, you just text LALove to 21000 to donate. Thanks, Claudia. I'll take the next question.

OPERATOR: Our next question comes from the line of Elex Michaelson from Fox 11 News.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Elex.

OPERATOR: Go ahead.

ELEX MICHAELSON: Mayor Garcetti, Governor Newsom says he's going to have a plan in terms of reopening California tomorrow. Are you working in something similar? And on a personal note, glad to hear you're doing okay. Did you meet the symptoms necessary for a test for coronavirus? Would you meet the criteria?

MAYOR GARCETTI: No, I've had no fever, anything like that. I will be honest, I took a coronavirus test just to make sure and I am negative. That said, in terms of looking at the governor, he is not going to be releasing a plan tomorrow, it's more of a framework, and I think he's done a marvelous job of looking at this regionally just as east coast governors did. He is now looking with Washington, Oregon and California. The governors together will talk about the approach that is necessary, and this really builds on what a lot of us have been saying. Get the testing out there, especially for blood tests, get the tracing and tracking regime set up and that might be thousands of new people, and especially some of those that are out of work, would be great to train to have a kind of Cares Corps as I've mentioned, to get out there and to help people, not only know whether they are positive or negative, but also inform people about some of the programs that can help them get through this as individuals or businesses.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So we're looking forward to tonight, I'll be on the phone call with all my fellow mayors up and down the state that we have each evening, but we'll be talking to his chief of staff and they'll be previewing some of that, but everything we've heard, it's really about an approach to. It's not going to be a detailed plan where you flip through the pages, this date, this opens, these people go back to work. I think it's going to be the beginning of the principles that there are there. But as we know, as we've seen with testing, as we've seen with procurement of PPE, and we've seen with all of these things, it's going to really depend on local governments implementing this, which is why I'm joining a bipartisan coalition of mayors, led by myself and the mayor of Oklahoma City, who have called for, with doctors, the creation of the federal funding to enable a return-to-work system, to come up with the guidelines to fund the people necessary to do the tracking, the tracing, the rules for workplaces and public places.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, absolutely, we've been working very closely, and I've done that all hand in hand with Supervisor Barger, Dr. Ferrer. We're talking later this week about that and bringing the other cities of LA County. We also need to do that as a region, I believed, the other counties that are around us, the five-county region. It's really critical, from the Inland Empire to Ventura to Orange County, to take those moves together, and probably San Diego. So that's the approach we've been taking. It's marvelous to hear folks starting to do that. I'm looking forward to what the governor has to say. Thanks. Next question.

OPERATOR: And the next question comes from the line of Steve Gregory from KFI News. Please go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Steve.

STEVE GREGORY: Hi, Eric. Good evening. Hope you're well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yeah, thanks.

STEVE GREGORY: Listen, a couple of things. Dr. Ferrer said last week that there is flattening of the curve. Today she announced the one-day new caseload is the lowest it's been since late march. Are you worried that this sort of glimmer of hope through the tunnel is going to get people to sort of back off a little bit because, you know, I saw a lot of people out and about yesterday as I was coming in to work in. And secondly, since there is, supposed to be fewer people on the road, fewer people out and about, are city crews using this opportunity to catch up on projects like potholes and road repairs and things like that?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Absolutely, Steve. Let me start with the second one. On Friday, I announced that we were moving from residential streets to some of our main streets and accelerating some of those infrastructures repairs. So absolutely. I think we've all seen those memes that people are sending out like fix all the roads right now. That's exactly what we were thinking, and so we do have those city crews with PPE and proper social distancing doing those sorts of repairs. Especially on those main streets that we've been waiting for a long time and are such a pain to do when we're all commuting. We are always caught between people saying, "Don't put those crews out there when I'm going to work or coming home from work." And the other half of people saying, "Can you do it more quickly?"

MAYOR GARCETTI: Now we've got the perfect storm at least for that. Not a lot of people on the road, so we can do longer hours and people don't have to worry about their commutes. So we are absolutely accelerating that, and that'll be a smoother ride for all of us when this is done. In terms of folks getting out there, I'm so glad you brought that up because this is a crisis that plays tricks with our head, right?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Early on, like, it doesn't feel very bad, why would we close things down? As I said, when it still feels wrong, that's the right time to do things. By the time it feels right, it's too late. Similarly with this, when it feels wrong, it may be too early, in other words. Sorry, when it feels right, it may be too early to open things up. So people are going to say, "Dr. Ferrer said it's flattening. We are seeing fewer cases." But I want people to hear what a single digit increase is. Single digit, way to go, LA. We are all doing the right things to bring down the rate of increase. But it still says increase, which means there's still more cases. Those are still backing up into our hospitals. We're building that capacity marvelously within our hospitals and I praise all of our hospitals and hospital workers for that. I hope many of you've been joining me and my daughter. We got cowbells now that we do at eight o'clock to thank our

