

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening, Los Angeles, and thank you for joining us tonight. Tonight we're not at City Hall, obviously. We are here in South Los Angeles at the Crenshaw Christian Center. We all know it, the Faith Dome. We've flown over it when we come home. We've seen it, the original campus for Pepperdine, and a place that now breathes so much hope even before this crisis into our community. And I want to begin by thanking Pastor Frederick Price, Junior, and of course, the founder of Crenshaw Christian Center, Apostle Frederick K.C. Price, who have opened up this space and this place for us this evening. And they have made this the hub of our COVID-19 testing here in South Los Angeles. Without of the generosity of this church, without the way that this church embodies our community and our city, we would not be making the strides that we see today in Los Angeles, and I'm so grateful.

MAYOR GARCETTI: None of all stand alone. We are not in communities by ourself. We are part of a city of angels and this city of angels is showing how we respond in moments of need and in moments of crisis. And it's a privilege to be joined here tonight by several leaders in that fight. Of course, the great chief of our Los Angeles Fire Department, Ralph Terrazas, who you heard from before who will update us tonight, but he represents, as you see, some of the men and women of this department behind us tonight. The most courageous, most talented firefighters in United States of America, if not the world, who have helped to stand up these testing centers, who have picked up patients with COVID-19 and transported them to our hospitals to save their lives. They have truly been angels in this city of angels. And thank you, chief, for being here tonight.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We also have a Cynthia Davis with us as well, who is an assistant professor and program director of the College of Medicine and College of Science and Health at Charles R. Drew University. In a few moments I'll turn it over to her to share few words about the importance of testing and tell you a little bit more about how she has contributed for years to the health of all communities here in Los Angeles, and Sean Penn, who is the founder of Community Organized Relief Effort or CORE, a group that we've seen around the world but now that's helping right here. In Los Angeles, CORE has stepped up with volunteers to grow our testing capacity, and I'm so grateful to you, Sean, for being here as well. Thank you.

SEAN PENN: Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: You see, we're going to get through this because we have the power of partnership. We see a team in communities across Los Angeles that are coming together to meet the challenge of this day. But before we get into some of that, let me just get to what I do every night, the data that you need to know. Today in our county, we added 399 new confirmed positive COVID-19 cases, bringing our total number of confirmed cases to 10, 854. This was a 3 percent increase since yesterday, for comparison in the past 7 days have seen an average daily increase of 433 new cases. While that 3 percent might sound good, and it's certainly is, the record of all of your staying at home and listening to what we need to do. 433 cases every single day shows how many Angelinos are still endangered by COVID-19 and the coronavirus crisis.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: In the city, there were 145 new cases, bringing our total in the city of Los Angeles to 40,852. Also a 3 percent increase. And the worst news of today, we learned of 55 new fallen souls. 55 deaths, the most we've experienced in a single day. Now I want to pause here for a moment because so many of you have asked me how can we see the curve bending but the deaths going up? Just because the curve is bending, it doesn't mean that we aren't adding new cases and deaths, of course, are a lagging indicator. As I mentioned last week, this, in the coming weeks would be the worst weeks we face, and that certainly is bearing out. This a 13 percent increase that has brought the total number of fallen in Los Angeles to 455, and the third day in a row. Unfortunately we've seen records deaths.

MAYOR GARCETTI: For comparison, the past seven days, we've seen an average daily increase of 34 new deaths, and they're doubling every six days. And deaths aren't statistics, there are stories, there aren't numbers, they are lives. And so everybody who is out there still mourning the deaths that came before this 24-hour period we are with you and for the families that have joined with them, today our hearts break alongside you. And when we can come out of this, we will hold you and contain that pain with you together.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We've tracking hospitals bed inventory, and stayed strong here in the county. Our general emergency hospitals have today 1,558 available beds, of those 1,309 are acute care beds, and 249 are ICU beds and we have an inventory of more than a 1,000, 1,129 to be exact, available ventilators. Every day I've made it a point to talk a little bit about testing, and that's why we are here today in this parking lot because we now it stops the spread of this virus. It helps us save you but also helps us identify if you are positive, who you have come into contact with, so we can let them know to quarantine, to be safe and to not spread to others.

MAYOR GARCETTI: That's why Los Angeles in the begging of this crisis as a city, with no funding appropriated, no necessarily expertise in the area, stepped up to fill this national void. We launched our own testing program led by our fire department and our personnel department, and we moved quickly. We built a testing infrastructure from the ground up, and I want to thank Deputy Mayor, Jeff Gorell and his team, and I want to thank Dr. Eckstein from the fire department and everybody who stepped up and the county, Dr. Kassan and everybody else who have now joined. It's something that we never did before, but it's something we can be proud of because I know it's saving lives. On Friday, March 20th, we started with one drive-thru location in Elysian Park. Three days later we opened four sites to the public. This testing site at Crenshaw Christian was among the very first, and to date has tested almost 10,000 people. That means this site has tested more than many states in America.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: Across the county we're now up to 30 testing sites, including ten within the city limits and 20 in other cities and unincorporated areas of the county, with the capacity now to test 11,000 people per day. By the end of today, we will have tested approximately 61,000 Angelenos across all of these sites. That's one day early on the goal that we set. And let me put that in perspective, the number of tests that we did yesterday was a third of the entire state of California's total, and we have the capacity today to do more than half the tests that California did in the last 24 hours. That's something Los Angeles and Southern California can be very proud of. We've get the job done and we do it ahead schedule.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: In just one week we've doubled the number of people tested, and one week from today, we will have tested 90,000 people. We've also not just used testing centers. We rolled out rapid respond testing at nursing homes because we know that those can be death traps for the seniors who are members of our families and whom we love. We know that in the weeks since this program was launched, our LAFD Rapid Response Team has now tested over 600 residents, seniors living in senior care homes and the staff of nursing homes that has seen COVID-19 cases.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We've opened same or next-day testing to everyone with symptoms thanks to a partnership with the county who have quickly amplified the work that we've done to reach even more communities. And as I've shared with you, the data early on shows that this is proportionally hitting the African-American community, 9 percent of the county's population. The latest numbers show 15 percent of the deaths are among African-Americans. So we doubled the size of the Crenshaw site here when heard that. We opened up a walk-up location at Kedron Community Health Center here in South LA. And through our partnership with the county, sites were just added at The Forum in Inglewood and Charles Drew University in Willowbrook just south of Watts.

