

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you again for joining me here for our nightly address from City Hall. You know, throughout this crisis I feel like so many of you have been by my side, whether it's firefighters at our testing facilities, volunteers at our food banks. Angelenos are stepping up. And I want to thank you for what you are doing. Some are a little bit closer right here, including my team, and I want to give a shout out to my Chief of Staff Ana Guerrero and the entire team that has literally not slept for a month. We are doing heroic work to stand up shelters, to make sure that there is assistance to the neediest, to have testing centers and to make sure that we are doing the right thing to preserve lives.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But there are some folks that you see every evening that are even closer, who we could not communicate without. And I wanted to thank them this evening. Our three incredible sign language interpreters who have been with us each night. Rick Pope, who is with us tonight. Arlene Narváez as well as Nicole Pancino, who is not here this evening but you have seen in past evenings. I wanted thank you for the great work that you have done to make sure all Angelenos have the safer-at-home message.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Angelenos are truly coming together to save lives, to do the work that we all need to do, to make sure that those folks around the city have hoped and help, do not feel isolated or lost and those who are the neediest right now and sickest get the attention that they deserve. The goal that we share across our city family, and we see eye to eye, things that in the past might have divided us between city boundaries or city and county and state and federal have come down, and in our city family we've had marvelous work from our city council, led by our City Council President Nury Martínez. But also tonight a guest who has joined us, our City Attorney Mike Feuer.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I am so glad he is here to talk about some of the work we are doing to enforce our safer at home measures. But first let me start as I always do with the latest data across Los Angeles, and as a reminder, that data deck that I shared with you, the same information I get every night is now available for you and your families at coronavirus.lacity.org/data. It is updated every single day. So for those of you who are either bored at home or wondering what is happening, look at those numbers. Print it out. Share it with your friends or your family and make sure that people look at all of the things that are guiding our decisions here in Los Angeles.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Today in our county there were 670 new cases. This is the second-highest number of new cases yet, bringing the total cases in Los Angeles about 10,000 for the first time. 10,047, to be exact. This is a seven percent increase. So still a single-digit increase but nearly double or more than double the increase we saw yesterday. For comparison, the past seven days have seen an average daily increases, increase of 458 new cases. So I want to always give you the encouragement and the thanks for the great work you are doing to help us bend that curve down. Know that these increases continue to mean we need more beds, more ventilators, that people are still at great danger. And we need to keep up our work and not ease off the accelerator.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In the City of Los Angeles, 257 of those cases resided with us, bringing our total in the City of Los Angeles to 4,462 cases. And that is a six percent increase since yesterday. And today the worst news that we have received yet is that 40 new Angelenos passed away. 40 deaths is the most that we have experienced in a single 24-hour period. Unlike new cases would sometimes depend on the number of tests conducted, the day of the week, the time it takes to get those tests back. Deaths are final. Deaths are irreversible. And our hearts go out to everybody who is dealing with that finality tonight of a loved one who is no longer here, of the tragedy of what this is all about. In the end, human lives. Those 40 deaths brought the total to 360 deaths. That is more deaths in just this month plus than we see in homicides in an entire year in Los Angeles. And it is a 13 percent increase since yesterday. And for comparison, the past seven days have seen an average daily increase of 28 new deaths. So this is 12 higher than that. Deaths are doubling still every six days on average. We are continuing to closely track hospital beds inventory because that is so critical to save lives. And there is continuing good news there. Across the county in our general emergency hospitals, today we have about 2,151 beds available. The highest numbers since I have been sharing these with you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Including 1,558 acute care beds and 593 ICU beds. It does not mean there is fewer people in the hospitals, as I've mentioned, more people are going into hospital than are going out. But it reflects the great work of our hospital community, of our doctors, nurses, administrators, our janitors, our technicians who are building that capacity inside our hospitals to deal with a peak we still have not yet hit. And we have an inventory, also, I believe the highest number since I've share this with you, of 1,125 available ventilators to meet that peak. Even as we go up more slowly, remember, we haven't hit the peak of the absolute number of cases. And so we will continue to need to bring the personal protective equipment, the machinery and the beds necessary to make sure that people can be served at our hospital by our extraordinary medical professionals.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I hope you have been joining me at 8:00 o'clock in thanking our medical professionals. We saw video in Century City when folks some who live in some of the high rises there last night where all clapping and cheering. We hope that you can hear us, even if you are inside a hospital and know how much we love and care for you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Let me move on the testing. I am proud to announce we now have 26 testing locations open to the public across the city and county. These are on top of private providers and hospitals that are doing this, this is on top of the great work that is done by our Los Angeles County Public Health. This in on top of the work we are doing with our unhoused Angelenos and our seniors. These are 26 general open locations. And we have the capacity, today we had the capacity to test 9,400 people, a new record. That is more that 30 percent increase in just a single day. All told, by the end of today we will have tested 50,000 people through these centers in less than a month.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And even as the rate of cases and deaths begin to fall, we are not slowing testing down. It is critical for us. We are scaling it up. So tonight I can announce some good news as well that effective immediately we are offering same- or next-day testing to anyone with

