

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening, Los Angeles. As we end yet another week, it's always good to take a snapshot of where we are and where we were over the last seven days. And I want to thank each one of you as you hopefully have time with your families or over a meal tonight to reflect that we look at how much has been accomplished this past week even as we acknowledge how difficult these days are for each one of us. You know that we have done so much in this fight against COVID-19, an enemy that's unseen, one that we didn't expect, but one that has challenge us to rise to this occasion and to this moment.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And as always, we can turn to an old friend, one of the greatest Angelenos, to the first person I ever gave a key to the city, our beloved Vin Scully for some words of advice. He's been the narrator of so many moments in LA history, so many incredible moments in our lives, and he said a few ago from the depths of depression, "We fought our way through World War II, and if we can do that, we can certainly fight through this." And he added in the way that only Vin can add the poetry, "It's the life of the world, the ups and the downs."

MAYOR GARCETTI: Vin, I am sending you so much love and strength from our entire city, from your fall on Tuesday, I am glad that you are resting comfortably. The Dodgers may not be able to take the field tonight because of this battle we are in, but we should take our queue from that team that you narrated for so many years and come together as a team, as a city. And on this playing field of staying at home and helping one another out do everything we can to turn this into the most improbable of seasons. So we love you, Vin, get well soon, and for all of us let's remember that LA spirit that Vin has ignited in us so many years.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Your actions don't just help keep our family healthy, but they help keep all of us healthy. And the city our actions aren't guided by sensationalist facts or opinions, we look at science, we look at medicine and we make judgment calls based on those. Science and medicine have informed everything that you hear from me each night. As I've said from the beginning, I'll share with you the information I have as soon as I get it. I hope some of you have been checking out this daily data summary that we have, a great way to look at the trends, look at the numbers and even more depth than I have time to share with you each evening. So tonight's snapshot will offer comparison to where we were a week ago to see where we've come, how many challenges we have, and what progress we have made.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Today, the county reported 1,035 new confirmed positive COVID-19 cases here in the county, bringing our total confirmed cases to 18,517 a 6 percent increase since yesterday. One week ago, we had 567 new cases last Friday and 11,391 cases. We are doubling our cases about every nine days, and even though we saw a backlog that spiked things up a little this week, we're staying consistent seeing that curve beginning to bend again and during the work that we have together to make sure we slow the rate of increase of COVID-19 infections. In the city of Los Angeles, there were 428 new cases today, bringing the city of LA total to 8,450 a 5 percent increase since yesterday.

MAYOR GARCETTI: By comparison, we had 241 cases last Friday in the city and 5,093 total cases. And as we add more and more tests, we'll see some of those numbers go up as more labs come online, we'll see some of the backlogs or the new numbers come in, and we want more

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people to test, and we want to have a more honest number of how many cases are out there. And so we're seeing about 1,000 cases a day this week, we again are trending down on that bending of the curve.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But the one statistic I always say that is perhaps the truest and by far the saddest is the death. That isn't something that is just about the number of tests. Somebody we've lost is somebody we have lost, and today that number was 52 Angelenos. That brings the total number of Angelenos who have fallen to 848, a 6 percent increase since yesterday. A week ago, we had 40 new deaths and a total of 495, so deaths, like our cases, are doubling about every eight days. It's a good progress from a week ago, when I stood here a week I said, "Deaths were doubling every six days," but we want to see that number continue to go up. And at some point to see the number of deaths per day come down and hopefully one day be at zero.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Each loss is incalculable, and I send my deepest condolences to every family that is still mourning and those that are mourning for the first time this evening. Families like the Pigees, Bishop Anthony Pige, Sr.'s life was taken by COVID-19 on April 8th, he was the same age as me. He was just 49 years old. He was a devoted husband to LaVicia, the father of seven children, but his flock was so much larger. He touched so many people in this city of angels, founding the Life of Faith Community Center in South LA, and he traveled the country to share his message of hope and humility, of care and compassion.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The people who knew him best say, "There was no ceiling to his generous spirit." Making sure that members of this congregation had enough food to feed their families and to pay their rent, accompanying single mothers to parent/teacher conferences so they'd know they weren't alone in bringing up their child, helping other pastors to strengthen their ministries so that faith could take even greater hold throughout the community, even outside his own church. The things we are doing to stop the spread of coronavirus are in his memory and the memory of each fallen angel in this city, and the honor of everyone that we have lost.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I've been wanting to share some of the stories and I understand many families have kept that grief private, but I think it's important to tell these narratives so that numbers don't overwhelm but that we see this is about human beings who we have loved, who we have held, who have known, and who have touched us. Each night when I report on these figures, I think of these families, of Bishop Pegee, the hundreds of lives that are cut short by this pandemic, we are acting today to prevent more hospitalizations, we're acting today to prevent more sickness and we're acting today to prevent more needless deaths. And my job is not just to throw numbers at you without any context, but to turn these statistics into stories that make sense so they can be fuel for the work that you are doing to protect everyone.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I want you to know that what we are doing is working, and we can tell by the infection rate. What we want is an infection rate of below one, which is the number of people that are infected by each positive COVID-19 patient. When we started this, that R0 rate, that's a scientific term or medical term of how many people each infected person re-infects, was probably above 2, somewhere around 2.5. When we instituted the safer-at-home order on March