MAYOR GARCETTI: From the beginning we always followed the guide of medical professionals, not the instincts of anybody or the recommended political advice, but what our public health professionals tell us we need to do. And the County Department of Public Health endorse these oral swab tests that administered at the city and county testing sites. What is great about them is they don't require nurses, who are stretched thin in our hospitals to administer them. That keeps them on the front lines at hospitals where they are needed most. And I say this every night, but I'll say it again tonight, get tested immediately. If you are out there and you have symptoms, please go to coronavirus.lacity.org/testing, and get yourself a test.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sign-ups are for individuals, so I remind everybody, you can't sign up once for the whole family and bring them. Each member of the family needs to fill that out. If you do it back to back, you can usually get the same place and go together. And we need folks to get tested. We are so blessed to have a medical leader like Professor Cynthia David [sic] sharing this message far and wide. "Davis," excuse me. Professor Davis has worked in healthcare for more than 35 years with many of those spent in Los Angeles here. And long before this crisis, she's saved lives. The HIV crisis, she was somebody on the frontlines, especially in communities of color saying, "Get tested." So I know this is a familiar message tonight. She helped develop the first mobile HIV testing and community outreach project initiated in LA County in 1991, and her work has helped make Los Angeles stronger, safer, healthier, more equitable, and so I'd like to turn it over to her to say some words. Thank you so much for being here tonight.

DR. CYNTHIA DAVIS: Thank you, Mayor Garcetti. Good evening. Even though I've worked in the HIV/AIDS arena for the past 36 years, we can learn from effective public health measures taking over the past 40 years to reduce the global HIV pandemic in this current fight to eliminate infection with COVID-19. First and foremost, it is important that residents throughout the city

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and County of Los Angeles, and especially South Los Angeles, know your status by taking a COVID-19 test as soon as possible. The test is a simple oral swab which is self-administered and results are available within a few days. There are now more drive-up testing sites such as the one here at Crenshaw Christian Center, so that South LA residents can get tested.

DR. CYNTHIA DAVIS: Secondly, we all have to adhere to social distancing guidelines as well as ensure we are practicing good personal hygiene at all times. If you know your status and you're positive for COVID-19, it's so important to self-isolate and quarantine in your home and ensure the safety of other family members. If you are homeless and positive, then you need to obtain shelter in one of the city or county-funded shelters so that you are not exposing people on the street. Just like with HIV infection, you want to use what is called universal precautions which means you treat everyone as if they were infected with COVID-19 and take the appropriate precautions including hand-washing, wearing a face mask in public places, sanitizing surfaces in your home, in your car, and again, social distancing.

DR. CYNTHIA DAVIS: COVID-19 is very different from the HIV pandemic. COVID-19 is airborne. It can be contracted for casual contact with an infected person and it's very contagious. HIV is not airborne, nor can you acquire HIV by casual contact, with HIV infection, it took approximately 40 years to get to 1.1 million cases of people infecting or living with HIV in the US. With COVID-19, it has taken 2 to 3 months to reach 500,000-plus cases of people infected with COVID-19 in the US. Lastly, it is predicted that there may be a second or third wave of COVID-19 infection in the fall, and beyond next fall.

DR. CYNTHIA DAVIS: So we have to be prepared and vigilant to maintain the social distancing measures which are currently flattening the curve in the US. We cannot afford more community spread of this virus which is preventable if we are abiding by the social distancing guidelines outlined by public health officials. Please listen to our public health officials and government leaders, including Mayor Garcetti. We can survive this pandemic by educating ourselves, knowing the facts of how it is spread and practicing good hygiene, wearing face masks in public and maintaining social distancing. To learn where you can make an appointment to get a test, go to the Internet to [Covid19.LACounty.gov/testing](https://www.covid19.lacounty.gov/testing). Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you so much, Professor Davis, and we know that this is a virus that doesn't discriminate but its impact can. That's why we're depending on everybody in all communities to get tested and to make sure that years of health inequities don't result in more people dying. Poverty kills, health inequities kill, but our effort can equalize that playing field. Next, I'd like to turn it over to speak next Sean Penn, who I'm so grateful for being here. As I mentioned, CORE, the group that he helped to start, has provided almost 70 staff to run four of the city's testing sites. That's support ensures sites can operate and frees up valuable LAFD firefighters and paramedics to focus on their emergency response work. And I'm so grateful that you are here. You've saved life in the Caribbean, in the Gulf Coast, in Puerto Rico, in Haiti, and now to do it here in your backyard, it means the world. Thank you, Sean. Turn over to you.

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SEAN PENN: Thank you, mayor. And speaking on behalf of CORE, I want to begin by thanking the extraordinary staff and volunteers that CORE in its partnership with the mayor's office and the LAFD, have been able to attract, to help their own community. This is a very unique situation for us. We started after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. We got our sea legs through the devastating cholera epidemic in Haiti, and we began to expand out into the hurricane belt of the United States and through all of those, while we had some great touchstones within governance, we have never experienced such an extraordinary holistic leadership, and what that means for an organization like ours, to be able to have the leadership of Mayor Garcetti and the Los Angeles Fire Department, is that with their faith, we are able to mobilize very quickly, their faith in their training.

