

## Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening, Los Angeles and thank you again for joining me for this evening's briefing on COVID-19 here in Los Angeles. As you can see behind me, we're at our city's Emergency Operation Center once again, and I'm grateful to Aram Sahakian, who is the general manager of our Emergency Management Department for hosting us here today, and for all the work that he and the men and women who work with him every single day, whether it's fires or earthquakes or here during this crisis due to keep our city safe, ready, resilient and able to recover from any crisis, no matter how big.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This is where we bring together all of our agencies and our departments and all of our partners to coordinate a response during times of crises. And it's one of the places I love the most because it shows the heart of the city, it shows how hard we work, it shows who we are, it shows the guts and the soul of LA every single day, and it certainly has in this crisis.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Today is Workers Memorial Day, a day we remember those who have lost their lives doing jobs that make life better for all of us. Each year, they stay as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices that our workers make every single day, a reminder none of us needs this year. Today we reaffirm the commitment to everybody who is working hard throughout this crisis, those who deliver our packages, those who stock our shelves, those who provide medical care and keep our hospitals clean, who answer emergency calls and don't think twice before putting their bodies on the line for each one of us. Folks, like the 11 medical workers that we learned in the county who have died saving lives during this crisis. We need to take care of those who are taking care of us.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I'm joined tonight by one of those people who has been working around the clock. You have met him before in one of our briefings. He is usually the executive director of the busiest container port in the Americas: Gene Seroka. But he's been deputized by me during this crisis to be the Chief Logistics Officer for the City of Los Angeles and to engage in the Logistics Victory LA Initiative to procure what we need to keep people safe, to make sure our hospitals, our frontline workers and everybody who is in a critical industry is safe as can be from the threat of COVID-19.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We are going to hear a little bit more from him in a bit, but I am glad that you are here again with us tonight, Gene. So we'll get to safety, but first we need to follow the facts, and that's where I'll begin tonight because two numbers starkly summarize where we are as a county and as a country as we passed two notable thresholds today. In America now there are more than one million diagnosed positive cases of COVID-19, and here in LA County more difficult even than that is the one thousand mark of deaths that we passed today. This was the result of 59 new deaths today, a 6 percent increase since yesterday, our fourth highest number since we have tracked this. And for comparison, if you average the last seven days, we've averaged about 49 deaths per day, not just a number, but names, people, lives cut short, folks who we loved and were connected with, members of our family, members of our communities.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Across the country today also another marker, coronavirus has now killed more Americans than died in the Vietnam War. Reported cases, though, in the county were down some from the previous days, and as I mentioned, those previous day's numbers

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were, we believe, a little higher because of new laboratories reporting and dumping that data into the days we saw last week. We saw 597 new confirmed positive cases, bringing the total now to 20,976 confirmed cases in the County, a 3 percent increase. And again, with that seven-day average, which I always find the most useful, we have a daily average increase of 854 new cases. In the City of LA those numbers are 308 new cases; bringing the number to 9,697 also a 3.3 percent increase since yesterday.

MAYOR GARCETTI: At our hospitals, we continue to have good and stable and strong numbers. Our general emergency hospitals have 1,179 beds, including 924 acute care beds and 255 ICU beds available, and an inventory of 1,164 available ventilators. That has helped us keep pace with the hospital missions, which we track every single day as well. So we are looking to keep folks healthy and safe and out of those hospital beds and testing, we know, helps us do just that. So individuals with symptoms are still our top priority, and you can get a same- or next-day appointment by going to [coronavirus.lacity.org/testing](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/testing). There are now, as I mentioned last night, 34 testing locations across LA City and LA County, and today we have the capacity to test a whopping 16,400 people, a number we just two weeks ago would have never imagined. And by the end of today we will have tested approximately 131,000 people cumulatively through those centers. The tests are very simple and quick. You can do them yourselves without getting out of the car. You just cough a few times, you swab the inside of your cheek, the roof of your mouth towards the back and put the swab into a vial, seal it up and drop it into a collection bin. It's as easy as that.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Testing is available also to critical workers on the frontlines without symptoms. So far that has meant first responders, healthcare workers, grocery workers, public transit drivers. And then delivery drivers, rideshare drivers, and taxi drivers began today to be tested even if they asymptomatic. And tomorrow we'll go even further, expanding asymptomatic testing, that is testing without symptoms, to all construction workers as well, who many of who've been keeping up with critical infrastructure, projects, helping us build housing and keeping people getting a paycheck in these tough times at a safe distance.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We are working with the County Department of Public Health to test residents and workers of our skilled nursing facilities where we know many of the most vulnerable people live and a disproportionate number of our deaths have occurred as a result of COVID-19 with our senior population. To date we have tested nearly 5,000 residents and staff at skilled nursing facilities across the city. And let me just know one other thing for our seniors, if you applied for our meal program, which we are so excited to expand every single day, know that the city is working to contact you soon. If you are 65 or over or 60 to 64 with an underlined medical condition, call us. Make sure, if you can't prepare meals or you are living on your own, that we can make sure that your needs are met. That number is 213-263-5226 and you can call us between 9:00 and 5:00 during the week. If you want to go online instead of calling somebody you can go to [coronavirus.lacity.org/seniormeals](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/seniormeals) to enroll.