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19th, the city's infection rate was trending upward rapidly and was probably right there at about 2.5 to 2.6. Excuse me. But because we applied physical distancing, and Angelenos continue to observe the Public Health orders, we've been able to get this under control. And I am so proud of each one of you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Today, we are fluctuating at an infection rate of between 1 and 2. We won't be all the way home until we are under 1, meaning that each new case infects less than one new person, but this is really good news, and it's a product of your work. So while our cases and deaths seem to be stubbornly high, the data suggests that we are flattening the curve and just beginning to bend it back down. We don't want to just flatten that curve, we want to see it come down and there's some initial data showing that, making sure that our hospitals can stay below their capacity, and they are not overwhelm like we've seen in other places. This is critical to this mission because there will be surges throughout this year and maybe into next year.

MAYOR GARCETTI: You see, as we saw in the USC study, 96 percent of us probably have not gotten COVID-19 yet, so we're susceptible and as we create the rules of the road to figure out how we can take steps towards reopening and recovering, we know there will be times we have to go back in. So as long as we can keep those numbers down, we can imagine what those days would look like and bring them to us that a sooner date. Across the county in our general emergency hospitals there are now 1,205 beds available, including 963 acute care beds, 242 ICU beds and an inventory of 1,215 available ventilators.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And even though we have seen the most cases this week, hospital admissions offer a glimmer of hope. This is the number of people being admitted for COVID-19 and we've seen this begin to stabilize. This is one of the most important measures and I haven't shared it with you each evening, I've just started getting some of those. But it's began to stabilize and it now ranges between 2 to 300 new people a day going into the hospital. Based on the number of people that are healing, the number of beds that are becoming available, this is a good number for us to stay under our capacity. And I want to thank again our medical professionals and everybody working in our hospitals to ensure those patients get the care they need.

MAYOR GARCETTI: When we've talked about flattening the curve, this is what we mean, doing everything in our power to prevent our hospitals from becoming overwhelmed, avoiding a devastating strain on our healthcare workers. And as you heard me say each night, one of the other important tools in our fight against COVID-19 is aggressive testing. Last week, there were 30 testing locations seven days ago across the city and county. This Friday, we are up to 33 sites, and across those city- and county-run sites, last Friday we tested a total of 67,000 people, but today we've now exceeded to 106,000 people tested in those sites. That is an incredible mark and we have the capacity to test 12,000 people a day.

MAYOR GARCETTI: By next Friday, we estimate we will have tested 150,000 people in Los Angeles County through those centers alone. That doesn't include other tests being done directly by many providers. Simply put, we are adding more tests than cases to our county every single day, and I want to thank the amazing teams that have stood this up from the county and the city,

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our volunteers, our firefighters and others that are laying down the foundation for reopening and recovery here in the Southland. In the United States, the COVID Tracking Project estimates there is about 150,000 tests each day in the United States right now, that we have the capacity in LA County alone to conduct ten percent of all the tests in America that were just, were under 3 percent of the population of America is really astounding testament to all of you. So take advantage of that hard work and get a test, go to coronavirus.lacity.org/testing.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And that surge in testing has made possible for us to expand testing to any Angeleno with symptoms. Second, also to roll out high-capacity testing to some of our toughest and most vulnerable populations from Skid Row, which we did this week, to our senior centers, which I'll get to more, and allowing our critical workers now without symptoms to be tested this week and going into, of course, next week. These are grocery store workers and pharmacy staff, these are folks working at hospitals, key city employees that are listed in each department's continuity of operation plans, along with shelter workers and LADOT and Metro bus drivers. You are the critical workers that are helping us get through this, even if you don't have symptoms, get a test. We can offer that to you and I hope next week we'll open that aperture to even more people who are working right now on the frontlines and in essential businesses.