Covid symptoms. Before we opened up recently to anybody with symptoms but still gave priority to those who are seniors or have preexisting conditions. We now have enough capacity that we do not have to have any prioritization. In other words, anybody who qualifies with symptoms can now get a test. It is great news for all of us, great news for anybody who is feeling under the weather and has the symptoms of COVID-19, and regardless of age or preexisting medical condition, you can check out right now whether there is a test available for you at coronavirus.lacity.org/testing.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And thank you to the other cities and the county for helping stand up so many of these new centers to make sure throughout this region. It does not matter, by the way, you don't have to live in the city where there is one of the testing centers which wherever is closest to you, wherever you might work if you are still a critical worker or where you live, you can get a test. Please do if you need one.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Saving lives and stopping the spread of COVID-19 is about much more than testing. It is also about adhering to emergency orders. And overall, you have done an extraordinary job. As I've always said, 99.99 percent of this is self-enforcement. It has been your own discipline, it's being listening to what our public health professionals and political leaders say and doing them. These orders are here to protect your life as well as the lives of those who are loved. But now it is not the time to let up, to throw a house party or to go out on a walk outside of a different neighborhood, to get together with friends. And dangerous gatherings can be reported, as I've encouraged folks to do inside of the City of LA at 877-ASK- LAPD.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But I am calling on Angelenos to avoid gatherings, not to waste the LAPD resources in the first place. And folks are doing the right thing. They are adhering to the safer-at-home order and the unprecedented safety measures that we have implemented. We saw that progress at farmers markets when we had to suspend them but then have them come back with the proper physical distancing and the proper safety measures for everybody. And 33 of them have been certified. If your local farmers market has not returned to being open, encourage them to adhere to these orders. And they can sign up at streetsla.lacity.org/covid to make sure they are back up and running as soon as possible.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And we have seen progress at our construction sites too, that so many of you wrote us about, where people were not practicing same physical distancing. Two weeks ago I announced those guidelines at construction sites to ensure that the employers and workers were safe and protecting public health. And our cities' building in safety inspectors, who I want to thank for working through this and doing heroic work to save lives too, each weekday visit more than 1,000 worksites. I am proud to announce that to date they have visited over 12,000 construction sites, or they visited 12,000 times the existing construction sites that we have.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And when a site is not found to be in compliance or is found not to be in compliance, the inspector issues a correction notice and monitors the site immediately. If the violations are not corrected, we shut that site down. Out of the thousands of sites inspected over the past two weeks, tonight I can report that only 61 of those sites were found not to be in compliance and have been given a correction notice. So far none of them were required to be

shut down. You can check those guidelines out if you're a construction worker or construction supervisor at ladbs.org. And the Department Building Safety updated its guidance to align with my worker protection order and the county requirements as well to ensure that essential workers wear the face coverings that they need to keep themselves and their coworkers safe.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And as we've stated repeatedly, if any nonessential businesses continue operating, we will visit them and enforce the safer-at-home order to ensure their compliance. It starts with our business ambassadors, city employees and crisis response team members who are citizen volunteers who have gone out there and visited so many places that we either get a tip on or just that they find themselves. They visited close to 1,400 businesses. And almost all of them responded just as we wished that they would: complying with the emergency order and closing their doors. But some did not, and together with their enforcement actions, LAPD has visited these 1,200 locations to confirm that they were abiding by the rules and will keep following up.

MAYOR GARCETTI: LAPD has referred 79 of those businesses to the city attorney's office, from misdemeanor consideration. And that low figure is a sign that most businesses are responding to our warnings. But remember, if you are observed recurring violations of the safer-at-home order, if you have observed, excuse-me, recurring violations of this order, let us know about it. We need to see the entire city and we cannot see it at all at once. But if you go to coronavirus.lacity.org/businessviolation, you can report an ongoing violation that you see in your neighborhood. So to tell us some more about those enforcement actions, I want to thank our City Attorney whose team has done a marvelous job of saving lives by ensuring that any of these recalcitrant businesses don't stay open, don't endanger theirs and other people's lives. And with that, hand it over with my thanks to Mike Feuer.

MIKE FEUER: Thank you, very much, Mayor Garcetti and thank you for the deep collaboration we've had throughout this whole pandemic. So notwithstanding the sobering spike in illnesses and deaths that Mayor Garcetti just reported, we know that the mayor's safer-at-home order is working. But all nonessential businesses need to comply. There can be no exceptions because the quicker that that compliance is complete, the sooner all Angelenos can get back to work and resume our normal day-to-day routine.

MIKE FEUER: My office, as the mayor said, is charged with enforcing safer-at-home order and we've repurposed our neighborhood prosecutors to perform that role. In the first instance, we try to achieve voluntary compliance, and we have achieved voluntary compliance in more than 200 instances. But there have been times when businesses have refused to comply. Now I absolutely understand the intense need of businesses to be open and make money again. They have bills to pay and employees whose livelihoods depend on them. We get it. But nonetheless, that maximum compliance is absolutely necessary. This is a moment when shared sacrifice will enable all of us to get back to normal as soon as possible.

MIKE FEUER: So today I am announcing that we have filed an additional ten prosecutions of businesses who after warnings have failed to comply with the mayor's safer-at-home order. They include businesses that are wide-ranging, from a print shop to a spa performing massages to a beauty supply store, to smoke and bake shops. This is on top of the four that we filed

previously and there are more filings yet to come. As the mayor indicated, we are seeing large compliance throughout the city but in those instances where there is intransigence and business refuse to comply, if we must, we will file prosecutions and follow-up.

MIKE FEUER: I also want to point out that today, for the second time in less than two weeks, our office successfully defended the safer-at-home order against a push to block enforcement of that order with regard to gun shops. There have been teams of gun rights activists and others who have sought to open gun shops and the mayor's order is clear: all nonessential businesses must close. Gun shops and all other nonessential businesses must close. This will enable us all to flatten the curve and my office is deeply committed to continuing to defend as well as enforce the order.

MIKE FEUER: I want to take just a moment to focus on the fact that in addition to enforcement of this order, our office is engaged in a wide range of other activities designed to protect your health and your safety. We have formed a joint coronavirus task force with the district attorney, with the Department of Business and Consumer Affairs and the county council. We're targeting allegations of price gouging and false and misleading claims on the Internet. Price gouging, all of our should know, is defined in California as having a seller charge more than 10 percent more than that seller charged for an item the day before the emergency. And we have been actively scouring the Internet and going on a brick-and-mortar stores to protect you from price gouging.