MAYOR GARCETTI: As I said, we need to protect the people who are protecting us, those doctors, those nurses, support staff at our hospitals, as well as firefighters who are at testing sites, volunteers who are helping administer those and police officers responding to calls across the

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city as well as our staff at homeless shelters and others. The need is there, we know that, and we know this crisis isn't going away any time soon until we have a vaccine. People will still be vulnerable, USC study showed us that maybe 96 percent of us have not gotten coronavirus yet, so we want to protect people and we want to protect workers. That's why I appointed the Executive Director of our Port of Los Angeles, Gene Seroka, as the city's Chief Logistics Officer during this crisis. His incredible experienced with supply chains, the contacts that he has in private industry, I knew he'd be the right person to find the right things for the right people here in LA.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Gene is going to speak a little bit more about his efforts and our logistics Victory LA Initiative in a moment. But before that, I want to share a major announcement that he can also give us some details about. The city of Los Angeles has signed an agreement with Honeywell to purchase 24 million N95 masks. We are very excited and I am so grateful to Gene and his team for I know what has been weeks of negotiations. These masks will meet our American standards. They'll be produced by a factory in the United States. And we've all seen the headlines detailing the insufficient supply of N95 masks; the price gouging that is going on, that is ridiculous for the prices people have to pay and the way people have been going from vendor to vendor buying in several thousand from here and several thousand from there. But by buying in bulk and at a low price point we were very pleased with, we can see the purchasing power of our city stepping up, not just for our workers here in the city, but for our hospital workers as well. Masks will go to first responders and they will be distributed at-cost to hospitals in need.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The first 100,000 delivered in May, 500,000 arriving by July and scaling up to 1.2 million per month by November. I am very grateful to our team, to Honeywell, to our General Services Department as well for this lifesaving purchase agreement, and to my team including our Deputy Chief of Staff Matt Szabo and others from the city council who have together to make sure we can spend money quickly when we have deals like this to jump on. So let me turn it over to Gene to detail a little bit more, and thanks again for ensuring that our people will be safe and that those who are protecting us in our hospitals would be as well. Gene.

GENE SEROKA: Thank you, Mayor and very exciting it is. This deal with Honeywell is important on so many levels, but to name three specifically. One, it creates domestic production and jobs, only six hours away by the 10 Freeway. So while others are clamoring to international markets and trying to get in queues here for domestic stockpiles, we have that ability to bring the cargo here to us within hours. Secondly, the idea here is certainty, with the production schedule that the mayor just laid out, we know exactly how much product we are going to receive at a minimum and when. That in turn will give our first responders, hospitals and frontline medical workers the understanding of how this product is going to come to them and help them in their daily lives. The third piece here is that good price point or the way we want to deliver this and it's going to be at-cost to the hospitals and those workers. The structure of this contract is such that we wouldn't have it any other way. And we thought built on the great purchasing capabilities and infrastructure of the city of Los Angeles, we could command that in a way that would give the price point the higher level of importance overall.

GENE SEROKA: But delivering these products, and what we have seen in the marketplace over the last several weeks, it's been quite eye-opening. The burn rates of these N95 masks of which we just have an example right here are upwards of 5 million units per month right here in Los Angeles County. If we add in the private sector hospitals and surrounding areas in our region, that number is soon in ten-digit format. So our ability here now to bring on these masks in the schedule that we've just outlined is helpful. It's not going to complete all the work, but it's a starting point for us and we'll continue to work to procure more product and get it out there.

GENE SEROKA: And that's exactly why Los Angeles created this opportunity through the mayor's vision to have Victory LA in place. And it was to find ways to speed product to market using the great seaport of Los Angeles as well as LAX and our knowledge of the domestic transportation network to make sure we are highlighting and prioritizing these critical shipments to get them to our hospitals. The hospitals have told us they have very little visibility until the last mile overseen this product. So we put together a technology platform that coincides with our port optimizer, called the Medical Optimizer, and it was simply a plug-in to our larger port system, that can now start with purchase order management to supply development and understand where the gap lies and between.

GENE SEROKA: That use of data will make the decision-making process that much more quicker so we can get the product directly to market. Some hospitals have told us they need five million of these masks just to survive the next couple of months. Others have said their masks usage has grown from 30,000 a month to 300,000. So there still is much more work to do in this area but it's a great start, and with thanks to Honeywell for stepping up and really working with us. Brent Durham specifically worked around the clock to get this contract done.

GENE SEROKA: As we continue down with LoVLA, the work in procuring other products is equally as important right now and continues in that fashion. And this will be the nitrile exam gloves that you see many of our doctors and nurses using, our first responders. The isolation gowns that are necessary for the medical workers as well as the patients who are being examined, and a litany of other products, so we will continue to stay on this course in purchasing products where we do exactly what we said out, we would add value to the hospital community. We are not going to step over a hospital and the order process; we are not going to push them down in the priority level. But we would be complementary in finding alternative sources of production just like Honeywell to come to market quicker.

GENE SEROKA: And thirdly, we are still working in the area of converting current manufacturing facilities in California that want to enter into the personal protective equipment market. And there a number of good stories developing right now with folks who have turned over their production lines, hired back their workers, and are getting products to market again, very close proximity, not waiting for overseas shipments. So we have a good play here on trying to have a speed to market as well as working our traditional supply chain that we've known so well of at the Port of Los Angeles. Next up is matching supply and demand, and with this tech system I mentioned, it gives hospitals now the opportunity to send demands signals electronically to us and at the lovela.org platform, we're matching that demand requirement with those suppliers who have been vetted, not only by the LoVLA volunteered team that now counts

20 folks from downtown LA and our Harbor Department, but also with the best practices used in the General Services Department as well as the Business Operation Center to make sure that we are checking out everybody. We want to do business with very closely and then we are enabling them to get to work with the needs our hospitals have. In the middle, we are building our LA stockpile. We commented before that the federal stockpile is non-existent. Unfortunately the state is so oversubscribed with so many folks looking for help, we decided to go out and do it on our own. So the inventory levels of all these products are starting to build and we are getting them out to the hospitals.

GENE SEROKA: Just last week, we brought 4,000 isolation gowns to Pomona Valley Hospital as well as the folks at St. Francis in Lynwood. These were folks that were going to go out to the store by Hefty bags, cut holes in them so they can go and take care of our medically ill. Now, the 8,000 gowns that we pushed out are not seemingly enough, but again, it's a good start to help get our medical workers in a safe environment so they can help our ill. And I also want to make sure that we thank those who have donated goods. We talked a little bit last week about the great Apple Corporation who brought us a 160,000 face shields. Shipping giant from Marseille, CMA CGM, has brought to us 3-Ply Face Masks Surgical Grade.

