

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | WEDNESDAY, APRIL, 29, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening, Los Angeles. During early every day in this crisis, there's been some milestone, some holiday, some celebration, anniversary or usual marker missed while we're at home, moments when typically come together and unite around a mission or a cause or moment, and today is no different because today is Denim Day. You might see a suit up here, but I'm wearing my jeans down here. A day which for over 20 years I, with some many other people here in Los Angeles, around this country and world, wear denim to mark our work and raise awareness about sexual violence and sexual assault.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And to make sure we do everything we can to stop it in our midst. At a time when so many of us are vulnerable because of stay-at-home orders, our health and safety are paramount in all of our minds, and so no one is more vulnerable than a survivor of assault, one who every single day lives with transitioning from a victim to a survivor and moving on with her or his life as best possible. Today we have to, even if we can't stand shoulder by shoulder, we have to metaphorically stand shoulder by shoulder with all victims of sexual violence and assault, one in which I remember the first day I wore these jeans and we got a call when I was a councilmember to my office and they said, "Why my councilmember wearing jeans?" The conversation ensued about a case in Italy where a judge overturned a rape conviction because the woman was wearing tight jeans, so she must have given consent.

MAYOR GARCETTI: That started a worldwide movement and Patti Giggans and Peace Over Violence, an organization based right here has taken this worldwide, and so we say today that here in Los Angeles and nowhere in this world, will we tolerate sexual assault or violence. And for those who are experiencing violence even in the midst of this pandemic, please reach out, get help, call 911, allow our police officers to get you out of a dangerous situation and to bring perpetrators to justice. And to the survivors in our communities, remember, you're not alone. We are here with you. We are here to hold you. We are to make sure to make sure you get through this, and we are here to ensure that this doesn't happen to somebody else, and by speaking out and speaking up, we can get you the help that you need and ensure that we see one day in which we eliminate sexual violence in our community.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This is the same ongoing commitment of solidarity, of love, of support that we bring to our fight against COVID-19. Winning that battle starts with understanding what numbers tell us about where we stand, so let me begin as I always do each evening with the data from today. As I always mention to our data snapshot, our summary is available online at coronavirus.lacity.org. The same deck of information I get each day is available for you. So check it out. We can't go through every number in this briefing, but there's valuable information for you, your family, your community and for one day us making forward motion to getting back to normal.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Today the county reported it 1,541 new cases, bringing the total number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases to 22,485, a 7 percent increase since yesterday. For comparison the past 7 days, we've seen an average daily increase of 886 new cases a day. As I've said, these are the reported cases in the last 24 hours, doesn't mean these are the cases that have become positive in the last 24 hours. We smooth these numbers out, some days higher, some lower, to an average that help us to know exactly where we are today. In the city of Los

Angeles, there were 693 new cases, that brings the total of the 10,380, a 7 percent increase as well, and we learned of 56 new deaths countywide, bringing our total to 1,056. This is the 6 percent increase since yesterday, and for comparison, we've seen about 47 deaths per day for the last 7 days.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Across the county our general emergency hospitals have right now 1,276 beds available, including 1,018 acute care beds, and ICU beds are at 258 available, as well as 1,091 available ventilators. This continues to hold good numbers, making sure that we haven't exceeded our capacity even as our cases continue to grow. Public Health report, sorry, Los Angeles County Public Health Department also released a very important report that I hope you'll check out. But let me summarize a couple of things that talked about breaking down the number of COVID-19 cases here in Los Angeles and deaths by neighborhoods.

MAYOR GARCETTI: These numbers showed us that on the whole, working-class Angelenos, and those living in poverty are suffering disproportionate rates of infection and some of the highest rates of deaths per capita in our county. An analysis of the data that LA Times noted that some of our lower-income neighborhoods in Central Los Angeles are losing more than 40 people for every 100,000 residents, a rate 4 times higher than the county as a whole. Many long-term care facilities are located in lower-income areas, and we think that's a part of this. And in this new data, in part it reflects the tragic reality that this virus is hitting our elderly population especially hard, as well as those who are comorbid, a technical term meaning people who have preexisting and vulnerable conditions.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But it also tells the story that I've try to paint in these briefings, that this pandemic has created new injustices and highlighted old ones that while the virus can infect everybody, it doesn't affect everybody equally. It lays bare, longstanding inequities in our city, on our country, transmitted the result of generations of neglect, discrimination and bias. That's why equity and access have guided our work since the very beginning, and while we've worked to quickly expand testing in those neighborhoods that are hardest hit, because along with hand-washing and disinfecting, covering our faces and physical distancing, testing is one of the best tools that we have to stop the spread of this virus.