MIKE FEUER: We are working with Amazon. Amazon has agreed to work with us and to those who would use that platform to take advantage of the fear and vulnerability throughout our community, I want to say this: Amazon is reporting to us both the identities of third-party sellers and reporting to us the prices that were charged immediately before the emergency. And we are prosecuting. A couple of examples would include a package of ten protective masks that sold for 39.98 before the emergency and up to 269.99 after the emergency was declared.

MIKE FEUER: Another example, hand sanitizer, which in a large quantity sold for \$129 before the emergency, we allege was sold for \$249 after the emergency. We are also aggressively pursuing false and misleading claims. And let's be clear about what's at stake. Some of these claims involve purported home tests or treatments or cures for the virus on testa. You should know, the FDA has not approved any home test for you to use. Why is that so important for you to know? Because any test that is being sold now that purports to be used at home, is a test that you can't trust. And if you can't trust the test results, you are in a situation where you could have a false positive and be full with anxiety and wondering what you should do for yourself, or you could be getting a false negative and infecting other people.

MIKE FEUER: So just a few days ago, we reached a settlement, a stipulated judgment that includes an injunction against a company called Econ Genomics and that injunction forbids them from continuing to advertise their at-home tests, it prevents them from selling those tests and it requires full restitution to its customers. We submitted a cease and desist letter to yet another company. And that company, as far as we know, has removed the advertisement and sale of that item from its website. And we have other companies in our sights as well.

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MIKE FEUER: And as far as purported treatments or cures are concerned, again, we are going on the Internet, we are not merely waiting for your complaints. And on the Internet, we found for example, a claim that vitamins, and especially vitamin C, could be effective against coronavirus. It was on a site that sold vitamin C. Again, the FDA has not approved vitamins to treat the coronavirus and the National Institute of Health have said that large quantities of vitamins could in fact be dangerous. We contacted the site almost immediately they took down their claims.

MIKE FEUER: Another example is Jim Bakker and the Jim Bakker Show, which advertised an item called Silver Solution. Silver Solution was ostensibly a treatment for the coronavirus. Well, we contacted them and almost immediately they took that claim off of its show and stopped selling the product. The federal government and the attorney general in Missouri were also involved. And finally, Norwegian Cruise Lines. The Cruise Lines employees were reportedly telling consumers that taking a cruise to a warm weather place could be an effective way to travel and not be susceptible to the virus. We contacted the Cruise Line. They immediately assured us its representations would stop and began an internal an investigation. The bottom line to all this is, our office is here not only to enforce the mayor's order, essential as that order is for our health and well-being, but also to assure that you are not victimized by price gouging in this crisis or by false and misleading claims. We are here to protect you, to prevent you from being ripped off and to protect the public health. And we all owe a debt of gratitude to our mayor, whose leadership has been extraordinary during this crisis. Thank you, Mayor Garcetti.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you, Mike. And thank you so much for the work that you have done and continuing to do on behalf of the people of Los Angeles as well as your colleagues. I know across the county and across this nation. We appreciate that very much. With that, let me now share a few important announcements before I take some questions. At the start of this crisis, we have taken steps to help Angelenos who are doing the right thing and staying at home. So tonight as we've extended the order, I am very proud to also extend our relaxed parking rules until at least May 15th. So don't worry, we are going to make sure those go together and you do not get a ticket because you are abiding by the safer-at-home order.

MAYOR GARCETTI: During this emergency period, the Department of Transportation is not enforcing street-sweeping in residential areas. Though, if you can move your car we are still trying to do that street-swiping, so help us out. Rush hour parking restrictions, non-metered time limits in commercial zones. We are not taking-in and towing abandoned and oversized vehicles. Vehicles with expired registration or with recently expired permit, sorry, permit parking placards. But I want to be clear. We are still enforcing parking around the city. Those restrictions are very important for deliveries, for our restaurants, for loading zones. So in the residential areas, we are helping you out, but please, do look. And if there is ever temporary no parking signs, as I mentioned, we are going to be doing a lot more street-paving especially on some of our main streets to take an opportunity or take advantage of this opportunity right now. So please, continue to abide by that. And if you want more information about what is being enforced or not, visit ladot.lacity.org/coronavirus.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: And as long as we require you to stay home, vital services that you depend on will continue to run. I told you that from the beginning and that goes for our public transit. Metro is still a lifeline for so many in our region. Whether that's a nurse going to work, whether that's a senior who needs to go shopping. It's still providing more than 300,000 trips per day. It is something that we need to make it reliable, continue to operate and to make sure that we get to where we need to go throughout this emergency. So tonight, I am announcing that beginning this Sunday, April 19th, Metro will change its schedule to make rides more predictable for staff and customers because we've heard they got a little confused.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Here's what that means: seven days a week, Metro will run what we are calling a modified Sunday schedule, functioning as it would on a regular Sunday, plus an additional rapid, express and local buses to increase capacity. The new schedule will maintain about 70 percent of bus service, while making sure there's enough service available for essential trips and we can keep Metro's entire workforce on the job. We don't need more people losing their jobs right now. So no neighborhood will lose transit service, even if your bus ride may take just a little bit longer. Metro will continue to provide the bus and rail service you've come to depend on during this emergency.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So if you are essential worker or if you rely on Metro for essential trips, I encourage you, go to Metro.net and check out what that schedule is, familiarize yourself with it and continue to go Metro. Don't forget those rear-door boardings, don't forget to wear your facial coverings as well to protect our workers as they protect you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: What we see every day is evidence of our city and our country and our state and our nation coming together in this crisis. And we see that as we work side by side with the city attorney on enforcement. We saw it as we can together early alongside our county partners to halt public gatherings, to issue our safer-at-home orders, to close our beaches and our trails, to take every step possible to protect our residents. State and local officials have led from day one, so much was really thrown on our backs, but we've understood, also, the massive threat we face maybe before folks understood that throughout the country.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We have the responsibility but also the authority to save lives and we've used that. And I was proud to see that same sort of leadership today from our governor. Gavin Newsom, today, along with his counterparts in the western states in Oregon and Washington unveiled six very thoughtful and necessary goals required for us to reopen our economy in the future. These were things from testing to hospitals, surge capacity, from necessary rules for physical distancing and reopen spaces. These are the exact guideposts that we will need to get to a new normal in the weeks ahead. Tomorrow I'll be detailing those a little bit more and applying them here to the thinking we've been doing in Los Angeles, about those days and weeks and months ahead, where we can see people going back to the spaces and the places that we enjoyed before this crisis, and how to do that safely. The workforce that we'll require, the technology that we'll need, the rules that can help guide us, and the new ways of getting through our city without seeing a spike of deaths or more COVID-19 in LA.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: But until that moment arrives, we'll continue to do what we can to deliver vital services and support all Angelinos, but also to keep our young people engaged. And I want to speak to parents and our young Angelenos for a minute. The Los Angeles Public Library offers our kids and students a broad universe of learning and discovery. And you don't just have to be an LA city resident to take advantage of it. Even though our branches are closed, our library is there for you and working. Great resources, and if you have a library card, you can access e-books, audio books, movies, documentaries, homework help, all at lapd.org.