GENE SEROKA: We've also had Operation USA continuing to donate products that we can move out quickly to our hospitals. And Next Trucking, right here in Gardena, hand-delivered face masks that we also gave to our truck drivers, the Teamsters and so many others in the Harbor Trucking Association that needed help. So lastly, I just want that we again say thank you to the Honeywell Corporation for really coming together in a spirit of teamwork to help out the city when we most needed them. There is much more to do, mayor, I am very proud of the traction we've created, but this model of going to manufacturer and trusted partner as the city of Los Angeles, it's one that I think we can count on the future.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thanks so much, Gene. As always he impresses me with the work that he does, not just at the port but here standing us up, and to you and your new team, you've really gotten some great victories. These will be lifesavers quite literally. So thank you to that. And you've heard me say this before, but I want to remind folks that N95 masks are for our medical personnel and some people who have had that diagnosis from their doctors for preexisting conditions. They are also for our first responders, folks that are putting their lives on the line or people who already have preexisting conditions that put their lives on the line.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So please do not get medical grade N95 masks. You see these selling for 7, 8, 12, \$13 because of that. We must not contribute to that shortage and we must help all of our medical personnel and first responders to be safe. The non-medical face coverings that you should wear in public can be bandanas, they can be scarves, they can be made from other items, I got my Eric Garcetti Commemorative of one sent to me by ProMC, thank you for that. We saw so many folks that are making them and putting people back to work here today. So I encourage everybody to be creative, again, share your ideas about what you are wearing and use the #laprotects to share with the entire community.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: The hashtag name aligns with our LA Protects Initiative which is producing non-medical masks that are designed for our grocery store workers, our non-medical staff in hospitals and others who are providing essential services during this crisis. We've seen a huge surge of interest from our garment and our parallel industry, today more than 1,280 companies have signed up saying they are ready to make these masks, and 433 have already been approved and that's to meet the needs of nearly 2,000 essential businesses that have requested more than 1.7 million non-medical masks.

MAYOR GARCETTI: My team has sent these businesses a database of LA Protects manufacturers so they can source them here locally. We love the idea of buying things here, keeping it American, doing what we can to make sure that we put people back to work in our backyard. And companies like Spectrum who ordered 150,000 facial coverings for their technicians across the country. That means that 64,000 workers who visit an average of five homes a day are protecting themselves and their customers and I'm proud Los Angeles is stepping up to manufacturers this, not just for ourselves, but for the entire nation. So we are here to support you, if your businesses in need, large, medium or small, please go to [coronavirus.lacity.com/laprotects](https://coronavirus.lacity.com/laprotects) to find our more.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Now I hear folks ask why we don't expand this initiative to help folks that don't have the means to get masks and we did just that. It was actually a suggestion from someone, what about folks who have no place to go, who are experiencing homelessness? And tonight, I can report that on Skid Row we've distributed 65,000 non-medical masks to unhoused Angelenos, outreach workers and folks on the frontline working to protect and to save lives. So LA Protects is doing much more than producing just non-medical masks.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We have a partnership with the Los Angeles Chapter of American Institute of Architects to take a 3-D printing model for PPE that was developed at USC that I visited in the lab, and other local universities and design schools and to expand that. One company in San Fernando Valley that I've mentioned, WET Design, is producing now a face shield every 15 seconds. Next week they'll have one produced every three seconds. It's showing the ingenuity and the creativity of Los Angeles, the creative and manufacturing capital of America. And that's just one firm.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So far we've had 90 others firms that are volunteering to support the production of PPE like face shields for hospitals, and the city continues to serve as this bridge between the needs of our frontline workers and medical personnel and the central businesses that can produce this equipment, as well for other businesses as we prepare for getting people back to work in the future. Workers at LA Protects manufacturing sites must be safe and fairly paid. We had questions a couple nights ago and, as I mentioned each evening, that's why we've launched an LA Protects business ambassador program to visit the sites of those. So far we visited 202 visits, making sure that distancing protocol is complete, making sure that there is disinfection, the work stations are correct, that people are paying their employees the right amounts.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So you see, the beating heart of LA Protects is about bringing the best of us all together, our creativity, our ethics, our can-do spirit, our hard work to help ourselves and to