medical workers and the janitors who are there in the hospitals and everybody, but it's still an increase.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So don't let up. When I shared earlier in this press conference that if we let up today, let say we open everything up tomorrow, one projection that was shared with me today said that 95 percent of us would get sick by August 1st, and with a 2 percent or 3 percent fatality rate, do that math here in LA County. That's 200 to 300,000 deaths, and there is no way a hospitals could even begin to deal with that. So your mind sees progress and says, "Let's let it up," but I want to you that when you see that progress, it should be a doubling down, not a letting up. This is a great week to consider not going out, to really stick to those essential things, to adhere to the orders, to wear facial coverings when you're out. In LA County those go into effect on Wednesday night officially, it's already in LA City since last Friday morning at midnight. So keep with it, stay with it, no matter what you brain feels like, listen to what the experts are saying, and let's make sure we don't have a San Francisco 1918 experience, but that we have a LA 1918 experience instead. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: And the next question comes from the line of Chris Webber from Associated Press.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Chris.

OPERATOR: Go ahead.

CHRIS WEBBER: Hey, Mayor. You mentioned that new walk-up testing site in South LA which benefits lower-income residents. Along those lines, testing can be especially tricky for those experiencing homeless. Are there any plans to set up a testing site specifically for homeless people?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yes, and it's little tricky to set up sites because people are in encampments or cars or shelters in different parts of the city. So we announced a week a half ago, thanks to the UPS/Everlywell, partnership that we have, where UPS is delivering and picking up tests, Everlywell labs are the ones processing that, that we went into our senior homes and assisted living places, but also are providers to people who are experiencing homeless. So these are the clinics in the county that already do those sorts of tests. These are healthcare providers that work in places like skid rows, skid row doctors who go out there, and we are going to be testing new technologies. Hopefully, we'll have some announcements later this week, but I'll share one statistic we had. 250 tests, I believe, that went out among the homeless community in one initiative this past few days.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Of those, and I will get you the exact numbers. I think it was 179 were negative, 2 were positive and the rest are pending. So, so far, still very low numbers which is great news to see. I remind people that folks who are housed had much higher numbers of COVID-19 than people who are unhoused. So this is not something coming from the street to people who are living indoors. It is vice versa. And we are trying to do everything we can to protect them, to test them, and it's goal, hopefully, later on this week to talk about how we can

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get on-the-street testing that gives you some quicker feedback than a day or two, let alone six or seven days later where you might not be able to find that individual and let her or let him know what the results are. So we have some good things cooking, I hope to announce them a little bit later this week, but those tests are already at clinics, already with doctors who do that work as we speak. Thanks. Next question.

OPERATOR: The next question comes from the line of Hetty Chang from NBC Channel 4. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, how are you?

OPERATOR: One moment, please. One moment, please, go ahead.

HETTY CHANG: Hi, Mayor. Thanks for the opportunity.

MAYOR GARCETTI: You bet.

HETTY CHANG: We have heard from a healthcare worker who is awaiting her test to find out if she is positive. And she was told to self-quarantine for two weeks. Then problem is her mom has stage-four cancer and they live in the same house. So, you know, she is terrified to go in the house and feels she can't self-quarantine without risk to her mom in that house. I think that she is aware of the governor's healthcare workers watching programs, she has called 2-1-1, the county line, and haven't gotten any immediate answers. Are there any immediate resources the city can offer her or anyone else in a similar situation--

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure.

HETTY CHANG: --who may not be able to self-quarantine at home?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yes. There are hundreds of hospitals available for Tier-2 people. Tier-1 remember, is for folks that were not yet symptomatic, who live in especially vulnerable places or especially susceptible like our unhoused population, folks experiencing homelessness. Tier-2 rooms are also available in the hundreds to take people who need to self-quarantine and have no place to go like in this case. So tell her to email us directly mayor.garcetti@lacity.org and we will do everything that we can to make sure we get through any red tape. Those are online today, I know people that are in them right now, and she should not have to wait any second, so if she wants to email us even tonight, she might be listening, please do that. Give us a phone number, we'll call you, we'll make sure you're in a room quick. Thanks for that. I appreciate it.

HETTY CHANG: Thanks.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Next question.

OPERATOR: And our last question in English comes from the line of Elizabeth Chou.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Liz. Hi Liz.