MAYOR GARCETTI: These critical workers should contact your employer on how to get priority testing and check it out again at coronavirus.lacity.org/testing. And we are not stopping there. Yesterday I mentioned that more than 30 percent of LA County residents who have died from COVID-19, were residents of long-term care facilities. And with the County Department of Public Health today mandating additional health measures, and I want to thank Dr. Ferrer, the Board of Supervisors for the great order that I know is coming out as we speak and that they announced today. I want to build on that in the City of Los Angeles and enact a companion emergency order that further expands protections for residents and workers at our skilled nursing facilities. We estimate there is about 80 of them in the City of Los Angeles and so my emergency order will require every skilled nursing facility within the City of Los Angeles to provide COVID-19 diagnostic testing for its residents, its employees and contractors every month administered by trained personnel. We believe this is the first city in the country to mandate that monthly testing.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And additionally, operators of these facilities may request testing kits from our city's Emergency Operation Center if they can't figure out how to do it on their own. Please try to make those relationships, get that testing through health care providers in these facilities, but we are here to help you if that falls short. You can visit coronavirus.lacity.org/testing to help get that done too. And we also aim to offer them trained personnel and help you set up tests because we want to protect the loved ones that we have in these facilities. We want them to stay safe and we want the workers who care for our loved ones to be safe as well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And so we've expanded, as I mentioned, starting Monday our mobile testing teams that can roll out whenever we hear about an infection, when we see a case in a facility from three teams to six teams, and again, I want to thank the Los Angeles Fire

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Department for their help with that. While this order requires skilled nursing facilities to provide the testing, it does not compel any resident, employer, contractors to take a test, that's the law. But the city is committed to protecting workers who are protecting us and our loved ones and keeping our most vulnerable folks safe that are dying disproportionately compared to the rest of the population. And if we can get this right, it's another step forward in the work that we can collectively do to see a day when part of our county and cities would reopen parts of our lives. Across the city, there are about 800,000 Angelenos who are over 60 years of age and about 80,000 of them live under the poverty line. And even those who aren't under the poverty line quite often live on their own, can't prepare their own meals, don't have their own resources, and so we have focused from the beginning on expanding what we can do to make sure our seniors are fed.

MAYOR GARCETTI: When we issued our safer at home order, the number of homebound seniors now has grown as well, and the number of those who don't know where they will get their next meal. So that's why my team has been working so closely with our city's Department of Aging to substantially increase the meals that we are providing our seniors. Last week I announced that my Emergency Senior Meals Program would try to double the number of seniors from 5,000, more than double, to 12,000 and ensure that 7,000 new seniors receive 10 meals a week for up to 10 weeks.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Let me put that in perspective. We went from 5,000 seniors, five days a week getting a single meal, 25,000 meals, pre-crisis to trying to get to 120,000 meals per week. This is a herculean undertaking, but we are up to it and to get the job done, my team stood up a Senior Meals Program hotline staffed by more than 130 disaster service workers, your City of LA employees that took on a new job and rushed in to help. So far they fielded thousands of calls and because of their work, we thought this would be maybe two or three weeks, in addition to the 5,000 seniors who now have doubled the number of meals they get, we have enrolled another 6,000 seniors just this week, so 11,000 close to that 12,000-dollar goal, I'm sorry, 12,000-person goal we've gotten to in just a week.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This is an addition to a wonderful program that we've worked with Governor Newsom on, and I was so pleased to hear him announce that will help both our restaurants and homebound seniors, the FEMA reimbursement for ordering meals from restaurants for seniors. We are working out those details and we hope to be the first big city in California to roll that out next week, adding even more to those 12,000 seniors who are receiving meals. Bottom line, we care about you. If you are a senior living in a skilled nursing home facility or whether you are senior just stuck at home, not sure where your meal is going to be, we are here to say we love, we support you, we'll feed you and we will protect you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I want to thank Every Table, who is our partner meal provider on the meal side who is just doing an extraordinary job, making the meals, employing people who were out of work, freezing those meals and helping us get them delivered. And I want to thank the folks who have also been working on this from my staff, my Director of Operations Mary Hodge, my Deputy Mayor for City Services, Barbara Romero, and of course Matt Johnson and

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Rick Jacobs, who are doing a great job raising funds, and my wife Amy, who has done an amazing job working on the details of this to make sure seniors in need are feed. Thank you all.