help others to protect lives and livelihoods. But we can't forget how many folks are struggling right now, deeply struggling. How many workers have lost jobs, seen hours cut, or wondering what comes next and how much worse is it going to get? We're doing everything possible in our power to relieve the situation for those Angelenos, and more help began to arrive from the federal government two weeks ago when families began to receive their Economic Impact Payments as part of the recent CARES Act, what I've called the Economic Survival Package. But there's a catch. Unfortunately, too many Americans, and certainly too many Angelenos, don't have a bank account. That means that they can't get a direct deposit of the money that they're entitled to and it's taking too long to receive payments that they deserve and that they need right now.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This speaks to a painful and unjust reality at the heart of our economic system that predates this current crisis, people who don't have much to begin with also sometimes lack the resources and the access to get ahead. In this case, folks who are considered unbanked are being unfairly penalized. So we are partnering together with the county's Department of Consumer and Business Affairs and the Bank On LA County Initiative led by the Center for Financial Empowerment to help connect households to resources on safe and affordable banking options.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Our immediate purpose is to connect you if you don't have a bank account with those economic impact payments that are coming to you from the federal government. You need that money and you need it quickly but this can also, if you're unbanked, give you a long-term benefit too, enabling more workers to connect to a financial system in a way that doesn't take advantage of them with payday lenders, with loans, with things that people who hide their money in their mattress or go to a neighborhood check-cashing place, unfortunately have to deal with.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So you can open up on your own affordable bank or credit union account on line now to claim your stimulus money faster. Go, as always, to [coronavirus.lacity.org/banking](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/banking) to do this right now. For those of you who are having difficulty opening an account or cashing your checks, you can find a list of partners on our site who will cash your stimulus check at no cost. And I'm so proud to say that Bank of America, Chase and Union Bank are the first to announce that they will waive the cashing fee for non-account holders. Thank you. And while making it easier to bring federal dollars to local families, there's also a lot more support to anybody who has lost a job.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thanks to CARES Act, the state and the federal governments have expanded and extended unemployment benefits for the millions of workers who have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, and I want to highlight some importance changes there because we've all been reading and experiencing how difficult it can be to access some of those dollars. But for the first time, the self-employed, independent contractors, part-time and so-called gig-workers who usually don't unqualified for these payments can apply for unemployment insurance. That's really vital to us here in Los Angeles and across California.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: We have a robust thriving community of artists, writers, musicians, filmmakers, rideshare drivers and more who don't fit neatly into the normal ranks of our workforce. And these benefits now include an additional \$600 per week beyond the usual state allocations and they're retroactive to the date you lost your job, not just the date you first file for unemployment. These small but critical shifts are meant to ease the burden just a little bit on those who have been hit hardest by this pandemic, and we know those waits are long, we know the state is working on making those easier, but go to [edd.ca.gov](http://edd.ca.gov) for more information.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I truly believe that this crisis and this period has brought out the best in us. Every day in this crisis I've been moved by the heroes among us, the people among us in moments of darkness who are illuminating our city of Angels. The philanthropists, the first responders, the volunteers, the workers, and today, as I mentioned when I started on Worker's Memorial Day, we honor those heroes who have been taken from us by COVID-19. Cecilia, a nurse at Hollywood Presbyterian who devoted her life to caring for the sick. Anthony Nelhi, caregivers at the Filipino Worker Center in Westlake who supported Angelenos with disabilities living in long-term care. Manuel, an electrician at UCLA Health in Westwood who helped build our structures and work every day to power our city.

MAYOR GARCETTI: These are fallen angels here in our city of Angels, but we remember you. We lift you up on this Workers Memorial Day, we thank you and your families for what you gave to us and every single day we know that your memory is something that will light us in a path forward. We honor every worker who has died in the past year serving people and making our lives better. We honor their memory and their legacy of service by committing ourselves to their unfinished work by caring for people around us and reminding one another that we're in this together. And I know that we have it in us and our mandate is clear, so let's stay safe and stay healthy and let's stay at home. Strength and love, Los Angeles. With that as always, be happy to take questions from the press. Thank you.

OPERATOR: First question, please.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I'll take first question.

OPERATOR: Our first question will come from the line of Mary Beth McDade, KTLA Channel 5 News. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Mary Beth.

MARY BETH MCDADE: Great. Hi, Mr. Mayor, nice to speak with you again tonight. So just, this kind goes with the N95 masks, great news about getting a big shipment in. I know that's been a real concern, and with that, I'm also wondering if any hospitals or other frontline worker facilities in LA, if they have been using those cleaning sites that have been set up by FEMA, by Burbank Airport, my understanding is it's a free service, it's military-grade cleaning and they can clean for free 320,000 masks per day, so it's just sounds like that would be a great outlet to use to help with the shortage of N95 masks.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: Yeah. I don't have the latest information. Maybe Gene does, and I know the sheriffs are also standing up some of those disinfectant machines that can help recycle those existing ones and I know hospitals have been trying to do some of those things on site because we didn't set those up directly, but we hope they are. We're going to have to do all of the above. Procure more masks, we use them.

MARY BETH MCDADE: We'll have to do something different.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yeah. It was a different technology the sheriff, the one they had but those two things will help us boost the number, but I don't know, Gene, if you know anything about that, if not--

GENE SEROKA: Yeah, I do. And you are exactly right, mayor. We're going to have to use all of the above to meet the needs of our frontline medical workers. The cleaning machines can work on an individual mask several times before it must be discarded. And please remember that these masks were designed to be one use at a time, but the technology is moving forward. We're in contact with these companies and working on some unique solutions but getting the inventory here into greater Los Angeles is still a primary importance for our hospitals.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thanks, Mary Beth. Appreciated it. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: The next question will come from the line of Dakota Smith. Please, I'm sorry. Dakota Smith with LA Times.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Dakota. Good evening.

DAKOTA SMITH: Hi, good evening. I have a question for Gene about the logistics front in terms of, first off, maybe I missed this, what is the overall price of the Honeywell mask? What is the city fund loading? What does that cost? And then, secondly, the city of LA moves \$20 million over to the logistics fund to buy PPE, can Gene explain so far what the city has bought with that money and which companies are buying the goods so far? Thank you.

GENE SEROKA: Sure. The Honeywell masks, they're being sold to us at 79 cents plus tax per unit, and that is exactly what we will be pushing towards the hospitals to purchase those masks from us at cost, and this is a designation between Honeywell and the city of Los Angeles. We are not putting money up front. We are paying for the masks as they come off the production line with that schedule that the mayor outlined earlier, created by Victory Purchase orders that initiate that production in Phoenix. To date we've gotten a number of donations, Dakota, as I recounted to you, 160,000 masks from Apple. Operation USA has brought in gloves and iso gowns and couple of other products. CMA has some masks on the way, as did Next Trucking and we also through the work here at the backbone of the city's procurement process with the General Services Department, Tony Royster and John Trevgoda purchased approximately a half a million three-ply medical-grade masks that would be pushed in inventory to those hospitals who need as well. We saw your note and we'll be sending you a full list as you had required of

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us to make sure that you keep up with what's being purchased and move directly to our frontline medical workers.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I will make that available that anybody from the media who would like to see that, please just let us know. Thanks Dakita. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: The next question will come from the line Elex Michaelson, Fox 11 News. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Elex.