SEAN PENN: So this is, I think, what I hope will be a model in terms of the governance and NGO or community foundation partnerships that can be replicated not only in the city of Los Angeles and throughout California, but ultimately throughout the country and it's going to be part of our job to take lessons learned from the mayor's office and the Los Angeles Fire Department and be able to animate that message beyond. The only other thing I'd like to say is that we do operate on donations, and to be able to facilitate an expansion, to expand our capacity, you can look into us and we are at coreresponse.org/covid19, and I want to thank you, mayor, and your extraordinary staff and you, chief. We are humbled and grateful to be in a city and state that it is on the progressive edge of dealing with this brand-new paradigm.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you so much, Sean, and please do go to CORE and donate. Help them out, help them. I know the volunteers that have been coming really do expand our capacity. God bless you for the work you've been doing and appreciate you very much. So when I talk about the power of partnerships, you can see it here. You can feel it in the city, and we're not just using it to save lives, we're also using technology to make sure we can have a force multiplier and expand the work that we are doing.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And last week, that's why we're so excited that the Los Angeles Fire Department launched a new telemedicine program. We all know telemedicine maybe from calling a doctor or even having Facetime these days with one, but for a fire department to do that is one of the most progressive moves done in this country. At its emergency dispatch center, specially-trained physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants, are able to screen COVID-19 patients and other individuals who are calling 911 with non-life-threatening issues via a Smartphone.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This telemedicine program has been in development for two years and its rollout was accelerated by this pandemic. We want to assure patients to get the care they need as well as the safe, efficient deployment of our fire department, making sure that our first responders are where they need to be, and we can get you the information that can save your life. This has two benefits: It reduces potential emergency room crowding that a transport might bring to a hospital where somebody maybe feels that they have COVID-19, but didn't but could get. It also makes sure as well that we decrease the exposure of our firefighters and paramedics to potential COVID-19 patients as we've seen so tragically in cities like New York. To tell us a little bit more about this program, I'm going to turn it over to your chief, Ralph Terrazas.

RALPH TERRAZAS: Thank you, mayor. I'd also like to express my gratitude to Sean Penn and CORE. Our firefighters stepped up immediately to pursue and conduct a mission of testing and when CORE first arrived on scene, we were blown away with their professionalism and their service and their dedication, and that allows us to pull back our firefighters and paramedics, to put them in other critical missions. Now, getting to telemedicine, last week when I was here with the mayor, that was day one of the telemedicine program, today is day 8.

RALPH TERRAZAS: I spent a few hours there at this afternoon, and we're evolving, we're learning things, and it is accomplishing the things that you stated, mayor. I'll share with you one story. We have 100% patient follow-up, meaning that after we process somebody through a telemedicine incident, we check with them the following day to see what is their medical status and what is their opinion of the pilot program. One gentleman offered that he was extremely grateful and he wanted me to personally express his gratitude to the nurse practitioner who had provided that care. This gentleman was a middle-aged gentleman, chief complaint was acute and chronic neck and back pain. He was also diabetic.

RALPH TERRAZAS: But he was fearful of going to the emergency room for fear of contracting the coronavirus. So the nurse practitioner was able to use a Facetime-like platform to see visually the patient and then to ask multiple questions. At the end of the questioning, the nurse practitioner determined that what was needed was a new prescription. So the nurse practitioner made the call to the gentleman's local pharmacy and that pharmacy was able to provide him the necessary medication. I shared with you what I considered a very successful telemedicine encounter that maintains a high level of medical care, as well as preserves our valuable EMS resources. This is a great program. It's a great addition in terms of having a tool to deal with this pandemic, and I look for great things to continue to come from this program.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you so much, Chief, and thanks to, again, the men and women of this department who are just doing extraordinary work. We have your back and thank you for having ours. You know, the COVID-19 outbreak is first and foremost a public health crisis, but it's also igniting an economic emergency for Angelenos everywhere. While we are dealing with this health crisis, the cruelty of it is that it demands that we stay inside, that most of us aren't working, and half of the households have either been laid off, had somebody who has been laid off or had reduced hours. So from the beginning we've tried to not only save lives, but to save livelihoods as well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: As part of that effort, we are taking steps to protect critical, good-paying jobs at our airport. You can hear the plane that just went overhead, there're not many of them these days. After 9/11, we saw the biggest drop in plane flights in our airports history, about 55% of our plane travel dropped off, and it took 10 years to come back. Right now, 95% of our plane travel has stopped. It gives you an idea of the scale and the scope of how devastating this is, and not just for our amazing pilots and flight attendants, the crews, people who clean planes, people who make food for those passengers, it sets into motion job loss for people up and down, whether if somebody working in a concession in the airport, and airport worker or somebody in a related industry.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: And we cannot let our workforce bear the brunt of this emergency, we have to help them. Here in LA, we have the fourth busiest airport in the world, it's the number one busiest airport in this country of origination and destination, meaning that's where people get on and off the plane, not just a hub airport. And as such, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of people depend on the economy of our airport. There've already been layoffs and furloughs for non-city workers at LAX, but as travel rebounds, we have to ensure that employees will be hired back. And we have to protect their health and safety while they are off work. This week we learned that LAX is slated to receive more than \$323 million from the CARES Act, and Van Nuys Airport over \$157,000, helping us to maintain this vital infrastructure that we are going to need to pay our debt service, to continue building out those airports, and to keep employees on the job as we recover from this crisis.