MAYOR GARCETTI: If you don't have a card, you can get an e-card on their website. It's a great thing to do. If you don't have one, get one today, and once you have that in hand, you'll be able to join our Spring into Reading Program, where you can read books and complete fun-at-home activities. You'll be able to find virtual story times with our librarians. If you feel stuck at home, open up a book and it is the quickest way to get out of there, to maybe be in space or another place, to go on an adventure, to learn history, to see our future, to do all those things that I loved as a kid when I used to go to the Sherman Oaks Public Library every afternoon after school. It is a world waiting for you. So don't feel trapped at home while you're staying at home, you can literally see the world.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And every LA Unified student already has a Student Success Card, a program we started a few years ago to ensure every LAUSD student automatically got a library card. You'll discover distance learning online, there's tutoring assistance in math, in science, in English, social studies and writing between 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. every day. To work really around the schedules of busy parents who still might be working. And if you borrowed a book before they temporarily closed down, we've extended our due dates and we will not charge any fines during this crisis. So please enjoy your books a little bit longer, maybe share them with your sibling, and return them when this emergency ends safely.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Our libraries are going above and beyond during this crisis and in response to the shortage of the personal protective equipment, staff and the Central Library's Octavia Lab, which is an amazing maker space in our Central Library, are 3-D printing face shields for our medical personnel who need them. It's the kind of innovative spirit that we see all around Los Angeles every single day. It speaks also to another community that is hurting during this time, like so many of us, but our community of artists. The inventive playwrights, musicians, painters, performers who define LA as the creative capital of the world but are struggling right now to make ends meet.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In normal times and in moments of crisis we are determined to ignite that spark of free expression and creativity in every single Angeleno. It's important to our humanity, our culture and to our economy. So our Department of Cultural Affairs has developed a list of COVID-19 arts resources during this pandemic for our creative community, and emergency relief grants available for performing artists and small ensembles in dance and music and theater who canceled shows or concerts due to this pandemic.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The first round of funding is only available if you apply by May 1st. So go to CultureLA.org to learn more right now. In conclusion, it's the simple acts of kindness, of

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cooperation, of our work together that are defining who we are. I'm so proud to be mayor of the City of Angels because every single day I see those wings stretched out by everyday Angelenos doing their part in small and huge ways to save lives, to bend the curve and to see a brighter future. We've remained at home, we've worn face coverings, we've washed our hands and washed them again, and washed them again. We supported hard-hit families with direct aid and front line workers. We've kept our distance, we've follow orders and directives.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And for more than a month these daily actions and sacrifices have made a difference. Here, as we are in the midst of the toughest period, stay with it. And smile when you can. Remind yourself that the work that we did means that somebody in this city is alive because of what you did. I know it's hard. I know it can feel like the end is still too far away, but I promise you, if you keep this up, we will get through this together. So as I say each evening, please stay healthy, please stay safe, and please stay at home. Strength and love, Los Angeles. And with that, I'm happy to answer questions. As well as the city attorney is too. First question, please.

OPERATOR: Hi, mayor. We have a question from Phil Shuman from Fox 11 News.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Phil, how are you?

PHIL SHUMAN: Mr. Mayor, don't imagine you have time to be reading any books these days.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Not me. Unless it's my daughter, as I joked in an earlier presentation, my wife is the principal, I hope to be the vice-principal, but you said, I'm working my way as a substitute teacher right now. So I'll work my way, but--

PHIL SHUMAN: All right, quick question. I got a lot of frustrated Angelenos who could not get on to the website to apply the Angeleno card--

MAYRO GARCETTI: Yes.

PHIL SHUMAN: -- or the phone number. Can you give an update of what the status--

MAYOR GARCETTI: Absolutely.

PHIL SHUMAN: -- of the system is?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure. It was an overwhelmingly positive reception. We could not believe how many folks, and many of them, by the way, maybe because of national news, we had literally tens of thousands of people from outside Los Angeles, over 100 cities that all went online at the same time. We went down for an hour to add more servers. We tripled the phone services, we are going to be using a private phone bank on top of our 311 callers, etcetera because there's so many folks that were signing up. Let me see if I can find the exact statistics for you, but we had 56,000 applications that have been submitted as of this afternoon and those are the ones that are filtered by LA City.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I know that it's probably frustrating for some folks out there who did not know exactly, they didn't live inside the city of LA boundaries from, you know, neighboring city or something. This is right now just for the city of LA, but we hope to work with county, other cities another parts of the country to model this, and like I said, we always knew, just like with our small business loans, there will be an oversubscription but I'm committed to continuing to raise money and for folks that are listening out there, continue to give because when you see and feel that sort of response, you know just how much people are suffering, but just how much we can help.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I told you that my wife and I have donated, I've gotten my parents to donate, I've said it to my friends, we have pillars of the community who have donated between 5 and \$2 million, but we had 56,000 applications. Don't worry if you have not gotten through because there's two more days still, so I think everybody went in that first hour. It's important to remember you don't need to be the first to apply, it's not first come, first serve at all. And as we said yesterday, if there's more people that apply than the number of cards we have in this first round, we will do that randomly. So somebody who fills out the very last second will have as much a chance as the person who fills it out at the beginning. And that will be completed once it closes on Thursday at 4:30. So again, those hours are 8:30 to 4:30--

PHIL SHUMAN: That was 56,000--

ERIC GARCETTI: Sorry, go ahead.