ELEX MICHAELSON: Hi, mayor. I'm wondering what your reaction is to Governor Newsom's briefing today and specifically on the issue of schools. A lot of people were surprised by that thought that we might schools come back in July or August. Do you agree with that? Do you think we are ready for that? And, what could schools look like if they did, in fact, come back in July or August?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So I thought it was a great briefing today from the governor as always. Some really good frameworks for understanding the reopening. I'm on the phone each evening with mayors from around the state, country and sometimes world, looking at those best practices. One of the things we've looked very closely at, of course, is our schools. And while we don't have direct authority from city government over the schools, we've certainly been in close consultation where there's independence schools, there's the school districts on LA County, and I do think that it is possible, absolutely.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We've looked, for instance, at Denmark, one of the first places to reopen schools, how do you do, the spatial distancing that we need to have to keep our students safe. Some have suggested you could do this in shifts so that kids would go to school for four days a week, half of the class and maybe three days a week for the other half and work on schedules that would work throughout the week but not overwhelm the spacing requirements that we would have. I think we're going to have to get really creative. I know there're a lot of young people who would love to go back to school. Usually you can't wait for the summer, and you want the summer last forever.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I think for a lot of young people that have been indoors for a long time, they miss their friends, they miss their teachers, they miss their campuses, and so I know that LAUSD is doing a lot of hard work right now thinking about how to pace that in or whether that would be in the fall. But that won't be something that I think the governor mandates. I think that'll be district by district, and we're certainly open to listening LAUSD, assisting them in whatever ways they need to feel that they can safely open. But I'll go back to what I said last night, the three things are the need, what's the risk, and what safety measures can we add.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The need to educate our children and to have them be in a safe place so that parents can return to work when we get those orders. That's really important. So I think it's very high need. The risk, though, is mixed. Substantial risk when you have people in

congregate settings but young people have generally had less risk, but remember, they are young people with preexisting conditions. They need to be educated as well and we need to accommodate them. And in terms of the safety measures, I do believe that there're ways that we can still educate our children, space them out more. I think the older the children are, the more they would adhere to that. With the younger children, there's going to be some additional difficulties. But to me, it's the same thing as a workplace.

MAYOR GARCETTI: You need temperatures going in, temperatures going out. You need to quickly be able to find people who seem like they're symptomatic and/or if we can get testing for those children out, to me will be the most important thing, regular testing. And I hope as we keep expanding our testing, that soon we'll be able to go to asymptomatic people throughout the county one day and that would include our children and if they can get sort of tests, I think that would give us a lot of confidence about reopening schools sometime in the fall or if people have a rush back to catch up, even in the summer. Thanks, Elex. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: And the next question will come from the line of Claudia Peschiutta with KNX News Radio. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Claudia.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: Hi. Dakota actually asked some of the questions that I had, but I also wanted to find out what groups you're considering opening testing up to next. And also at last I think you had said that two city employees had died and I'm wondering if that's still the case, if it's two and if you can provide any further detail about that--

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: --of the impact on the city workforce. Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you. No, thankfully, it's still just been two city workers with our housing authority, which is connected to the city and with the city overseas. No more details on that out of respect to the families and I'll leave that up to them if that's something that they want to talk about in the future. But we mourn them, well-loved, beloved members of our city family but thankfully, none since. The next people to expand will be construction workers. That goes live tomorrow morning where folks who work in the construction trade can sign up.

MAYOR GARCETTI: You know, there's not like some secret list, but every single day we look at expanding. My goal, as I mentioned, is to stop even worrying about what classification. I hope that in the coming weeks we can open up asymptomatic testing to all Angelenos. Certainly the state's stepping up to help with, as they mentioned today, over 80 testing centers throughout California and we learned some plans about maybe seven of them to be here in LA County. That will help. We want to make sure they're coordinated together so people don't get confused about how you make an appointment between city and county tests and/or state tests. So we are going to work that out with them.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: But I do think we need to probably be somewhere about triple where we are daily in testing in general for us to have the confidence for some of the reopening steps that we have. The governor set some very bold goals on that testing. We continue to expand faster than we expect. So that gives me a lot reassurance that we can get to a testing place where everyday folks who are asymptomatic but potentially in some of the first groups of people that could return to work and/or school can get those tests that they need to have their reassurance for themselves and for their coworkers or classmates that they aren't infectious, even if they don't have symptoms because we know there's a strong percentage of people who are completely asymptomatic but who are contagious. Those can be the most dangerous spreaders of all. So hold tight but it's construction. Today was rideshare drivers, taxi drivers. Tomorrow it's construction workers. Every day we are adding more and more people who are asymptomatic and a reminder, anybody with symptoms can today go to one of those testing centers. So go to [coronavirus.lacity.org/testing](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/testing) and sign up now. Thanks. Next question.

OPERATOR: And the next question will come from the line of Elizabeth Chou. Please, go ahead, with LA Daily News.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening, Liz. Go ahead.

ELIZABETH CHOU: The mayor of New York City yesterday put out a call for--to (unintelligible) contact nasal, a thousand of them. I was wondering if you think that that's something that should be done here in Los Angeles and when that might happen if it something? And also I was wondering about the different types of swab tests, I guess apparently the testing site that city and county have set up are mouth swab tests, and are you concerned that they may have a false negative? And I was also wondering if you might be ready--the other types of tests available to the nursing homes and home shelters are going to be, I guess the pop-up place, are they going to be mouth swab tests or nasal tests. Can I get some clarity on that?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure.

ELIZABETH CHOU: Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you, Liz. Let me start with the first one. Absolutely. Actually I have a op-ed piece I wrote on CNN together with the mayor of Oklahoma City, a bipartisan call together with Dr. Scott McCall, who used to head up the FDA, and was involved at the CDC, calling on a national CARES Corps and we are working together with a group of senators now at the national level, led by Senator Chris Coons of Delaware, and looking for, again, building this bipartisan coalition behind a CARES Corps, think about the Peace Corps in the Cold War. Think about the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Depression, but we have an estimate that 300,000 people will need to be enlisted across the country to help with testing, with tracking and tracing as well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We've seen great models, whether it's librarians up in San Francisco, whether it's in Boston where, I think it's Partners in Health are training out-of-work Bostonians to be these contact tracers and to assist Public Health Departments. We absolutely need it here.