MAYOR GARCETTI: That's a truth we realized from the very start of our fight against COVID-19, and we acted swiftly to ramp up testing in everywhere in Los Angeles. Early on in this crisis, LA stepped in to fill a national void, and we launched our own testing program. We started 40 days ago, quickly moving, building a testing infrastructure from the ground up, and I'd like to take a moment to lay out the scale of that so that you can appreciate the hard work of all the volunteers and firefighters, city officials, county officials who have worked to make sure that our tests are available to those who need them.

MAYOR GARCETTI: It was Friday, March 20th starting in a parking lot in Elysian Park, that the city began testing our first responders. And on that first day we had the capacity to test 145 people. It seemed like a big number at the time. It was a small number in retrospect, but it was an important milestone that kicked off a massive scaling effort. Not one day went by when that effort didn't continue to expand our capacity. The first week by March 27th, we tested 5,000

people at four locations across the city, and on March 30th community-organized relief effort, or CORE, teamed up with the city to help us scale at our testing sites in Northeast Los Angeles, South Los Angeles and on April 1, we were joined by the county to expand testing for people across the entire County of Los Angeles. On April 3rd, we were up to 12 testing locations across the county, including six within the city with the capacity to test 3,500 people in a single day.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And a week after that on April 10th, we nearly doubled our testing locations and capacity, surging to 22 locations and 6,000 people per day. And we said we'd double our capacity again, and by April 17th we were up to 12,000 people per day. Today we are at 34 testing sites with the capacity to test 18,000 Angelenos every single day. And over the past month we've tested over a 140,000 people just through those centers. Let me put that in perspective. In the United States the COVID Tracking Project estimates there are approximately 200,000 tests a day.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In Los Angeles County, where we just have 3 percent of the population of the nation, we have the capacity to conduct roughly 9 percent of all tests in America. This hasn't been a race to blindly ramp up testing, like scientists working around the clock right now to find a vaccine and therapeutic drugs that can help with this crisis, we've made targeted testing decisions to help us ramp up in the right way, with the right populations. Early data showed that COVID-19 was disproportionately impacting African-Americans, so we quadrupled the size of the Crenshaw site.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We opened up a walk-up center in Kedren Community Health Center and through our partnership with the county, new sites were added in Inglewood, Charles Drew University in Willowbrook, and we saw outbreaks at skilled nursing facilities, so we surged teams and tests to those folks where our grandparents and parents might be and where our vulnerable seniors live. And we became the first big city, and maybe even the first city in America, to mandate monthly testing be available at all of those skilled nursing facilities.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We know that unhoused Angelenos, many of whom have underlying conditions, are both susceptible and vulnerable. Susceptible because they are on the streets. Vulnerable because of their preexisting conditions. So we set up a testing facility on Skid Row which in 9 days has testing more than 600 people. Just three of those so far have been positive. We've increased our testing capacity but we have to keep doing more. I've been driving my team since the beginning, and I want to thank all of them, led by Jeff Gorell, our deputy mayor, led y Dr. Eckstein, his counterpart Dr. Kassan, and all the folks at Public Health and Health Services in the county, as well as cities who've help stand this up together with CORE and other volunteers.

MAYOR GARCETTI: As long as this disease spreads, we have to continue to scale. And as long as this disease takes lives, we must test. We know that coronavirus is a silent killer that moves quietly through the population, and many of the people who transmit the disease, this is why it is so deadly, don't know that they have it. We called it asymptomatic, but let's just say they don't have symptoms. They are infectious but they are not showing any symptoms. And this illustrates why making testing available to anyone who wants it is essential. We heard

national leaders talk about that in early March, but it's been difficult for folks to scale that up, which is why tonight I'm so proud to announce that Los Angeles will become the first major city in America to offer wide-scale testing to all of its residents with or without symptoms, and we did that just 40 days.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So all of the things I've been talking about, worrying whether you work in a critical sector, whether you have symptoms or not, moving forward in the city of Los Angeles, you will be able to, whether you have symptoms or not, get tested. Those with symptoms will, of course, have the first priority. But we have the capacity, we believe, to move forward with that starting tonight. So if you think you may have COVID-19, want the reassurance that you don't, we've been around people that you have seen with symptoms get a test, we can do it. And I want to remind everybody these tests are free for the public. No cost at all to you, but you can't put a price on the peace of mind of knowing that you can't infect somebody around you. So sign up tonight at coronavirus.lacity.org/testing.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We have the capacity, so don't wait, don't wonder and don't risk infecting others. This is a really important step to prepare for other steps forward in the weeks to come. We want everybody to be safer at home, but for some folks we know that home is not necessarily a safe place due to domestic violence. In Los Angeles, domestic violence shelters typically house survivors, and help them get to other housing within 30 to 45 days, across a network of a thousand beds, but as a result of this pandemic, obviously, people had to stay in place. There's no place for them to go and those beds were full.