MAYOR GARCETTI: On top of that, airlines and their contractors are receiving \$29 billion in federal funds from this legislation. But a condition of those funds is that they are required to retain almost all of their employees through September 30th. And the same way that we've said that Angelenos and small business who can't make the rent won't face eviction in this time, our LAWA, Los Angeles World Airport Commissioners, approved a series of steps designed to help airlines, concessions or rental car outfits weather this downturn, so they can grow their businesses and workforces again in the weeks and months ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Each of these companies are being given some sort of a rent deferral or or reduction through June 30th and airlines will have to pay back any missed rent of their own over the course of a six-month stretch starting in July. We are proud to collaborate with our labor partners, the unions that represent the men and women who staff the airports and many of these other companies to enact these temporary changes. It's a critical industry that has been hard, hard hit by this pandemic, fueled by thousands of middle-class workers who have seen paychecks and economic security hang in the balance. But by giving them a little bit more runway to remain up and running and requiring them to continue paying their employees, will save jobs, will keep people in apartments and will make sure they can eat their food and that good-paying middle-class jobs will continue to be the bedrock of our all economy.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Finally, so much of what we are doing is focused on the immediate impacts of COVID-19, how it's affecting our health, our safety, our economic security. And that's absolutely essential. But we can't stop thinking about the investments we need to support the education of our students, or the food security of our families, the safeties of our neighborhoods and the health of our communities over the long run as well. So I want to reinforce one thing tonight that if you are at home and you don't know what to do tonight and you haven't done it yet, fill out the census. We have an embarrassing low percentage here in Los Angeles compared to the nation. Right now around the nation we have about 49.4% of households that have already responded. In California it's a little higher, 50.3, San Diego is 55%, San Francisco, 48%.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Here in LA only 40% of us have filled that census out. So please go to census.gov and fill it out now because in emergencies like this, those dollars that we get to save

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the lives and the livelihoods of people depend on how many people they say are here. And so whether it's somebody who is unhoused or an immigrant, and I remind people, it does not matter your status as an immigrant, you should and must be counted in the census. Make sure that you are counted and go to my2020census.gov and fill it out, multiple languages, it's easy to do, I know I did it. Or you can also fill out the form you received in the mail and send it back or call in answers by dialing 844-330-2020. Simply put, there's no excuse to skip the census. Don't give that money away to another part of the country. Make sure you get a thousands of dollars that you deserve by filling that out. Almost every night I offer you an update on the individuals and business that have generously given their time and their support and their money to helping those that in need right now.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I want to say a few more shout outstanding tonight. I want to thank Apple for donating 160,000 face shields to the city of Los Angeles to help protect hospital workers and first responders, presenting another example of a great California company using its ingenuity and resources to rapidly design personal protective equipment for folks on the frontline. The clothing company Marine Layer makes the softest shirts I know, they've donated 20,000 face coverings through the LA Protects initiatives that we've talked about in these briefings in previous nights, helping keep garment workers employed during this crisis and providing protection to city workers and staff at organizations that serve domestic violence survivors, youth and families. And the number of people we can help depends on everyone doing their part, whether it's in government, business, philanthropy or elsewhere. And our ability to assist our neighbors grows with each donation to the Mayor's Fund. So after you've given to Corps, log on, check out the Mayor's Fund at mayorsfundla.org and I've said every day from this podium, whether it's \$5 or \$500, every bit matters.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But there're two people I want to sing aloud who asked first not to be mentioned, but I want to share with you that Wendy and Barry Myer, they're on a conference call where I was raising money and telling people about the overwhelming response to our Angeleno cards where we've had hundreds of thousands of people apply to try to get one of those cash cards for 700, 1100, or 1500 dollars. And as I said, the more money we get in, the more money we can give out. They'd already contributed between the two of them \$250,000 but afterwards, they reached out to a member of my team, and they said they wanted to double down, making it a half-a-million-dollar donation. As I said, they didn't ask to be mentioned tonight, in Judaism, and the highest form of charity is when it's done anonymously, so forgive me, but I am putting their generosity out there because I hope it inspires others who have those means or even two bucks to go and to give us some money at mayorsfundla.org/Angeleno. We need to get as many Angelenos covered in this crisis as we can.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Standing here before, one of our great houses of worship, a place I've come to for services, for funerals, for celebrations and sad moments. Many of us can take inspiration from words of scripture. As the Psalms tell us, "God restores my soul, God guides me along the right paths." We all need those paths right now, and the path that you are helping guide us through, each one of you, by making sure that you get tested, by making sure that you stay home, by generously giving to help fellow Angelenos means that this righteous path will

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take us through these foggy days to a sunny day ahead, in which we will be together, we will be outside and life will return as we once knew it.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So keep that faith, fellow Angelenos, and for those who are watching across the state and country, keep that faith. Los Angeles will do as part for Angelenos and for the state, this country and this world. And as we do, let's build our future even stronger than it was before. And so as I always say, stay healthy, stay safe, and stay at home. Much strength and love to all of you, Los Angeles. Thank you. And with that, I'll answer questions, thanks.

JOHN REGARDI: Mayor, the first question comes from Elex Michaelson of Fox 11 News. What kinds of conversations have you had internally about the possibility of an immunity card and how that might it easier for people to return to work?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Absolutely. Thank you, and John Regardi is our pool reporter who is asking the questions tonight. Thank you to John and to Elex as well. So Elex, an immunity card is an interesting thing, and it's something we certainly are looking at closely. But it also depends on how many people are, quote/unquote immune. The blood tests, the serology tests that we will need to see whether people have had coronavirus and that researches are still trying to confirm, but early research shows that it probably should provide at least some immunity in the medium term. We are still not sure how this novel coronavirus will act and COVID-19's impact will be.