MAYOR GARCETTI: If you need help, and we still have available meals, if you know a senior who needs help, make sure that they call 213-236-5226, sorry, 213-263-5226, and I believe that's on a slide right now, so it's 263-5226 or just go to coronavirus.lacity.org/seniormeals and we would get you signed up. Helping our seniors and our most vulnerable Angelenos stems from our core commitment to make sure nobody is left behind; nobody is forgotten during this crisis. We have to save lives and we have to save livelihoods. And we have to do everything possible to support our families and our workers, our businesses whose economic security hangs in the balance. Protecting our labor force and protecting our businesses are not mutually exclusive, it's going to require creativity and cooperation, and this week we saw that spirit in a new deal between SEIU, the Union that represents custodian janitors and custodian contractors and building owners to keep thousands of janitors on the payroll. This agreement means that janitorial staff will hold on to their jobs, hold on to their income, their healthcare for themselves and for their families. As part of the state's Work Sharing Program which allows these employers to reduce some employee hours while maintaining their benefits.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I am sure if those workers are eligible for unemployment, insurance to make up for lost hours. This is a victory for everyone involved for 8,000 unionized janitors who support their families here in Los Angeles, 20,000 across California who get to keep their jobs and health insurance and employers will keep a trained, experienced, great workforce that they know and that already do an amazing job in our office buildings, in hospitals, all around the Southland. The state saves public dollars because janitors will only apply for their unemployment insurance to cover lost hours, not for their full wages. So it's truly a win, win, win; win for the budget of the state which is in tough, tough straits, a win for these employees, and a win for their employers.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Let me turn to this weekend because I know we've all noticed the temperature taking up, feels like summer is here. That's what life in LA is like. One day it feels like winter, and the next day it's summer. And I know what that does to us. Our primal natures want to get out. The vast majority of Angelenos, though, will be at home this weekend, and unless you are in a critical job, please stay at home. No matter what the temptations are, no matter how badly we want to go out, the beaches remain closed, our trails remain closed. You cannot play on playgrounds, you cannot go and have basketball or tennis or golf courses. We need to stay at home. And we need to do this to keep everyone safe. We can't let one weekend reverse a month of work that you have invested in. But we know it's going to be hot. So that's why in partnership with LA County, we are standing up cooling centers for many people who don't have any place to go. We are expecting some high temperatures, and even though it's under the threshold where we sometimes trigger these, we think during this crisis we should open them up no matter what.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, in Baldwin Hills, in Lincoln Heights, in Panorama City, in Northridge, in Sherman Oaks, you can find a cooling center. And if you want to know where those locations are, please go emergency.lacity.org/heat. These centers open today. They will

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be open tomorrow from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 pm. and everyone coming to them is screened before entering, required to wear your face covering, so bring them, and must follow strict physical distancing orders. And I am so grateful to the city rec and park staff, LA Public Library, LA County staff and others who are helping oversee these facilities.