PHIL SHUMAN: That was 56,000 from the city of Los Angeles--

ERIC GARCETTI: Correct.

PHIL SHUMAN: -- or all told?

ERIC GARCETTI: That's 56,000 from the city of Los Angeles. If you are not the city of Los Angeles, you can't make the full application, so those are ones just from the first day. Any other question on that?

OPERATOR: Thank you. The next question--

ERIC GARCETTI: Okay, thank you.

OPERATOR: --comes from the line of Claudia Peschiutta. Please go ahead--

ERIC GARCETTI: Hey, Claudia.

OPERATOR: -- KNX News.

ERIC GARCETTI: How are you?

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: Eric, wanted to ask you about plans that are in the works or in place for dealing with other kinds of emergencies that might come up, wildfires, earthquakes, Heaven forbid, in the midst of all the restrictions and dealing with the coronavirus crisis.

ERIC GARCETTI: Absolutely.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: What can you tell me about that?

ERIC GARCETTI: It's a great question because, you know, things like wildfires don't stop just because we are all indoors. Obviously, we've had, even though crime is way down, we still continue to have crimes that police have to respond to that have nothing to do with COVID-19 and our firefighters go out every single day. So we still--we have the capacity to, I guess, fight more than a one-front war. We planned for this. It is in our emergency plans to be able to scale up. Our numbers today, I share those with you each day in terms of the number of firefighters that are out and our police officers that are out.

ERIC GARCETTI: Right now we just have 57 cases at Los Angeles Police Department, 17 of those returned to duty. There's more that are quarantined than that, but it's still, I believe, under two percent of all personnel. LAFD, there is 19 cases and 8 have returned to duty already. So we see the capacity to be able to fight a fire. Obviously, if there's something like an earthquake on top of this, that could be devastating because of the public health aspects of that. We have many more rec centers that we could stand up, that we could use as emergency shelters. If we had both those happen at once, you know, God help us, Los Angeles, but we are experienced, we are able, we have resources and we can meet that challenge, but I pray that this one challenge will be the only one we have to meet at scale.

ERIC GARCETTI: Remember, fires happen all the time, and we've seen those seasons comes through, but we are prepared, we feel strong. I talk to the fire chief every day and our transports comparatively are down. That's because fewer people are out there. There's few car accidents, etcetera. So in some ways we have even more capacity to put firefighters on those, should there be anything that happens. Thanks, Claudia. The next question, please.

OPERATOR: Thank you. The next question comes from the line of Elizabeth Chou with LA Daily News. Please go ahead.

ERIC GARCETTI: Hey, Liz.

ELIZABETH CHOU: Hi, mayor. So I was wondering with the city budget.

ERIC GARCETTI: Yes.

ELIZABETH CHOU: Or at least your proposal for the city budget coming out on Monday. I was wondering, are you considering any--how do you plan on balancing the budget? Are you considering for instance, a special tax, raising fees? Are there any potential cuts or layoffs? And

can you maybe update me on how revenue projections are looking based on what data you have?
Thanks.

ERIC GARCETTI: Absolutely. So we'll be sharing more of that, literally writing it as we speak. This pandemic has caused us to have to look every single day at revenues. There's no question, though, that we are going to have cuts. I implemented a hiring freeze as soon as I declared state of emergency, more or less for the city of Los Angeles. We told departments no new programs, council-initiated new initiatives we don't have any space or room for. We really are prioritizing the response to COVID-19, our ongoing fight against homelessness and making sure that we have the resources we need. Excuse me. So the main things that you'll see in our budget will be how we can tighten our belts. We may have to look at, I mean, if you looked at 2008, the shared sacrifices that we had, things like furloughs, we had a few layoffs as well, the work that we had to do, that was when we had unemployment go into the low single digits. Sorry, low double digits.

ERIC GARCETTI: Initially, it was 8, 9 percent, it got up to 12, 13 percent. We are looking at a base case scenario and I'll share this too, a little bit later in the week with some of our projections at about 20 percent unemployment in Los Angeles County. That's not unique here. That's across the country. This will be devastating. Revenues, you know, take the airport, for instance, its own budget, but flights are down 95 percent. Hotel occupancy tax that TOT, as we call it. That's something that we estimate will be down at least 30, 40 percent this year, if not more.

ERIC GARCETTI: And of course, sales tax is also down, we estimate quite significantly. So that will require cuts. It is my responsibility to balance the budget. I want to thank the federal government, who has helped us get some of the necessary funds we need to reimburse the COVID-19 expenses. But you bring up something very good and very important. Cities around the country and local governments, as well as state governments, will go off a fiscal cliff without assistance for Washington, and I'm imploring our Congress, I'm imploring our president to make sure the next round also helps bail out cities. If you don't bail out cities, that's the only way you can bail out all of America's people and we need your help. Thanks, Liz. Excuse me, next question, please.

OPERATOR: And next question comes from the line of Maeve Reston with CNN. Please go ahead.

ERIC GARCETTI: Hi, Maeve. How are you doing?