MAYOR GARCETTI: A lack of available beds for new individuals seeking help and seeking hope suddenly dried up. And that's a problem that our LAPD has seen, a spike in daily domestic violence calls and we have to meet this incredible need and ensure that that survivors of domestic violence are met with critical care and support and do not become homeless as a result of this violence and that's what we are doing. I mentioned it before, but let me spell it out. Rihanna, through her Clara Lionel Foundation and Jack Dorsey, CEO of Twitter, through his Start Small Initiative, they stepped forward, and they donated \$4.2 million to the Mayor's Fund to launch project Safe Haven, which will house up to 900 families over the course of the next three months.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I thank them both for their hearts, for the speed which they did this and the ability to save lives as we are saving lives. And I want to recognize a dear of friend and a president of our Library Commission, Mai Lassiter, who played an instrumental role in getting this done. Thank you, Mai. Contracts have been executed between the Mayor's Fund and nonprofit organizations to provide case management, wraparound services for the 900 domestic violence survivors identified, and I'm very grateful as well to Lyft, which has stepped up and generously donated vouchers to transport these individuals and their families to these safe havens.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So if you're a survivor of domestic violence or you're a victim tonight, we've got a resource to help you. Reach out. As I mentioned, you can text 911 if you feel that you are in dangerous situation, call 911 if that is available to you or go to

coronavirus.lacity.org/dvresources to learn how you can get the support that you need and that you deserve.

MAYOR GARCETTI: One individual who was placed into safe housing the other day had been forced into prostitution by an abusive partner. She and her son, who suffers from autism, were in a horrible, dangerous situation. But she reached out and Project Safe Haven was able to place her in safe accommodations. Out of danger she said, and I quote, “I can’t believe people care enough about me to give me this opportunity.” I want her to know, we do care about you and any other survivors that are out there right now. I want every domestic violence survivor to know we care about you. Your safety is not an opportunity, it is you right. And you’re not alone and Los Angeles is here to help in the midst of this crisis.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Every step we’ve taken during crisis comes from a central impulse to protect the people of Los Angeles. That’s why we are extending protections to survivor of domestic violence. That’s why today I signed into law both a right of recall ordinance and a worker retention ordinance, which will ensure the workers who are hardest hit in those hardest hit industries who’ve lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19 will be the first in line to get their jobs back once rehiring begins. And I want to thank Council President Nury Martinez and her colleagues for leading the charge to get this past through the city council and for her relentless advocacy on behalf of workers across Los Angeles.

MAYOR GARCETTI: There’s no doubt that we’ll feel the impact of this pandemic for some time, and the road to recovery will be long, but it’s never too early begin planning to put back to work. From our hotels, our airports, from our restaurants and entertaining venues, LA’s workers bring our city to life. It doesn’t just happen magically, it happens because of hard work, and we want to reward that hard work moving forward. So let me make this commitment to you. The workforce that has been furloughed and is working without pay, in your moment of need, we will honor your experience, we will not let you be undercut by newer and lower wage workers. We will protect your jobs and your livelihoods. We owe you nothing less. As this crisis continues, my friends, I know, it’s tough not to start grow restless. Everybody wants to know how this moment ends. They want to know when this moments ends. how we can emerge from this darkness and what our brighter future, our new normal might look like.