MAYOR GARCETTI: As I mentioned, these temperatures are slightly below the threshold but this moment is not ordinary. We need to all take extraordinary actions, and I hope this is one that can keep people not only safe, but cool as well. And let me be clear, these centers are only for the people who might not be able to survive the heatwave at home, so don't misread our abundance of caution, don't go outside, don't gather with others and put lives at risk. We are all in this together, from the beginning, we all have been. And it's in that spirit that I want to thank the Get Together Foundation in partnership with Rock Stellar Productions and Councilmember John Lee, who I've known since we're both in seventh grade together, for producing Saturday's All Together Now concert event to benefit the Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles and the Angeleno Fund getting assistance to people for their basic necessities.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This is going to be a great event tomorrow, bring the support, the next round of the Angeleno cards that we've talked about, and we're in the process of distributing the first round of cards that will help 45,000 Angelenos meet their basic needs. We provided already \$2 million in assistance to families this week, just over the last three days with thousands of more families and millions of more dollars lined up for this coming week. And we know that people need more help, and so please donate, go to mayorsfundla.org/angeleno, but tune in for this great concert starting at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, watch an incredible lineup, includes Jeff Bridges, Smokey Robinson, Carole King, Lisa Loeb, Tim Allen, Bobcat Goldthwait, and many others delivering performances that will take our minds off all the stress and all the tension of this moment.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And also help support a great cause. Visit that website at [alltogethernowla](https://alltogethernowla.org), that's alltogethernowla.org for more information to tune in and to help support a great cause. On this date in any other year, we would probably see flags and marches on the streets of Los Angeles. Each year we gather to commemorate the 1.5 million lives lost in the Armenian genocide, the fact of history that we recognize every year here in LA, but in this past year, in December, was finally recognized by the United States Congress as well. And while we could not march this year, our promise remains the same that in the face of any denial we will speak the truth and that we will honor those who have perished in the name of justice.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I'm grateful to our Armenian brothers and sisters who stayed at home today, but I want to recognize you and say that we are all with you today. I'm grateful to everyone who is doing the same, staying indoors. And I know, as we head into this weekend, we are going to be tempted to embrace the warm weather, but I can't say it enough, stay at home. Beaches remain closed. Do not go the beach. Public trails remain closed, do not go hiking. Sports and recreation facilities, fields and playgrounds, skate parks and pools are closed. And there's a direct correlation between what you choose to do this weekend and how long this will take and how many lives we will lose. So keep that in mind and do the right thing this weekend.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: If you go out and hit the beaches and the trails, the safer at home order will last longer. More people will be sick and more will die. But if you stay home this weekend, our case number will drop and it will stop the spread of this virus and be able to start reopening the city sooner. So if you made plans, it's a good time to cancel them because by staying home you protect your neighbors, you protect your family and you protect your city. And I know this is hard. I hate saying this every single day because as the mayor LA, and forget being mayor, just being a fourth-generation Angeleno, I love this city so much, I want to be out there as badly as you do. But we know we show our love in many different ways, and your sacrifices are making a difference. And when we look back on this time, we will remember proudly what we all did together. So let's keep it up by staying safe, by staying healthy and by staying at home. Have a good weekend, Los Angeles. All strength and love to you as always. I'll see you on Monday, but before that, happy to answer some questions. Thanks. First question, please.

OPERATOR: Our first question will be from the line of Claudia Peschiutta with KNX News Radio. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Claudia.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: Hi. I caught that you are still working out the details on how the governor's program to feed seniors through restaurants is still being worked out, but I'm wondering if you can give us an idea of, you know, a rough idea of how many restaurants might be able to participate and how they might be chosen? And then also, if you can give us an update on the impact of the COVID-19 is having on the city's workforce, how many cases, how many deaths, how many isolated and quarantined. Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure. So let me start with our city workforce. We've had two deaths of city employees. Two for sure, unfortunately, and our heart not only breaks for those families, but for a lot of city employees who knew these folks as well, and we've had other deaths of city employees direct families as well, family members, even though they weren't employees. We have a 189 confirmed cases, and 305 people currently in isolation as much as we can count. LAFD, our fire department has 20 cases still, 19 sworn and one civilian with 14 already returned to duty, and LAPD has had 75, including 59 officers and 16 civilians, and 33 of those officers have already returned to duty. And we've not had a death in either our fire or police department which we thank God for.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We've seen such terrible cases and numbers in places like New York. In terms of the Meals Program, we were consulted at the beginning of it, helped do some of the architecture of this with other big city mayors in California, so we just got the guidance today and we're going to work as hard as we can to set that up in the coming days. So we don't have the details yet of how a restaurant would sign up, but I hope that it really can allow a lot of restaurants to go to a simple place. We are going to try to put together, if we can, a website that will abide by what the state requirements are, and through restaurants and others providers like Every Table that are working here will be able to allow seniors to sign up, get meals and allow restaurants to know that they are going to have steady streams of those meals.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: I also hope that we can continue to put out-of-work people to work in the delivery of these because many restaurants don't have that capacity. That can be through some of our existing programs, existing companies like Postmates and Uber Eats and things like that, but hopefully our taxi drivers and others who right now don't have a lot of business. So we are going to work those details out this weekend. Like I said, it's kind of a start date now for all cities to figure that out with the state. We hope to be the first one to launch since we are already doing that with other senior meals. So hold tight, maybe as soon as Monday or Tuesday we'll have the news on that. Thanks, Claudia. Next question.