MAEVE RESTON: Hi, mayor. Obviously, Governor Newsom today described the new normal, and what that might look like with, you know, people continuing to wear masks, and potentially waiters at restaurants wearing masks and gloves and doing temperature checks. Can you describe whether you share that vision as being sort of the new norm, and also, it sounds like the state certainly will need a huge workforce to do--

ERIC GARCETTI: Yes.

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MAEVE RESTON: --some of the contact tracing. I was wondering how you were thinking through that and whether there will be opportunities for the many people in the city that are now unemployed--

ERIC GARCETTI: Yes.

MAEVE RESTON: -- to take part in that contact, the tracing that would be needed.

ERIC GARCETTI: Absolutely, and Maeve, I don't want to preview everything, I'll be talking about tomorrow, but those are exactly the right questions that you are asking. First and foremost, of course, not only do I support what our governor talked about today, but what we've been talking with doctors for the last couple of weeks. I've been convening groups here in City Hall, talking with my colleagues around the country and the 13 big city mayors of California almost every night.

ERIC GARCETTI: To me it's about that testing and tracing, it's about making sure that we can track who is sick and getting tests to as many people as possible. It's about, you know, real time surveillance, blood testing, a rapid response to finding cases, and you bring up a great point about the workforce. So I alluded to it a couple days ago. I've called for a Cares Corps. I think about the Peace Corps that President Kennedy had, think about the Teacher Corps, my grandmother answered that call of President Johnson, and became a teacher in a low-income school in Milwaukee.

ERIC GARCETTI: This is the time for us to all be called to do things bigger than ourselves and the original corps, the Civilian Conservation Corps happened at a moment when we faced the Great Depression and so many people were out of work. Imagine being able to help city governments, achieve what they need to, helping protect people by having the healthcare workers that we need, and at the same time, putting people to work that right now are suffering so much. So look forward to kind of sharing that, hopefully, in the next 24 hours or so. You'll see something officially come out on this that I co-wrote with the Mayor of Oklahoma City and one of our top doctors in the country, but really, this idea of the civilian Cares Corps, whether it's helping people get the low-interest loans that they need for their business, rental assistance for individuals and fill out the forms, or helping folks be able to track and trace cases.

ERIC GARCETTI: We're probably going to need hundreds of thousands of Americans to be put to work. It should be funded by the feds, but enacted locally. We are seeing that here with our LA Cares Corps. I've talked to the governor and his staff about a volunteer corps around the state, and we are seeing it in cities like San Francisco that our cities and county that together are taking librarians who aren't working right now and medical students and adding to the capacity of those public health officials who when they find a case, have to call everybody they've been in contact with to quarantine and to suppress the spread of COVID-19. So I hope that whets your appetite for tomorrow. I will be going even deeper into that with the usual news-making announcements tomorrow. Thanks.

MAEVE RESTON: Thank you.

ERIC GARCETTI: Next question, please.

OPERATOR: Thank you. Our last question in English comes from the line of John Riccardi. Please go ahead.

ERIC GARCETTI: Hey, John.

JOHN RICCARDI: Hey, mayor. Thank you very much for the call. Mayor, the daily county reports show the cases in specific neighborhoods and communities in the city are spiking. Hollywood has more than 200 cases. There's clusters in Melrose, Silver Lake, etc. You mention frequently responding and acting based on data, So what type of a strategy do you invoke when you see these kind clusters happening?

ERIC GARCETTI: Absolutely. So we reviewed that data and looked to make sure that there's testing capacity where we see hot spots or where other data is showing us a disproportionate impact, especially on mortality. So for instance, the first data we got was not geographic recently, but it was based on ethnicity where we saw African-Americans who were about 9 percent of the county in the initial numbers were 17 percent of the deaths. For Anglos, for Asian Pacific Islanders, Native Americans and for Latinos the numbers weren't bigger than the population at large.

ERIC GARCETTI: So we immediately looked that expending capacity at the South LA site, at Crenshaw Christian Center. We opened up just yesterday with councilmember Price, a walk-in center in South LA for the first time that I announced yesterday. So we look at that, but it is not just about culture, it's also about location. We only control the city of Los Angeles, but working with the county, we've tried to make sure we fill in spots where there may be cases but there isn't testing close by and helping the county open those up. And in the city, we've made sure to cluster those testing facilities close enough to the place we see hot spots. So it definitely informs the decisions that we make, which are a combination of what facilities are available, where there's a parking lot, where we can staff them and what the data is showing us.

ERIC GARCETTI: One last thing that we are using the data for too, is to inform us about some of the work that we need to do out there. If we see, for instance, in certain parts of Los Angeles there's more movement, more people going further away from their homes based on the cell phone data which, I want reassure people, doesn't say you specifically, we just get anonymized general data, then that's something that we work with our business ambassadors who are out there on the streets making sure they can keep an eye on and encourage folks to stay home. And where there's hose individual cases, like a farmers market here or there, that's when we take larger steps like suspending the farmers markets based on the data that we saw and making sure that they have a better plan. Any follow up on that or--

JOHN: No, that's great. Thank you, mayor.

ERIC GARCETTI: Okay. Thanks, John. I appreciate you. Next question, please.

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OPERATOR: And we have one more question in English from the line of David Zahnizer with the Los Angeles Times. Please go ahead.

ERIC GARCETTI: Hey, Dave.

DAVID ZAHNIZER: Eric, can you hear me?

ERIC GARCETTI: I can hear you great.