So I've discussed this with Dr. Ferrer. I said, "We have a lot of city employees under our Disaster Service Workers Program. We could move over to do that," but there's no question and this is very important for everybody listening, it isn't just about the number of tests. As important or even more important, especially when so many of us are vulnerable, it's going to be finding those cases quickly and then tracking and tracing. These are two different things. One is tracking people who are symptomatic to make sure that they're staying at home but also tracing who they came into contact with, and letting them know they've been in contact with somebody who is now COVID-19-positive and that they need to quarantine themselves and also report what their symptoms are.

MAYOR GARCETTI: That is going to be one of the most valuable weapons for us opening things up and keeping them opened. The longer takes, and the standard is really 24 hours to find those folks, but if it takes us days upon days because we don't have enough people, we'll see many people get sick, we'll see infections accelerate, and we will have to close the door to some of the openings that we had. So we can't do this quick enough.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Last point, I've also talked to the state about this, Josh Friday, who is the Chief Service Officer for the State of California for Governor Newsom, others about a California CARES Corps, that we could look across the state and enlisting people, but the national model would build on AmeriCorps would give people a stipend, would pay them at the national level but they'd work at a local level. I think that has a brilliant model, and I'm going to be putting a lot of my weight, and fellow mayors weight behind that.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In terms of the test, no, I don't. There is no tests that are perfect, but I have strong confidence, same tests that the Air Force uses, you know, we are getting good and accurate readings on that. A lot of FDA tests are permitted but not quote/unquote "approved" because usually FDA tests take a long time, but we look at who else is doing it. The Air Force I trust. It's the same test there. But it is a good point. There are other tests that we're using. EverlyWell and others, UPS, some of the ones that we are doing that allow us to do the nasal swabs. So we do have a combination.

MAYOR GARCETTI: There was just no way that there was enough of the nasal swab once available, and this was a great innovative way to get there. I've actually read a lot of the studies that show the air rate on nasal swabs, the air rate on the cheek swabs, and they are very similar. So you are always going to get some false negatives, some false positives, but there is no question that ramping up in a way that we did with what was available has saved lives and we are very confident in that moving forward. I think you had a third question but I think that is it. I got all three. Okay. Thanks, Liz. I appreciate it. Next question. I will take next question, thanks.

OPERATOR: Our next question will come from the line of Tina Jenkins Bell with Sharable.net. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, good evening. Can you hear me? Go ahead.

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TINA JENKINS BELL: Hi. Good evening, mayor.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi. You might have to mute your computer.

TINA JENKINS BELL: What housing options are available for people who are--What housing actions are available to people who are homeless--

MAYOR GARCETTI: Okay. A number--

TINA JENKINS BELL: --for the housing insecure during the Coronavirus? I am interested in housing solutions during and beyond the pandemic.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Absolutely. As an I. It is a great, great questions. So first and foremost, that we've stood up first congregate shelters that we did through our rec and parks facilities in our rec centers. To give you an idea of the scale of that, we were rebuilding over an 18-month period before COVID-19 occurred, the fastest pace of new shelters in the country. These were 2,200 beds over 18 months. We now have over 1,000 beds we've stood up in just a matter of weeks. Add to that the hotels and motels that we've stood up. We have done about 2,000 beds already in about six weeks, as it compared to 18 months.

MAYOR GARCETTI: There are two types of shelters in terms of the motel and hotel rooms that are available. One is called tier 1, that is available to folks who are vulnerable but not yet sick. So people experiencing homelessness, people who have preexisting conditions, people who don't have a place to go when a family member is sick but they know that they have a condition that makes them susceptible. Those hotels for free are available. I will give you the latest numbers on those. There is about 1,412 operational rooms. I think we are about to sign something that may close to double that, and over 1,100 of those rooms are occupied now by 1,238 people.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The tier 2 hotel and motel rooms are for folks that already got sick and we don't just have the shelters, we also have taken in hundreds of campers that we have in our rec centers, at the VA, and other places for people who need to isolate or who need a different sort of space than a congregate shelter or a hotel room. The hotel rooms, though, that there are tier 2 right now, there is 419 operational rooms that are about 72 percent occupied, so there is rooms available just as we speak if somebody does contract COVID-19 and is positive and needs to isolate as well. Our goal is to get thousands more through project to Roomkey. This is a partnership between the cities of the LA County, LA County and the state.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Secondly, FEMA, for the first time in their history, and I said two years ago we need the FEMA-level response to homelessness, stepped up and finally said for the first time in any American emergency, you can get reimbursed and house people before the disaster hits them. So if somebody is asymptomatic and actually get into housing simply because of how vulnerable they are. To folks who are housing insecure, those spaces in the tier 1 hotels are available and those spaces in the tier 2 hotels are also available to them.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Many people who, as I mentioned, don't have a place where they can self-isolate or their family member if they get sick or they're exposed to somebody who is sick. So we are going to keep building that. The second part of your question was what are we going to do long-term? I am so glad you asked that because we will be putting a lot of time into this, I'm going to be on a call tonight with community leaders and business leaders on this. Shame on all of us if we like people come into these rooms and then when this crisis is over they just go back out on the street. So we convened a call with the 36 cities today that were given direct money under the CARES Act for COVID-19 expenses and the Treasury Department.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And one of the things we asked is can we invest in things to keep people housed long-term? And it looks like probably six months after the end of this year we can still spend that money on keeping people housed. That should hopefully give us enough time to work on solutions for all of them, to get into apartments, get into permanent housing. As we build the HHH, thousands of units passed by the voters that are opening, I think we have 3,000 units opening between this year and breaking ground this year. So we've got thousands coming online. We can move some of the toughest cases in highest need into those as well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And then lastly, we are working on what we can do to keep people housed. So we are talking with the council. You've seen many of their motions as well as my executive orders to make sure that people don't get evicted now. But also that they have eviction defense afterwards, legal counsel that can help them. Rental assistance over 12 months to be able to make sure they don't become homeless. So we are looking at a whole package, seeing what we can use federal dollars for. And lastly, supported at a federal level. Federal legislation that would give money to tenants and to landlords to make sure people can stay in their housing. This is absolutely critical to help those mom and pop landlords and to help renters who right now cannot pay the rent. So I support that legislation officially. The city council has supported it. I've signed on and we're building a coalition of mayors around the country to support that legislation and hopefully the next CARES Act coming soon. Thank so much for those questions. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: And our next question will come from the line of Eric Heinz with City News Service. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Eric, how are you doing?