OPERATOR: Next question is from the line of Elex Michaelson with Fox 11 News. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Elex.

ELEX MICHAELSON: Hi, mayor, and happy Friday, that concert sounds like a lot of fun. I know though, you're talking about the beaches. We're seeing pictures from Orange County beaches that are just packed today despite all of what you and other leaders have been saying. Why do you think that that message is not getting through, and if the beaches and other areas continue to being packed this weekend, what are you going to be doing in terms of enforcement?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, we'll have folks out there. You know, whether it's police officers, we'll have our mounted patrol, horseback, others. You know, with guidance, I was with the police chief. We're not seeking, again, to kind of bring the heavy hand of the law down, but we'll let people know that these spaces and places are closed. We ask people's cooperation. It's unfortunate to see that in Orange County, and I think it could be predicted that when we do this, these places are going to be overwhelmed and in a day or two or fun, leading to weeks more of us being in homes and not able to go out simply isn't worth it.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I convened a call this morning with the 88 LA County mayors that I am a part of, and together with Mayor Robert Garcia, we talked about everything from how do we march together to opening up and was pleased to hear all the beach cities in LA County saying, "Look, we're talking to the county, we're speaking with Public Health, we are talking to the supervisors," but there wasn't a single mayor who said we should be opening that, and I know there's been petitions and others things, but we can't just react to petitions and signatures. We have to look at the evidence of what this causes and there's a few palaces around the country and around the world that have done that, but I always tell people, it's not until two or three weeks later that you're going to see the spikes from these things.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So people might say a day or two, "Look, hey, we opened it up. Wasn't any worse." Remember, people's infections spread over a period of time. People go from the beach and bring that back to the household. People will go shopping and pass that on to people who are shopping, not even knowing that they have it because they're asymptomatic. It's just playing with fire. And so they're not going there to spike our advice because our advice has been in LA County, and not only advice, but are dictated, has been that these are closed, whether it's Santa Monica, Malibu, Los Angeles, and the police chief was talking to me about he drove

up, even outside of LA to look all those beaches and sure, once in a while, see one or two people and those people need to be reminded and brought up, but then there are stretches that are a mile long with nobody there, which is proof that of the tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands of people who could be there, this is a very small minority of folks. And we'll make sure there's a presence to remind them what the order is in LA County, that's the purpose of this press conference and this briefing as well to let people know no matter how badly you want to be out there, this is not a weekend that you are allowed to go to the beach, no in LA County. Thanks. Next question.

ELEX MICHAELSON: Do they get arrested? Do they get fined? Like, what happen to them if they violate?

MAYOR GARCETTI: No, people comply. We haven't had any strong issues with people not complying once. We fine them, so we put a presence, we never go straight to that. If that develops and becomes a bigger problem, obviously they could be, but that is never how we lead, that's never step 1, 2, 3, or 4 just as we have with businesses. We could have gone into businesses that were still open the first day and arrest or fine or do all sorts of things. We didn't, and 99 percent of the time we got what we needed, and that one percent of the time we had to do that with businesses and we keep that on the table too if people refuse to abide by the law of these county and local city orders, but we haven't had to do that because people do obey and do respect the law when they come there. Thanks, Elex.

ELEX MICHAELSON: Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Next question.

OPERATOR: Next question will be from Rosa Ordaz with KNBC Channel 4. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Rosa. How are you doing?