ELIZABETH CHOU: Hi, Mayor. Hey, so, I was wondering about the final order that was issued today on the Garcia case, and if you had any response to that as regarding the 56.11 law, the bulky item part of it. And also, I really would like to see if you can provide an answer on the trailers that are still empty outside of the Granada Hills Recreation Center, I think a lot of people are wondering why they are still empty when people who are quarantined inside that shelter, I don't think they have any individual rooms to go into. And they also share a bathroom and Dr. Ferrer said that even people who are quarantining should try to take those steps. Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure. So, all our advice of what we do at Granada Hills or any of the rec center shelters come from Public Health. So if we are doing anything there, it's because we have Public Health on site. They are recommending and approving anything we do. So there is not an ounce of air between us. The trailers that we have, a lot of them kind of are being connected and things like that, but that is not always where we will take people, hotel rooms and motel rooms maybe where they move them, and these are available for when things get tough. So don't expect them all to be filled, and we also have ability to put people in there who are exhibiting symptoms but does not look like it is COVID-19 and a place for them to get well, to get healthy. So that is how those are being used in Granada Hills.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Secondly, in terms of--no, I am not familiar with the court order from today. I know that the judge in the overall case has asked for a conference tomorrow. He is a great judge, Judge Carter has been just amazing, I want to thank him publicly. We have been in regular communication. He has been out there visiting homeless shelters, sharing the same opinion I had when we didn't have the hand-washing stations and bathrooms and good repair, so we are doing that now daily. And he's really been powerful not only in Orange County, but here and now in Los Angeles to help us with this case. But I don't have anything in terms of that.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I know that on the bulky items, I don't know of any new proposal or new thing that came out today, but I will research that and let know you if there is anything to get back to tomorrow. On the homeless front too, the numbers, I think we have 1,300 tests that have gone forward, and the ones that we did know of, that batch that I mentioned, it was 172 that were negative, 3 positive and 34 pending, with one group of people experiencing homelessness as well. So, that is, I think, the latest numbers we have there. Thanks, Liz. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: And our last question comes from the line of Abel Alamillo, our only question in Spanish from Telemundo 52.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Buenas tardes, Abel.

ABEL ALAMILLO: Hi, Mayor. Just wanted to circle back to something you mentioned last week regarding the earned income tax credit for undocumented immigrants. Has there been any developments on this issues or any other issue benefiting the immigrant community?

MAYOR GARCETTI: No, not yet. That is with the governor's office. We're hoping he and--there is also three proposals that were put together by the California Latino Caucus in the State Legislature. That was one and there is two others that would help immigrants that are here, undocumented immigrants who pay taxes to be able to get some of the same benefits to other tax payers that right now have been prohibited. But no, there has not been any confirmation. It is moving forward. We continue to ask people to call your state reps and to let them know how important that is and hopefully they can take action soon.

MAYOR GARCETTI: `The only other development was the cards that I mentioned here today, that those will not trigger public charges, those are not run by the government, they come from private donations. And not only are folks who are undocumented not prohibited, they are encouraged to apply for that. So with that, I will switch that answer into Spanish and say my Spanish remarks. Thanks again to everybody tuning in on the English side who won't stay with us during the Spanish. Check out that data deck. Thank you for all you do. God bless you all and thank you, LA, for your strength and love back.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hay un--no hay nuevos pasos con la proposición a tener el crédito de impuestos a nivel estatal, earned income tax credit. Pero el Caucus de Legisladores Latinos en la legislatura tiene un paquete de tres cosas para ayudar la comunidad indocumentada, específicamente este es uno de estas propuestas. Espero que toda la gente llamará a sus representantes al gobernador Newsom porque nuestra gente necesita ayuda, necesitamos a tener por estas personas que pagan impuestos. Ellos necesitan la ayuda, la asistencia que los otros personas que pagan impuestos pueden recibir ahora.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Y esta es una empieza, pero también, y en mis palabras esta noche, diré más, hay un nuevo programa para asistencia directa en tarjetas con dinero en esta ciudad y este programa empezará mañana. So with that--con esto, buenas tardes, Los Ángeles, y gracias por venir. Esta noche quisiera hablarles sobre la importancia de los datos y el análisis en nuestras decisiones enfrentando la crisis de Coronavirus y lo que podemos esperar en las semanas que llegan. Y los datos son muy importantes para mí, todas las decisiones son el resultado de estos datos y el aviso al Concejo de nuestros profesionales médicos, personas que puedan dar el aviso para mí, a tomar estos pasos críticos, a salvar las vidas de angelinos.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Primero les comparto los últimos datos para Los Ángeles hoy. Hoy hubieron 239 nuevos casos en el condado de Los Ángeles, llegando a un total de 9,420. En la ciudad tuvimos 113 nuevos casos, llegando a un total de 4,205. Estas son buenas noticias. Pero es un aumento. El ratio de aumentación es mejor pero cada día tenemos más casos. Y este balance entre los dos aspectos de estas noticias son importantes, las noticias buenas y las noticias malas. Y hoy fallecieron 25 personas más en el condado, llegando a un total 320 fallecidos. Y lo siento mucho por las familias de los que fallecieron, especialmente durante este fin de semana, durante la Pascua y nuestras emociones, nuestros corazones, nuestras oraciones están con usted.