MAYOR GARCETTI: It could be like a cold that you develop some immunity to and in future years, when it either changes or when that immunity wears off, you could be susceptible again. But if we could have that, it would allow us to, as we've seen in other cities, for instance in Wuhan, China, they have a green, yellow and red system. Red means that you still are susceptible or that you potentially have COVID-19, green is that you have this immunity and yellow is that you are in a quarantine state. This would be something that will allow more people to go to work, allow more people to go to school. But my worry is that our success here in flattening the curve, while the best news is it saves lives; it also means most of us have not been exposed to the coronavirus and COVID-19.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So we are going to also need more than just immunity passports to get some of us back to work, back to school, and back in the spaces and places. Because we can't wait for the entire year, we can't wait for two years. We are going to have to figure out tracking and tracing, we are going to have to have more testing like this for who's infectious because for the immunity passports it's a different test, it's a blood test. But these swab tests helps us know if you are infectious right now. And we are going to need to be able to surveil really quickly the entire community. So knowing there is a hot spot in one neighborhood and potentially closing that off, keeping some people who are especially vulnerable like our seniors and people with preexisting health conditions maybe home longer. But it is definitely one of the arrows in our quiver, one that I hope that we can use, and I hope in the next few days to share more news about our more formal process of how we are going to have those conversations about reopening the city with the county, neighboring cities as well, Southern California, in the weeks and months ahead. Thank you, next question.

JOHN REGARDI: Mayor, this one is mine. Even as the number of new cases each day has been falling recently, there's tended to be about 1500 available hospital beds, hundreds of ICU beds in the range of a thousand ventilators. Given where things are, do you believe that Los Angeles has a void having local hospitals overburdened by COVID-19 patients? And if so, what's the reaction and how does this impact the use of the Mercy and the Convention Center?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Absolutely. Thank you, John, for the question. We see the cases still going up, the rate of cases is bent, the curve has gone this way and that's good news. But even though it's a slower crime, it's still a crime. In other words, more people are going into the hospital beds than are coming out of the hospital beds each day. That said, our hospitals have done an incredible job. We do think that in the next couple of weeks, and that's about as far as you can look, that they have the capacity, the ventilators, the beds to be able to deal with the cases are coming in if everybody stays at home. And I've seen projections where if people start to loosen it up, that could change in a week, that could change in two weeks, that could change very quickly. In fact, if we stopped our stay at home today, just went cold turkey and everybody has said, "Go out," the projection I saw that by August 1st, 95% of us would be infected. And I don't have to tell you how many deaths that would mean and how much that would overwhelm the system. So that is, I think, very important for us to track. In terms of the alternate spaces, yes, the Mercy has been looking at taking in some of the seniors from Orange County and Los Angeles County who are in vulnerable places to make sure that they are cared for and if they have cases that they can come in there. And the Convention Center remains available and ready.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I think it's always been kind of a Swiss army knife, a multi-purpose places that could go towards if the hospitals were overwhelmed non-COVID-19 cases. At one point it was going to be for lesser COVID-19 cases or if there is an outbreak, for instance, on Skid Row. And the unhoused population of people who are experiencing homelessness to me, it's still we can get those hotel and motel rooms quickly enough, fast enough, we are getting people in there and we've stood up, as you know, almost a thousand beds now of shelter in our rec centers. But if something happens quick and we can't move in a single day someplace, it's good to know those beds are there. So that's what we're looking at potentially for the Convention Center.

JOHN REGARDI: Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you.

JOHN REGARDI: Next question comes from Jory Rand at ABC 7. He's wondering, Sean, is this something--if this was something that you and the leaders of CORE would have done already simply because there was a crisis and people needed help? Or was there a shortcoming our incident you observed that led you that? In other words, would you been doing this regardless of how the situation was being handled? And what, if any, hurdles have you encountered?

SEAN PENN: Yeah, it's a good question. When the hurricane hit New Orleans, I watched on the news for many days with the assumption that the local and federal government would be covering it and that one might get in the way. And what I found out separate and apart from any

of the legitimate criticism than that happened, the government response at that time, is that in these kinds of disasters all the planning in the world which, of course, you know, does take a national strategy as well, still doesn't--it's too much, too high a demand for any existing forces to handle if citizens don't get involved. And what, again, what I like--I had said earlier, once you bring your own lessons learned and you come into a situation like this which where we--for me what it was, was saying to my CEO Ann Lee, "Ann, we've got to get involved," and offered to sport supplement basically be at the directive first. And if there is no leadership there, then we'll find a way to activate.

SEAN PENN: But instead, and virtually like I've never seen or experienced before, there was such leadership in place that we were able to be guided directly into a position where we could alleviate some of the pressure of the Los Angeles Fire Department as the Chief was talking about. And from that, we are looking to develop other ways to help support, fill gaps, which are inevitable and have to do with resource issues that nobody is standing at these microphones controls. So just to really privilege to be in that and really we have the Haitian people to originally thank for it because they really taught us our way in understanding what it is to work with community, to ask what the community needs, and in this case to ask what the city needs and have such dynamic leadership gives an answer.

JOHN REGARDI: And the next question is from Ryan Carter of the Daily News. It touches on a similar subject for the mayor or the fire chief or Sean. Can someone describe the load that CORE, can say a little bit more about the load that CORE has taken off of the fire department? In other words, can they give a measure of how any firefighters may have been able to get back to their normal jobs instead of administering tests. And can this model with CORE is doing be scaled up and take on and even more of a load than the four stations that you mentioned before.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Chief, do you want to take up?

RALPH TERRAZAS: I will. Thank you, John. The mission of testing is not something we normally do, and it took quite a few over firefighters away from their normal duties. So when CORE came in, it allowed us to reallocate our people to different functions. And one of those things which was to support the Convention Center transition; another one was to staff our Emergency Operation Center and our Department Operation Center. We do anticipate that our firefighters may in the future, it's possible, we could have more of our firefighters become positive. As I told you earlier, we only had 19 so far, but if that were to spike, I would need those people that were on the test sites to redeploy to staff fire trucks and ambulances. So there is many things I am now able to redeploy thanks to the CORE organization.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Want to take the second half?