DAVID ZAHNIZER: Great. I had a question and during the little pause, maybe I missed it. You know, you've been walking the public every day through the list of people who've tested positive in the police department, and fire department and more recently, the full city workforce, but I'm wondering, how many city workers are quarantined and out of commission because they came into contact with somebody who tested positive? What's the number of people being kept away right now because of other cases?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Let me see if I can get that for you, David. I don't have it actually on my briefing here. I know that for LAPD, it was about 250, that's our largest department. So I think we don't necessarily have a measure of all of them because some may be working at home already and are quarantined because of an exposure to a family member or somebody who is positive, but they are not positive. So we don't have 100% accuracy, but let me see if I can get you a number. I would definitely be in the hundreds, and I know it's less than a thousand. So somewhere between probably 250, and I would estimate given the size of the police department, of our overall workforce, somewhere between 250 and 1,000.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But we don't have any functions of government that have been limited. There is not a single department who's said because those people who are quarantined are out, we aren't able to fulfill the responsibilities that we have. And in fact, we've used the Disaster Worker Program, which deputizes city workers to go into new roles or different departments to meet the needs that we have for everything from a homeless shelter or a testing site. We are able to fill in and even supplement our usual strength. But I'll see if I can track down the overall number of both confirmed positive cases from city workers and then also the number that are quarantine as well. Okay? Thank you, next question. I'm sorry, I do have it right here, I misread it, 131 confirmed cases of the city work force, but I don't have the quarantine, we'll get you that. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: Thank you, and only question in Spanish comes from the line of Victor Cordero with Estrella TV. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Victor, hola.

VICTOR CORDERO: Mayor, how are you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good.

VICTOR CORDERO: Thank you very much for doing this not only in English and Spanish, but also for the hearing-impaired communicate. Bless you for that.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you.

VICTOR CORDERO: All the colleagues made the good questions, so I am going to try one that is actually personal that happened to me over the weekend. I know that you gave the order for everybody to use a face mask, at least while we are in public or in a supermarket, pretty much. And I was in a supermarket over the weekend, and I saw a couple a people without face masks. When I asked the manager of the store, which I am not going to mention because we are not here to point fingers, we are here rather to fix situations, the manager told me that Corporate told them that everybody can come in because business is business. If you can mention something in that matter. And number two, I see a lot of gloves, plastic gloves in the street and the parks, in parking lots and a number of different places, and that kind of worries me as well. I am not pointing to the city or our city officials to do something. We are also a community that can be proactive. What would be your words to those people that just dispose the gloves there? And what can we do about it?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Well, thank you. First of all, we'll see on Wednesday, the county requirements that every single business, and we even implemented them in the city too, will have to fill out that county form that says specifically what every business is doing to implement the face covering requirement. So while we implemented ours last week, theirs goes into effect tomorrow. They will also have to fill that and have proof of it. So any business that is doing that, I want them to hear very loud and clear. We initially said that you can refuse to serve somebody who doesn't have a facial covering on, but we need everybody to have that on.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And like so many of these things, we cannot have people everywhere. But the rules are clear: you must have a face covering to protect those employees that are in there and those employees must have them as well. So anybody who has that, please continue to call us, call 311 if it is in the city of LA and we'll make sure that we get our business ambassadors out there, sit down, and we do believe business is business, we want to keep business going and our essential businesses, but that shouldn't come at the expense of their workers. That shouldn't come at the expense of more deaths, that shouldn't come at the expense of all of our health. So really take that personal responsibility and we will try to fill in as much as possible.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In terms of the gloves too, I think similarly, take responsibility if you have rubber gloves, throw them out. Your trash is your trash. You put city workers and others at risk potentially if touching that contaminated material. But we do have personal protective equipment for our sanitation workers, our rec and parks workers and others, so they can safely dispose of them. But please, help them out and don't put anybody else at risk. I will say that in Spanish. Let me thank, as always, our English language visitors who are here today, thank you, God bless you, I'll see you tomorrow.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Pero también en español, yo quiero decir unas palabras, pero este--los dos preguntas. Es importante que todas las tiendas y todos los negocios que están abiertos durante esta crisis, la gente en un supermercado y los empleados tienen mascarillas no médicos para toda la gente. Ésta es una orden del condado de Los Ángeles mañana y en la ciudad de Los Ángeles ahora. Y ésta es una responsabilidad para todos nosotros. Yo quiero ayudar nuestros negocios, pero yo puedo ayudar estos negocios cuando están abiertos, cuando sus empleados no están muriendo. Ésta es una orden que es de salvando las vidas, no es solamente una idea de un político o una idea de esta alcaldía. Es una orden de los oficiales de Salud Pública para proteger las vidas de nuestra gente, especialmente los trabajadores en nuestros supermercados y otros lugares de trabajo.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Segundo, toda su basura, sus gloves y otras cosas que nosotros usamos, es importante para tomar esta basura con usted. No es la responsabilidad solamente de la ciudad. Tenemos protección para nuestros trabajadores, pero es importante porque la contaminación en estas cosas son una amenaza a la gente que está trabajando durante esta crisis. Por favor tome ésta y pone en la basura. Con esto, yo tengo unas palabras en español con nuestro Fiscal de la ciudad de Los Ángeles, Mike Feuer, y gracias a Los Ángeles, buenas tardes y gracias por venir esta noche.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Esta noche voy a compartir información sobre nuestros esfuerzos para asegurar el cumplimiento con la ley y mantenernos todos protegidos durante esta crisis. Pero primero, empiezo con los datos del día. Hoy hubieron 670 nuevos casos en el condado de Los Ángeles, llegando a un total de 10,047, éste es más casos de ayer. Y en la ciudad tuvimos 257 nuevos casos, llegando a un total de 4,462. Y tristemente hoy un récord, fallecieron 40 personas más en el condado, llegando a un total de 360 almas que nosotros hemos perdido, y lo siento por las familias que están sufriendo como resultado de estas noticias. Y es importante recordar que esta crisis tiene muchos más días y nuestras acciones tienen consecuencias, acciones buenas pueden salvar vidas ,y acciones negativas son una amenaza a la vida de un miembro de su familia, un vecino, un amigo, un residente de Los Ángeles.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Pero en buenas noticias, en nuestros hospitales tenemos 2,151 camas disponibles, entre ellas 593 están en las unidades de cuidados intensivos, éste es un record de estos días recientes, y tenemos 1,125 respiradores. Y gracias a los trabajadores en nuestros hospitales porque su trabajo continuando a extender la capacidad por las camas, los respiradores y la capacidad a salvar nuestra gente. Tenemos ahora 26 sitios para hacerse una prueba de detección en la ciudad y el condado, y hasta ahora hemos hecho pruebas a más de 50,000 personas.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Esta noche estoy anunciando que efectivo inmediatamente estamos ofreciendo cita el mismo o el próximo día para todas las personas con síntomas de COVID-19. Visita la página coronavirus.lacity.org/testing para hacer una cita ahora. Para salvar vidas también tenemos que seguir cumpliendo con la orden Más Protegidos en Casa, y ahora no es el momento para reunirse con amigos. Si hay reuniones peligrosas, pueden llamar al 877-ASK-LAPD. Vemos progreso en el cumplimiento con estas medidas, por ejemplo, 33 de