ROSA ORDAZ: Hello, mayor. You talked about skilled nursing homes and that you're mandating additional health measures. Now I know that National Guard has stepped in, and this is a question from colleague, Patrick Healy, the nursing homes are the hungrier tiger of the group here, unfortunately, and the National Guard is stepping in. Is there a need for more resources for the National Guard to go to more nursing homes, and what is the role of the National Guard?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, we will take help wherever we get it, and it's great to see the National Guard helping out there. We need trained medical professional. Some of these homes have them and so it's a matter of training them, connecting them with the source to get tests, and like we're doing with our order here in the city, just mandating that they need to do this for employees and for residents to make tests available and to do this at least monthly. Hopefully if we expand test seven more, we can do that even more frequently because this is really about protecting those lives.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: So they are coming in to help with that. We also have doctors and medical personnel from the United States Naval Ship Mercy, leaving the ship and going out. We've had some patients come in but it is wonderful to see those trained personnel from the navy going and helping out as well in Los Angeles and in Orange County. I spoke yesterday with the Secretary of Defense, Secretary Esper, and he said we remain, you know, here to help. I know that it looks like the Comfort will be leaving New York but we have no plans to have the Mercy leave here. It's a great asset to have, whether we need the surge beds, whether we need personnel to go out from there or whether we need to bring people in so they're helping with those sorts of medical tests. You know, taking people's temperature. Where we have testing capacity, they can help with that, and we have, of course, the six surge teams starting Monday, building on the three that we already have, and now with this mandate we also do have backup for nursing homes that don't have access, can't figure it out, don't know where to get tests or we feel like can we confidently help the number that are in LA city and hopefully inspire that across LA County too. Thank you.

ROSA ORDAZ: Thank you. I appreciate it.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Got it. Next question.

OPERATOR: Our final question of the night will be in Spanish. and it comes of the line of Abel Alamillo with Telemundo 52. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hola, Abel.

ABEL JARAMILLO: Hola, Alcalde. Regarding the partnership announce today by Governor Newsom on the Home Meals for Seniors Program, do we know which type of restaurants can benefit from this partnership? Are we looking more at possibly fast-food restaurants or more of these small business-owned restaurants?

MAYOR GARCETTI: No, we hope that it will hit, you know, especially those mom-and-pops because fast-food restaurants have been able to stay alive during this, but we know for so many of the mom-and-pop restaurants, these are the ones who had to lay staff off or close up, who have closed up, who aren't getting the regular meals, and it's a good generous amount that FEMA is willing to reimburse. It's 75 percent from FEMA. The state will kick in 19 percent, and 6 percent we'll have to pay for at the local level, whether it's the counties, cities, other local government. But this is a great model. It's the first time FEMA has done this, and I believe too that we won't just be looking at seniors. There's other folks that have preexisting conditions that FEMA is willing to reimburse.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So again, it's brand-new, we're looking at how the final negotiations got worked out, but the intention is that this is for, you know, every restaurant that can build this capacity, that wants to participate in this, and we hope that that really is a shot in the arm to help so many of our small locally own restaurants, not just national chains, to stay alive, get through this, provide some good help and be there for when we reopen. I'll say that in Spanish as well.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: Gracias por la pregunta. Este nuevo programa del gobernador Newsom es una oportunidad no solamente para los restaurantes grandes, nacionales, pero también para los restaurantes locales, los dueños locales y las empresas pequeñas que están en Los Ángeles. Estos restaurantes están sufriendo. La mayoría de estos están cerrados, pero este programa da la ayuda a nuestras personas de tercera edad y asistencia a estos restaurantes, sus empleos y pueden proveer más trabajos durante esta crisis. Gracias, gobernador Newsom, por este programa y Los Ángeles es nuestra esperanza a ser la primera ciudad con un programa funcionando y tenemos una fundación con la expansión de nuestro programa de la cenas para las personas de la tercera edad que existe ahora y que nosotros estamos expandiendo ahora, pero con esto es una oportunidad por nuestros vecindarios, nuestros negociantes pequeños y otras personas que están parte integral de la economía local. Gracias.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So with that, I'm going to go to Spanish. Again, to everybody out there, stay home, I know it's going to be hot. If you are worried for your health, go to one of the cooling centers. Everybody else, I promise, when we get to the beaches and the trails together, I'll be the first one waving at you, leading the way and celebrating. We'll get there sooner if we continue to stay at home and stay safe. God bless you all. And with that, I'm going to switch over to Spanish for my address for the evening.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Muy buenas tardes, Los Ángeles. Mientras llegamos al final de otra semana en nuestra lucha contra el COVID-19, les recuerdo que aunque estemos viendo protestas exigiendo aperturas demasiado tempranas u oyendo de tratamientos que no tienen nada que ver con la realidad, seguimos adelante en nuestra meta para salvar vidas al quedarnos en casa. Aquí les comparto los datos de hoy.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hoy hubieron 1,035 nuevos casos en el condado de Los Ángeles, llegando a un total de 18,017 casos. En la ciudad tuvimos 428 nuevos casos, llegando a un total de 8,450. Hoy fallecieron 52 personas más en el condado, llegando a un total de 848 vidas, vidas integrales, vidas importantes, amigos, miembros de nuestra familia, y las muertes se están redoblando en el condado cada 8 días. Esta es una buena noticia porque hace una semana estaban redoblando cada seis días. Y mando mi amor y más sentido pésame a todas las familias llorando por la pérdida de un ser querido hoy.