SEAN PENN: Yeah, I'll do my best. In terms of the scale-up, we are actively looking to build capacity with three separate specific agendas. One is again, at the direction of the mayors' office and Los Angeles Fire Department specific to the City of Los Angeles, and being able to staff up to absorb as many sites as need be. But also we hope to share this model, whether that relates to other partners that the mayor's office may have doing similar functions and then, separately,

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CORE will also be scaling up statewide, working at the governor's office. And we hope, again, to be moving outward. We do--we are working with the Rockefeller Foundation as a partnership, moving into three out-of-state locations as well, organizing local staff in those areas, staff and volunteers in those areas. So the hope is that all of this talk about staffing up and capacity building, it is my job with my staff to gnaw, bite, scratch and kick to expand and force multiply as much as possible. But the hope is that with the scientific community's enormous investment, that this will be transitioning these sites at some point to inoculation sites, and then hopefully learning to prepare for the next such event.

JOHN REGARDI: The next question is from Elizabeth Chou of the Los Angeles Daily News. She would like to know how much the test sites have cost the city so far in terms on labor operating, tests kits and other costs. And also what kit suppliers the city has been using and are getting ready to use?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure. I do not know an exact number because it changes every single day. Now we have the county also helping pay for the county sites and you don't have to be from the city to come to a city site, and you do not have to--you can live in the city and go to a county site. So we have taken that away. The test kits that we have, have been from a mix of different places. We've had some test kits that are going through individual laboratories, so we buy the kits separate and send them to places like Quest Labs, was the first place that we went through, and they really helped us get both the kits and some of the tests. We have some from Everlywell through the partnership with United Parcel Service and Everlywell has stepped up as a kit and lab producer as well, and then Curative is the third based here in Diamond Bar that has allowed us do that. So some of them, the Everlywell ones are going out for our testing, people who are experiencing homelessness and our seniors and our rapid response teams. We've had some early on, especially for our first responders and city staff that went through Quest, the bulk of them right now is going through Curative.

JOHN REGARDI: The next question comes from—

MAYOR GARCETTI: And, sorry, Liz, I will get you an answer to how much we spent today. It's certainly something we are tracking because we are going to be submitting that for 75 percent reimbursement from FEMA.

JOHN REGARDI: The next question comes from Steve Gregory of KFI. Mayor, LAPD Chief, Michel Moore hinted in a video message to employees that cuts are likely. He said that the department would adjust, innovate and persevere. What will you ask if the LAPD and other larger departments in terms of cuts? And then Chief Terrazas from the questioning post to the mayor, what cuts are likely in your department?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, as we always say, you know, we saw in 2,008 during the great recession cuts crossed every department. While we didn't have any layoffs and we didn't furlough people from public safety because while we said that that, you know, 911, you have to have those calls answered, you need to make sure there is a firefighter, paramedic, make sure that there is a police officer. So we are not proposing to cut any of the personnel. But every

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department will be expected to make cuts. That might mean less overtime, it might mean some less specialized units. Everybody has had to have a belt-tightening.

MAYOR GARCETTI: At the beginning of this I said there would be no new hiring. We put a hiring freeze. We did a number of things, stopping all new programs that did not have to do with COVID-19. And luckily, and I am going to be presenting my budget in the next few days, I am giving my state-of-the-city address on Sunday by Charter. We saw two bond rating agencies, just in the last day or two, say that we were not only stable, but did not downgrade us, which is almost unheard of right now, given that cities across this country and around the world are being downgraded. They've already laid people off, etcetera. But we put more money in our reserve fund, double what we had before 2008. We are able to do those things very quickly. And we have diverse revenue sources. But they will be down dramatically. And nobody said hotels hardly. There is nobody at the airport, we are seeing sales tax down, all sorts of places. We're not enforcing parking tickets because we shouldn't be while people are being required to be at home in those residential areas. So we are going to see that, my expectation of this chief, of our police chief, is that even though their people have a little bit more immunity around them because we need them so badly, they are not immune from needing to manage their money, cut and make sure that we don't have any fat. This is about just the muscle that will get us through this and I will let you say anything if you want to add.

RALPH TERRAZAS: Thank you, Mayor. The news has not been very positive, you know, everybody can see what is happening in the economy. In terms of cuts to the Fire Department, for next fiscal year, we are looking at potentially less drill tower classes, and the last thing we want to do is take any firefighters and paramedics from the field. But we can conduct business with the people we have now. We may have to delay the hiring of new firefighters. In terms of equipment, we have been very fortunate in last few years. We've really restored our department in terms of new fire trucks, helicopters and technology, so we are in a good place right now. So we are waiting for the instructions from the mayor's office, and we'll work collaboratively to come to a good budget.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We will. And I can guarantee you, we will still have some fire classes next year. We need to continue doing some hiring. Next question. Thank you.

JOHN REGARDI: Our next question is from Dakota Smith of The Los Angeles Times. Mayor, have you visited the new LA Surge Hospital in Westlake? If so, what did you and how would you describe it? And what role do you see this facility playing during this crisis?

MAYOR GARCETTI: I have seen the Surge Hospital, maybe referring to St. Vincent, but I am not sure, I have not visited it. We have been working very hard at the Conventions Center, which is the other kind of surge potential hospital that's there but I have not yet been to St. Vincent so I cannot speak to that. Sorry.

JOHN REGARDI: A question from Lesley Marin of KCAL CBS regarding the Angeleno Fund, the deadline was today. How many people applied? And yesterday you said there were more

requests than money. Is this still the case tonight? Will everyone who applies get an Angeleno card?