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nuestros mercados de agricultores han sido aprobados para operación. Mercados de agricultores que necesitan su permiso para operar deben visitar la página streetsla.lacity.org/covid.

MAYOR GARCETTI: También vimos progreso con nuestros sitios de obras en construcción. Hasta ahora nuestro Departamento de Construcción y Seguridad ha hecho 12,000 inspecciones COVID-19. La página ladbs.org tiene guías para el cumplimiento. Si hay una empresa no esencial todavía en operación, también tomaremos acción para aplicar la ley. Nuestros embajadores comerciales han visitado a 1,400 negocios, y muchos cerraron sus puertas para cumplir con la orden de emergencia. Nuestra policía ha visitado 1,200 comercios que no lo han hecho. También han referido a 79 negocios a la oficina del fiscal municipal Feuer. Les recuerdo, si ven violaciones de la orden, por favor déjenos saber en la página coronavirus.lacity.org/businessviolation. Y tenemos la presencia de nuestro fiscal de ciudad de Los Ángeles, Mike Feuer, para hablar de nuestro trabajo en esta área. Mike.

MIKE FEUER: Gracias. La orden del Alcalde de mantenerse en casa está funcionando, pero para lograr el mayor nivel de salud pública y seguridad durante esta crisis, debemos obtener el máximo cumplimiento de todos los Angelinos, especialmente nuestros negocios. Solamente las empresas esenciales como los proveedores de atención médica, las organizaciones que atienden poblaciones vulnerables, y los supermercados pueden permanecer abiertos durante la emergencia de COVID-19. Hoy anuncio que mi oficina continúa con nuestra aplicación concertada y presenta cargos penales en otros 10 negocios presuntamente no esenciales que han permanecido abiertos a pesar de la orden del alcalde. Estamos aquí para protegerlos y ustedes a ustedes y a la salud y la seguridad de su familia. Gracias.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Gracias, Mike o Miguel, gracias por su trabajo y el trabajo de su oficina, es fabuloso. Es importante proteger la gente y con todas nuestras parejas, por ejemplo, el Concejo Municipal con el presidente Nury Martínez, con el condado. Tenemos un equipo increíble para proteger las vidas de la gente de Los Ángeles, gracias. También esta noche les aviso que estamos extendiendo nuestra orden para relajar las reglas de estacionamiento hasta por lo menos el 15 de mayo.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Durante este período, el departamento de transporte no estará aplicando la ley de estacionamiento en ciertas zonas, pero mantenemos las reglas en parquímetros, zonas rojas, áreas de reparación de calles y en autos bloqueando el acceso de emergencia. Para más información visite la página ladot.lacity.org/coronavirus, y gracias por nuestros trabajadores del Departamento de Transporte. También esta noche les aviso que empezando el domingo 19 de abril, LA Metro, nuestro sistema de transporte público, cambiará su horario para ayudar a sus pasajeros y empleados. Estarán operando el horario de los domingos siete días a la semana junto con servicio adicional de autobuses rápidos para aumentar la capacidad. Si tomas el metro, visita la página metro.net para ver los horarios y preparar tu viaje, y gracias a toda la gente en LA Metro por su trabajo a proveer transporte crítico a nuestros trabajadores y la gente de Los Ángeles.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Nuestras bibliotecas públicas también ofrecen un gran universo de información para que nuestros hijos puedan descubrir y aprende más. Y aunque estén cerradas

las bibliotecas, pueden hacer leer estos recursos en línea. Por favor, visita la página lapl.org par más información. Hay mundos de exploración, de imaginación, para nuestros jóvenes. Y ésta es una oportunidad en casa, explorar el mundo y para obtener una tarjeta virtual, si no tienes una tarjeta, son disponible para ustedes. Con esta tarjeta también pueden recibir ayuda de tutoría en línea gratis entre las 11:00 de la mañana y las 9:00 de la noche todos los días. Eso es increíble especialmente para nuestros estudiantes que están en casa cada día, y es un poco de ayuda para nuestros padres también y éste es un sistema increíble y gracias a las bibliotecarias por su ayuda.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Nuestro Departamento de Asuntos Culturales también está ofreciendo una lista de recursos para artistas, incluso una beca para alivio de emergencia para artistas, pequeños teatros y grupos artísticos quienes han tenido que cancelar espectáculos debido a esta crisis. Para aplicar para estos fondos, por favor visita la página culturela.org para aplicar para la primera ronda de fondos. Y yo quiero dar mis gracias también. Somos no solamente bilingual pero trilingual, gracias a este equipo, y Arlene Narváez está aquí, un miembro de un equipo de traductores con Rick Pope y Nicole Pansino. Y gracias, gracias a usted por su increíble trabajo para comunicar a toda la gente en Los Ángeles. Finalmente, juntos seguiremos adelante, quédense, amigos, en buena salud, quédense protegidos, y quédense en casa. Mucha fuerza y mucho amor, Los Ángeles. Gracias.