MAYOR GARCETTI: En nuestros hospitales tenemos 1,601 camas disponibles, entre ellas 531 están en las unidades de cuidados intensivos y tenemos 1,025 respiradores disponibles. Y seguimos con nuestro trabajo para ampliar el acceso a pruebas de detección. Mañana abriremos

el segundo centro ambulatorio para pruebas en el sur de Los Ángeles. El primero abrimos la semana pasada en Echo Park. Tenemos ahora 24 sitios para las pruebas de detección en la ciudad y el condado, y hasta ahora hemos hecho pruebas para más de 46,000 personas.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Si tienes síntomas, puedes hacer una cita para una prueba en la página coronavirus.lacity.org/testing. Los Estados Unidos ahora tiene más casos de coronavirus de cualquier país del mundo. Y hemos perdido más de 23,000 vidas en nuestra nación. California es el estado número seis con el número de casos más alto en el país con más de 23,500 casos y 683 fallecidos. Y nuestro condado tiene la segunda más alta tasa de infección y la más alta tasa de muertos en el estado con 88 casos y 2.6 muertes por cada 100,000 personas.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Por cápita, estos números son mejores. Estamos número 45 en los estados por las muertes por cápita. Expertos piensan que lograremos la cima de personas hospitalizadas. Este viernes 17 de abril, y la cima de muertes el domingo 19 de abril. Espero que sí. Pero si interrumpimos nuestros esfuerzos para la sana distancia, los modelos dicen que nuestros hospitales pueden llegar a ser inundados con casos para el 12 de mayo. Y los expertos también dicen que si relajamos la orden para quedarnos más protegidos en casa ahora, podremos llegar a ver que el 95 por ciento de la gente se enfermará para agosto.

MAYOR GARCETTI: La historia también nos muestra lo que puede pasar si relajamos la orden muy temprano. La pandemia de 1918 nos cuenta tres cosas: Nuestros esfuerzos están trabajando bien para aplanar la curva y salvar vidas. Pero si levantamos las restricciones demasiado temprano, puede resultar en un resurgimiento mortal, y debemos prepararnos para otras olas de infección, quizá una segunda y una tercera. Los invito a visitar nuestra página en el coronavirus.lacity.org/data por esta información. Este es la información que yo recibí cada noche, y ahora es disponible para usted también.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Además lanzamos una página para explicar la verdad sobre ciertos mitos sobre el coronavirus en coronavirus.lacity.org/myths. Nos preparamos con la mejor información que podemos encontrar y tomamos decisiones con hechos y datos, no con ficciones. Seguimos nuestro trabajo para proteger nuestras familias más vulnerables, las que no pueden recibir el apoyo federal. Este es muy importante, especialmente para nuestra comunidad inmigrante. Afortunadamente nuestro fondo, Mayor's Fund de Los Ángeles, colaboró con mi grupo sin fines de lucro, Accelerator for America y la red MasterCard's City Possible para lanzar la iniciativa Tarjetas para angelinos. Esta iniciativa ofrecerá asistencia financiera con tarjetas de débito sin tarifa para las familias quienes han sido duramente afectadas por esta crisis en incrementos de 700 dólares, 1,100 dólares o 1,500 dólares, dependiendo de sus ingresos y tamaño de hogar. Para ser elegibles, tienen que vivir en la ciudad de Los Ángeles, tener ingresos anuales debajo de la línea de pobreza nacional antes de la crisis, y haber sido afectados por la pérdida de un empleo o una reducción de ingresos en la casa.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Pueden aplicar en la página web hcidla.lacity.org entre las 8:30 de la mañana, los martes y las 4:30 de la tarde los jueves. Si no tiene acceso al Internet, pueden llamar a 213-252-3040 entre las 8:30 de la mañana y las 4:30 de la tarde los martes, miércoles y jueves. Y gracias a mi esposa Amy Wakeland, gracias a toda la gente que están dando su tiempo, sus

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dólares a dar la esperanza a nuestras comunidades más vulnerables. Están, ustedes están ángeles en esta ciudad de Los Ángeles. Quédense en buena salud, amigos, quédense protegidos y quédense en casa. Mucha fuerza, mucho amor. Gracias, Los Ángeles.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you all and a special thank you to my wife, a special thank you to Rick Jacobs and to Matt Johnson, to all the folks who helped put that Angeleno Fund together, that will breathe hope back into families this week. Thank you. Love you all. Appreciate you and I will see you tomorrow.