MAYOR GARCETTI: No, and we've said that from the beginning. Although the more donations that come in, the more people will. Let me see if get the numbers here from the end of the day. We had 445,000 applications by the time this ended. If that isn't a sobering number for how many people need our help, I don't know what would be. So I am glad to see that we are going to be able to put millions of dollars out, depending on donations that come in, hopefully each week or couple of weeks we will continue that, as I said, folks who have applied but do not get it the first time, we'll keep those names and we'll keep doing random draws because we know for households how much that helps. We will be doing those sit-down interviews. We don't know that that's necessarily each one person. We want to make sure that it is. We want to make sure that it is one person per household. So it might have been that a household put in five or six, every family number, but we'll sit down and make sure that they know they are eligible and each child, we'll give them some more money, but that it's one card per household. So that money will start hitting the street next. But it closed today 4:30 and 445,068 applications came in.

JOHN REGARDI: Great. And so far it looks like the last one from Ben Oreskes of The LA Times. Mayor, you have mentioned Judge David Carter in these addresses over the last few weeks. Could you describe what role you think he has had on the city and county's response to the pandemic with respect to homelessness? Has there have been a layer of accountability on elected officials that didn't previously exist? Or do you think he's overstepped and is interfering with how you would like to respond?

MAYOR GARCETTI: No, Dave Carter has been amazing. He has become a friend. I was a fan of his, watching what he did in Orange County to kind of knock heads together and to make sure that Orange County was stepping up and did some marvelous work to make sure that they were housing their people that were experiencing homelessness. And he has been a friend, an ally and a fair judge. He has helped us. He went out to Skid Row in the midst of this pandemic, saw that some of our wash centers were not being serviced quickly enough, called me. I appreciated hearing that and by the next day, we got, went from weekly to daily cleanings and putting soap and water and towels in those places because that is going to be the difference between people contracting COVID-19 and not.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The other night we had a great agreement to see where we can take parking lots right now and move some people off the streets and into parking lots near Skid Row. He has going out there with councilmembers, I think almost every councilmember visited also our rec centers. And he's been a really helpful voice with other levels of government because we've had a great partnership between the city and county, but he's saying, "Okay, cities, step up and do this. County, can you provide more people to help them? You have got healthcare workers or public health workers or other folks."

MAYOR GARCETTI: So I've been very pleased at his presence. I think he's going to be a very positive force, and as you said to me from the beginning, he can kind of bring the outstretched

wings of the federal court and insist that everybody be accountable. As I said two years ago, homelessness in Los Angeles required a FEMA-level response. And that we had some brave moves from the state, we had the beginning of some brave moves from Washington, my conversation with Ben Carson. It wasn't until this pandemic hit that we saw the tens of millions of dollars. We just got a 19-million-dollar check minutes before I got here from the state emergency dollars.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And we hope to see the federal funds come soon as well. That is \$50 million we didn't have. That's hotel rooms, that's motel rooms, and I say to any hotel or motel owner, give us those rooms. We need them right now. And I want to give you the statistics on those real quick because Judge Carter has been helpful with pushing that forward too. But right now we have in terms of the tier 1 rooms, which are for folks who have not yet contracted COVID-19 but could, who are experiencing homelessness. There is 1,827 rooms in the county. That is awesome. But we need to get that up to 15,000, the stretch goal, but that is an awesome start. 514 of those are already occupied. 903 of those rooms are in the city of LA with 310 occupied.

MAYOR GARCETTI: For tier 2, which is for folks who are homeless or who are not experiencing homelessness but have no place to go when they get sick, there is 900 rooms in that, 512 of them in the city and 153 of those occupied. He and I have talked about testing. He has supported the testing work that we are doing to get out there, I will share that with you as well real quick. We have tested so far we delivered 1,300 tests to shelters and clinics. I know Claudia asked me last night from KNX about the first death of somebody experiencing homelessness. That person was not experiencing homelessness. They were a worker who lived in the shelter and was not homeless, and our heart breaks for that person because that was early on and we have lost somebody who was an angel to so many providing help at the Union Rescue Mission, and so to Andy and everybody, our heart breaks for you with that. We have, though, test--I've put out 1,300 tests, 364 tests already administered. Only nine positive among people experiencing homelessness and 294 negative and 61 pending. And so far, the numbers are either 33 or it could be 32 to checking one person of individuals experiencing homelessness who have tested positive for COVID-19. So.

JOHN REGARDI: And one more question has come in from Víctor Cordero. He asked, mayor, what do you think of the idea to open the country in a three-phase process, as President Trump suggested today? And he asked if you could answer that in English and in Spanish--

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure.

JOHN REGARDI: --and that is the last question.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank, Víctor. And as I transition to Spanish, feel free, you guys, to either stand or leave, either way, but thank you, Víctor, for the question. I want to read it because I just heard about it. So I always like to read things beforehand. But as I said last night in the five principals I put forward, we are going to have to have some certain things. And we have to think about this as kind of the on and off. Sometimes we are going to see the switch go

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off and people can go out, and there's going to be times, as we have referred to here, where this pandemic may come back and we'd have another spike and we are going to have to go back on. Some of that is driven by the season, some of that's going to be driven by how well we have the testing and the surveillance.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So it is not just going to be three phases and done. It may be a framework for understanding how we can go out, come back in, go out, come back in, but at least have some days and weeks and months where we are not indoors the whole time, where our economy is not suffering, where people are not earning an income. So I look forward to seeing that but I talked to some folks who are working on the presidential task force. I think there's some really good ideas there. I loved what the governor put out, and as I said, in the next few days we will announce how we are going to synthesize that and apply it here at LA. And I think LA can lead in a number of ways. In the entertainment industry, for instance. We can write the rules or how do you get back safely to a set. For sports and entertainment and concerts. How can we do that? Maybe it's sports without audiences this year, but at least we can have players tested and playing in the leagues, which is important for so many people's livelihoods, as well as for all of our enjoyment and entertainment.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So we think LA can have an outsized role in helping inform of what the White House does, what the world does and what the state does as well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: En español también yo quiero decir, no hay un sistema, pero la propuesta del presidente Trump hoy, los tres fases de reabierto de este país, es una empieza buena. Pero también los principales del gobernador Newsom y los principales de la ciudad y el condado de Los Ángeles son importante también porque tenemos industrias únicas aquí como entretenimiento, como el intercambio entre el puerto y aeropuerto. Yo quiero escribir estas regulaciones con los líderes a nivel nacional y estatal porque no es un sistema donde solamente estamos en este orden más seguro en nuestras casas y luego es normal. Tal vez hay ciertos meses cuando nosotros estaremos en nuestras casa, y otros meses donde nosotros podemos trabajar. Y este puede dar más dinero, más horas de trabajo a nuestra gente y salvar las vidas de la comunidad al mismo tiempo.