MAYOR GARCETTI: En nuestros hospitales tenemos 1,316 camas disponibles. Entre ellas 264 están en las unidades de cuidados intensivos y tenemos 1,227 respiradores. Hoy tenemos 33 sitios de pruebas gratis en la ciudad y el condado, y tenemos capacidad en hacer pruebas para 12,000 personas al día en estos centros y miles más en nuestros hospitales. Esto es 10 por ciento de todas las pruebas en los Estados Unidos. Estas estadísticas son increíbles porque el condado, la población del condado de Los Ángeles solamente es 3 por ciento de los Estados Unidos, y hasta hoy le hemos hecho pruebas a 106,000 personas, y para el viernes próximo hubiéramos hecho pruebas para 150,000. Puedes hacer una cita para una prueba en la página coronavirus.lacity.org/testing.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Y estamos ofreciendo pruebas para cualquier persona con síntomas, y además se ofrecen en Skid Row y para nuestros trabajadores esenciales en supermercados,

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farmacias, hospitales, conductores de bus y empleados en refugios. Aunque tengan síntomas o no. Para hacerse una prueba comuníquese con su empleador y visite la página web. Y esta noche estoy firmando una orden que protege a los empleados y residentes en los centros de enfermería diestra requiriendo que cada centro en la ciudad de Los Ángeles ofrezca pruebas de detección para sus residentes, empleados y contratistas una vez al mes administrados por un profesional. Para pedir los kits de prueba visita la página corona-virus.la/testing o coronavirus.lacity.org/testing.

MAYOR GARCETTI: LA semana pasada anuncié el programa para brindar comidas para personas mayores durante esta crisis. Estamos ampliando el esfuerzo con aumentar el número de 25,000 comidas entregadas a la semana hasta 120,000 comidas a la semana. Si eres una persona mayor y necesitas entrega de comidas, llama al 213-263-5226 o visita la página coronavirus.lacity.org/senior-meals. Esta semana también dimos un nuevo acuerdo como parte del programa estatal, Work Sharing Program, el cual permitirá que 8,000 conserjes en Los Ángeles puedan mantener sus empleos y seguro de salud. Este fin de semana también veremos temperaturas muy altas en Los Ángeles. Para proteger a personas en riesgo hemos abierto centro frescos en Baldwin Hills, Lincoln Heights, Panorama City, Northridge y Sherman Oaks en colaboración con el condado. Visita la página emergency.lacity.org/heat. Estos centros abrieron hoy y estarán abiertos mañana de las 11:00 de la mañana hasta las 6:00 de la noche. Todos los que llegan recibirán un examen antes de entrar y son requeridos a llevar sus coberturas faciales y mantener las reglas de la sana distancia.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Quisiera agradecer a la fundación Get Together Now por producir el concierto All Together Now para beneficiar al Mayor's Fund de los Ángeles y las tarjetas Angelenos y brindar más apoyo a la próxima ronda de estas tarjetas. El Mayor's Fund está en proceso de distribuir la primera ronda de tarjetas para ofrecer apoyo en efectivo para 45,000 angelenos y hemos brindado más de \$2 millones de dólares en asistencia esta semana. Si pueden donar, por favor visita la página mayorsfundla.org/angeleno. Este fin de semana van a querer salir para disfrutar del tiempo y de las playas y los parques, pero les recuerdo otra vez, se tienen que quedar en casa. Esto es una lástima. Yo sé, pero aquí en Los Ángeles necesitamos proteger a la gente, no tener un día a la playa o en un parque. Se tienen que quedar en casa, el salir puede enfermar y matar a más personas. Si se quedan adentro podremos frenar el brote y abrir nuestra ciudad más pronto. Entonces quédense en buena salud, quédense protegidos y quédense en casa. Gracias, Los Ángeles. Mucha fuerza y mucho amor. Hasta el lunes. Gracias.