ERIC HEINZ: Hello, man.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yeah, I can hear you. Go ahead. Good evening.

ERIC HEINZ: I just wanted to make sure that I heard you correctly. What is going to be the cost to hospitals for the N95 masks that are coming in? And I also want to know if that cost would be reimbursable from the federal government. Could you just shed light on that, real quick?

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MAYOR GARCETTI: We hope it will be reimbursable. We are going to sell at cost, and it is 79 cents per mask. These masks, as I mentioned, we are seeing them go for \$7 imported from other places, 12, \$13 in some cases. 79 cents will be the cost. It meets the N95 highest standard, it is manufactured in the United States, and we are going to pass it on at cost to hospitals. We won't make a single buck, and we will take care of whatever costs of getting them that we have. As you noticed, Gene said "plus tax," and I do hope as the legislature comes back in session, it'd be a wonderful thing for the legislature to say "We don't have pay sales tax on items like this." And in states that are manufacturing this, I think that would be a great national way to help us all out, but we will see. So it's 79 cents plus tax, sales tax, and will be passed on at cost. Thanks, Eric. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: And our last question for the night is in Spanish and it comes from Abel Alamillo at Telemundo 52. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Buenas tardes. Good evening, Abel.

ABEL ALAMILLO: Hi, Mayor. Earlier today Governor Newsom outlined a four-phase approach to opening businesses in the state. How does this approach mirror or differ from your plans to reopen businesses in Los Angeles?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So I know this is going to get confusing because we are going to have national advice, we are going to state advice. Hopefully here locally at least we'll have county and city advice together, and we've had a marvelous partnership between the County of Los Angeles and the cities of LA County led by Kathryn Barger, led by Dr. Ferrer, led by Dr. Galley and others. They will advise, obviously, the order at the county level. A lot of us are coordinating to make sure cities and counties move together. But I thought the governor's framework was a very complementary and useful one. We said here in Los Angeles, the things that we are looking for, and besides frameworks, one of the things that I want to emphasize tonight is we're also going to listen to those workers and industries themselves who suggest how they can reopen safely.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I know that a shopkeeper, that she cares deeply about her customers. And so when she is working with a group of other shopkeepers about how we could open up clothing stores or something, they are definitely going to give that thinking about how do they get thermometers, how many people in how much space, how long can they be there, etcetera. So we are listening to a lot of these industries and setting up 12 different sector groups as is the county, and we are doing that in conjunction. So Kevin McGowan, who works at the County Emergency Operations, together with Chief Moore, who you heard from last night, I believe, or two nights ago, are coordinating to make sure that the city and county can move on these things together.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But I thought the governor's framework was good. Remember, there's really three things that we need to have. We need to know what we need to measure and what those triggers are. So let's measure how many people are coming to a hospital a day, let's measure how many tests we are doing, and then let's have a number, and I hope to state can help

us with this guidance. This is something I talked to the 13 mayors of the big cities with last night, is tell us, you know, what is the measure by which we should be opening? And what is a measure by which we say, "Oh-oh, things look like they are getting bad early. Let's close down a little bit"?

MAYOR GARCETTI: And then, lastly, it is that piece of what we can do in each one of these spaces, industries, schools, to accommodate things more safely. So you have to build up, I think, those three things and then get to the specifics of manufacturing, the specifics of retail, the specifics of churches and synagogues and places of worship, specifics of schools as well. But that work can't happen quickly enough. In the meantime, we do still have a couple of weeks of this order. I remind people, May 15<sup>th</sup> is not a day that suddenly the light switch goes on, the doors all open and everybody is running around the city. That would be dangerous. That would kill people. That is the first day which we are thinking about doing those modifications, but that will be in consultation with the county, and they will be baby steps at first. Those baby steps, when they go well, will be rewarded by further and bigger steps and so on.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And where we see, as we know it will happen, not just because of the decisions we make, but because the life of a virus will ebb and flow, we may need to do this again at different points. I hope we're better prepared as a nation, I know we will be as a city, and I certainly know that we will be as a people ready and that we will understand the importance of those moments of going indoors to save lives. We've seen the success in bending the curve. Let's flatten that out and let's do that successfully.

MAYOR GARCETTI: En español también. I will switch to Spanish real quick for that question. Es muy importante en estos próximos días a tener una estrategia juntos con el gobernador y a nivel estatal, a nivel federal, y aquí en el condado de Los Ángeles con las ciudades del condado de Los Ángeles. La ciudad de Los Ángeles es la ciudad más grande en el condado, pero hay 87 otras ciudades también. Y tenemos muchas llamadas con los supervisadores, con los oficiales como Dra. Ferrer, y estamos manejando un abierto de la apertura en el futuro, pero necesitamos más pruebas, necesitamos más información de las industrias específicas en Los Ángeles. Es diferente en diferentes partes de Los Ángeles, y necesitamos las medidas que pueden dar a nosotros la información muy crítica.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Por ejemplo, hay días cuando hay más casos y estos casos están aumentando muy rápidamente. Necesitamos cerrar un poco de la apertura. Otros días es okay y nosotros podemos expandir las libertades en Los Ángeles, las industrias que están abiertas, las escuelas y campus también. Este es el sistema, pero el sistema del gobernador Newsom es muy bueno. Yo estoy leyendo no solamente sus planes, pero planes de otros estados, otros países, otras ciudades en los Estados Unidos y en el mundo. Y espero que nosotros podemos tomar estos pasos juntos porque cuando un condado mueve en esta dirección, y otro condado mueve en otra dirección, no tendremos éxito, como por ejemplo, con las playas este fin de semana en los condados de Ventura y de Orange. Es muy importante tener estas acciones juntos, y es mi esperanza que nosotros podemos tener estos pasos juntos. Gracias.