MAYOR GARCETTI: With that I am going to turn to my Spanish remarks for tonight to translate. Thanks again to everybody for tuning in, who is tuning in for English. We will see you tomorrow.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Muy buenas tardes, Los Ángeles. Estoy aquí hoy en el sur de Los Ángeles, en el Centro Cristiano Crenshaw, uno de nuestros sitios de pruebas de detección, una iglesia increíble en la ciudad de Los Ángeles. Esta es la locación original por la Universidad de Pepperdine y es un parte integral de nuestra ciudad. Y no estamos solos en esta lucha, y es un privilegio estar aquí con algunos quienes están luchando a nuestro lado, especialmente yo quiero decir mis gracias al Jefe del Departamento de bomberos, el Jefe Terrazas, Cynthia Davis, una profesora en el Colegio de Medicina en la Universidad Charles Drew, y el actor Sean Penn, quien fundó CORE, una organización ayudándonos en nuestros esfuerzos para brindar pruebas para angelinos.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Primero, les comparto los últimos datos en Los Ángeles. Hoy hubieron 399 nuevos casos en el condado de Los Ángeles, llegando a un total de 10,854. En la ciudad tuvimos 145 nuevos casos, llegando a un total de 4,852. Y es un tragedia porque hoy fallecieron 55 personas más en el condado, un nuevo récord. Este es el tercer día con un récord de estos fallecieron, llegando a un total de 455. Y lo siento mucho por las familias que están sufriendo con el resultado de estas personas. Estos no solamente son miembros de su familia, pero parte de la familia angelina también.

MAYOR GARCETTI: En nuestros hospitales, buenas noticias. Tenemos 1,558 camas disponibles. Entre ellas y 249 están en las unidades de cuidados intensivos, y tenemos 1,129 respiradores disponibles. Y seguimos trabajo, nuestro trabajo para ampliar el acceso a las pruebas de detección. Tenemos ahora 30 sitios para pruebas de detección en la ciudad y el condado de Los Ángeles. Y hasta ahora hemos hecho pruebas a más de 61,000 personas. En solo una semana, hemos duplicado el número de pruebas y en una semana vamos a tener al menos de 90,000 pruebas completas. Además tenemos un equipo de respuesta inmediata haciendo pruebas en casas para personas de tercera edad. En una semana ya han hecho más de 600 pruebas para estas personas vulnerables. Si tiene síntomas, pueden hacer una cita para un prueba en la página coronavirus.lacity.org/testing.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sólo individuos se pueden inscribir, si tiene síntomas de COVID-19 y vive con varios miembros de familia, haga citas individuales para cada persona. Gracias. La semana pasada, el Departamento de Bomberos lanzó un nuevo programa de telemedicina en su centro de despacho de emergencias con médicos y enfermeros capacitados para detectar posibles pacientes con COVID-19 que llaman al 911 con problemas de menor riesgo a través de un teléfono inteligente. Este programa permite que profesionales de salud puedan evaluar a los pacientes de forma remota, tanto como limita las personas en las salas de emergencia y reduce el riesgo de infección de COVID-19 para nuestros bomberos.

MAYOR GARCETTI: También estamos pensando en el futuro de nuestra ciudad. Con la reducción de menos de 95 por ciento de pasajeros en LAX, no podemos dejar que nuestra fuerza laboral cargue con la peor parte de esta emergencia. Esta semana supimos que LAX recibirá más de 323 millones de dólares y Van Nuys recibirá más de 157,000 dólares del programa Federal Cares para continuar mejoramientos de infraestructura y mantener a los empleados con un trabajo. Hay mucha gente en nuestra comunidad que trabajan en los aeropuertos, y este es muy importante para todos nosotros. Además no podemos dejar de pensar en las inversiones que necesitaremos para apoyar la educación de nuestros estudiantes, la seguridad alimentaria de nuestras familias, la seguridad de nuestros vecindarios, y la salud de nuestras comunidades a largo plazo.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Por eso, es tan importante participar en el censo. Todos deben participar y esta es una oportunidad que llega cada 10 años. Y un conteo completo asegurar que recibamos los recursos que necesitamos durante desastres como esto para servicios críticos como escuelas, infraestructura y servicios de salud, transporte y vivienda. Hasta ahora tenemos una tasa de respuesta de solamente 40 por ciento. No puedo decirlo suficiente. Necesitamos que todos

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participen y respondan en línea en el sitio my2020census.gov. [My2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov). Puede completar el formulario que se recibió por correo y enviarlo de vuelta. O puede dar sus respuestas llamando al 844-330-2020. No hay excusa para no participar en el censo. Aún para inmigrantes tengan confianza que todas las respuestas completamente confidenciales. Esto es muy importante. No tengan miedo. Esta información no es por diferentes departamentos del gobierno federal, es confidencial. Como hacemos siempre, construyamos mejor futuro juntos. Quédense en buena salud, mis amigos. Quédense protegidos y quédense en casa. Mucha fuerza, mucho amor. Hasta mañana. Gracias.