MAYOR GARCETTI: With that, I want to thank everybody. I want to thank again Gene Seroka, get him back to work. Remember, don't take those N95 masks. Use yours unless you are one of those critical workers. To all of our doctors, our nurses, this is a great day for you to make some noise at 8:00 o'clock again out your window, out your door, applaud for those who are close to a hospital, scream loud enough so they can hear you, especially on this workers Memorial Day when we know already in this county, that our medical workers have given their lives to keep these numbers low, to make sure that we continue to move forward with bending the curve. And God bless everybody who is working hard to make sure Los Angeles is safe. Thank you all so much. We will see you tomorrow.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Now in Spanish, I will give my address en español. Muy buenas tardes, Los Ángeles. Hoy me comunico con ustedes desde nuestro Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia donde se unen nuestros departamentos y agencias para responder durante una crisis. Hoy para celebrar el Día de Recordación de Trabajadores, recordamos todos quienes han dado sus vidas para mejorar la vida de otros. Estoy aquí con Gene Seroka, nuestro director ejecutivo del puerto de Los Ángeles, y ahora el primer oficial de logística quien nos hablará sobre lo que estamos haciendo para proteger a nuestros trabajadores.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Para protegernos, tenemos que mirar a los datos. Aquí están los de hoy. Hoy hubieron 597 nuevos casos en el condado de Los Ángeles llegando al total de 20,976. En la ciudad tuvimos 308 nuevos casos, llegando a un total de 9,697. Y desafortunadamente, hoy fallecieron 59 personas más en el condado, llegando a un total de 1,000 muertes. Este es un día triste. Las muertes están redoblando cada 11 días. Le mando mi más sentido pésame a todas las familias que sufren la pérdida de un ser querido hoy.

MAYOR GARCETTI: En nuestros hospitales tenemos 1,179 camas disponibles, entre ellas 255 están en las unidades de cuidados intensivos y tenemos 1,164 respiradores disponibles. Hoy tenemos 34 sitios de pruebas en la ciudad y en el condado, y tenemos capacidad de hacer pruebas para 16,400 personas al día. Y para el final de hoy habremos hecho pruebas para 131,000 personas. Las pruebas están disponibles para empleados esenciales con o sin síntomas. Incluye primeros socorristas, profesionales médicos, trabajadores en mercados, conductores de autobús y Metro y empezando hoy, choferes de entrega, taxistas y conductores de viajes compartidos, pueden recibir una prueba sin síntomas. Y mañana, estamos ampliando el acceso para trabajadores en construcción.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hay muchos miembros de nuestra comunidad que trabajan en construcción, y este es buenas noticias, sin o con síntomas. Por favor, puedes hacer una cita ahora para una prueba en la página [coronavirus.lacity.org/testing](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/testing). Las pruebas son fáciles y rápidas. Puedes hacerte la prueba tú mismo sin salir de tu auto. Solamente toses algunas veces y con un hisopo, tomas las muestras del interior de tu boca. Luego pones el hisopo en un tubo de transporte, lo cierras y lo colocas en un contenedor. Es así de fácil.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hoy estoy orgulloso de anunciar que la ciudad de Los Ángeles ha firmado un acuerdo con Honeywell para la compra de 24 millones de mascarillas de grado médico N95. Con el poder de compra de la ciudad, y gracias al trabajo de nuestro director del

puerto, Gene Seroka y su equipo, logramos adquirir en masa lo que los hospitales no pudieron conseguir individualmente. Y el costo de este, solamente 79 centavos. Gracias a Honeywell y nuestro equipo de logística LA. Además nuestro esfuerzo de LA Protects ya tiene más de 1,280 empresas inscritas para producir coberturas faciales no médicas, como esto, para nuestros trabajadores esenciales. Si tu empresa necesita conseguir estas coberturas faciales, por favor visita la página [coronavirus.lacity.org/laprotects](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/laprotects).

MAYOR GARCETTI: También lanzamos el Programa LA Protects Embajadores de negocios para asegurar que todos nuestros trabajadores esenciales estén protegidos en su lugar de trabajo. Hasta ahora este grupo de embajadores ha visitado a más de 202 negocios, y están cumpliendo con los protocolos de seguridad. Estamos haciendo todo lo posible para brindar apoyo para angelinos, y con los recursos federales del CARES Act, familias pueden recibir apoyo. Sin embargo, demasiadas familias no tienen una cuenta bancaria, y sin esto no pueden recibir su dinero. Por eso, nos juntamos con el condado y la iniciativa Bank On para ayudar a familias con abrir una cuenta bancaria. Para abrir su propia cuenta bancaria hoy y obtener su estímulo gubernamental más pronto, por favor visita la página [coronavirus.lacity.org/banking](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/banking). LA CARES Act también permite que más personas sin empleo pueden obtener asistencia. Por la primera vez, contratistas independientes y trabajadores autónomos o de tiempo parcial pueden someter una solicitud para recibir seguro de desempleo, lo cual es crítico para tantos angelinos.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Estos beneficios incluyen \$600 adicionales a la semana, y se aplica a la fecha cuando perdió su empleo. Si necesitas más información sobre estos beneficios, por favor visita la página [edd.ca.gov](https://edd.ca.gov). Amigos, quédense en buena salud, quédense protegidos y quédense en casa. Como siempre, fuerza y amor, Los Ángeles. Gracias y hasta mañana. Thanks, everybody. We will see you tomorrow.