MAYOR GARCETTI: You welcome me into your homes every single night through this address to offer answers and ideas and solutions, and I promise you that every detail that I have I share with you as soon as possible. So I promise in these coming days, as we get close to May 15th, which as I say, each night is not some magical flip of a switch or an opening up the doors and going back to what it was like before, but it will be the beginning of our first steps out if these numbers hold, that we will plan those things openly, and together with our county, hopefully within our region across cities, and of course, communities as well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: That whatever it takes to flatten this curve, to keep strengthening our response and to eventually start reopening our economy to begin the long, hard work of both recovery and re-imagining, some of the days this week we’ll be talking a little bit more in depth about how we do that. And look, I will be straightforward just as an Angeleno, I know it can get

confusing. You heard some things at the national level and the state level and the county level and from the mayor. I try to synthesize all of those because I find them all helpful. What Governor Newsom has brought and his leadership, which has been tremendous, what we hear from national leaders who can give us guidance, and working closely together with my fellow 88 mayors across this county and our neighboring mayors up and down the state. We have you in mind. We want to make sure your safety comes first, that we don't make a misstep that results in crowded hospital corridors, more people dying, but that we also don't throttle the future and see opportunity disappear, something we can never recover from or rebuild from.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So I want to thank you for your patience. I want to thank you for your persistence, and let you know that towards the end, when we look at these days, the two weeks that are leading up still to the May 15th deadline, it is like the end of a race when you feel tired and other temptations are to get out there, temptations to maybe sneak away and do something that you know you shouldn't. We have to finish this race strong, and there is another race waiting the next day, as I mentioned, this won't stop anytime soon, it is going to be a series of sprints for a year or more. But I am confident in you. I am confident in your generosity, I'm confident in your strength and resilience. I am confident in your discipline because the numbers don't lie. LA has saved lives and we are going to need those same qualities to continue saving lives and rebuilding livelihoods. So let's keep it up and stay safe and stay healthy and stay at home. Thank you, Los Angeles. As always, much love and strength to each one of you. With that, happy to answer questions. First question, please.

OPERATOR: First question is from Laura Nielson with LA Times.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hello.

LAURA NIELSON: Hi, there. Hi, Mayor. Thanks for taking my question.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Of course.

LAURA NIELSON: So, as you know, dozens of cities around the world, including many in the U.S., including New York, Denver, Oakland, San Francisco, Boston have started restricting car traffic on some streets to give people more space to walk and bike and maintain social distancing while they're outside. Why hasn't LA done this?

MAYOR GARCETTI: We are going to. I am very supportive of that. We have a working group across the city. I think it is really critical how we do it and when we do it. That we not – as we saw at the beaches, there are some places, you know, Australia has opened the beaches from 6:00 to 9:00 in the morning to exercise. It has been a successful way to open beaches. We saw pictures in Orange County that looked many potentially less successful this weekend. So it is very important not just that we take action, but we do it the right way.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So we have a working group right now that includes my office, councilmembers' offices, our Department of Transportation, our Bureau of Street Services, known as Streets LA, and I do hope that we can do that in many parts of the city. I think it is

important not to jump the gun before the May 15th deadline to make sure that we listen to County Public Health. I have talked with Dr. Ferrer, she doesn't support that at the neighborhood level at this point. It could draw too many people to one area, it could be something that spreads the disease. So we have to be extremely thoughtful, extremely careful about it.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But it is something I absolutely do support. And as we know that there won't be a full-scale reopening. I think it is an exciting moment for us, especially people who live in dense parts of the city who really don't have any place to go, that if we can find a street that we can safely close in a network of an area, so people don't go to one area but everybody has places close, that is the criteria that I asked my team to look at and that we will as a city. So I am excited to do that. I support it, it is something that will be forthcoming, but that planning is already underway. Thanks, Laura. Next question.

OPERATOR: Jim Roope with Westwood One News.

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

JIM ROOPE: Hi, very well, mayor. Good evening and thank you very much for taking our questions and please, thank your family too.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you.

JIM ROOPE: They must be very understanding family you have there.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I appreciate it. They are.

JIM ROOPE: To have you be out so much to do this, we appreciate that. One of the things that is coming up is, at least a lot of questions coming up, is that as people start to get real optimistic in some recovering. We see a light at the end of the tunnels, so to speak, with some of the measures that the governor has talked about and some of the things you have talked about. So as we look toward recovery, there is some concern that eventually this is going to be put on the backs of the taxpayers. So how you reassure Angelenos that when push comes to shove, and the economic reality starts to hit about how much loss there was in the city's economy, that taxes aren't going to be raised or that things aren't going to happen, that is going to wind up putting a lot of burden--

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure.

JIM ROOPE: --on the residents of this city.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Well, there is no question coming out of this that not just a re-opening which I remind people will not just be a linear reopening, meaning that we take steady steps. There is going to be times we take steps forwards and the disease will cause us to retreat. There is times we are going to take steps forward and we didn't figure out how to do it right, the safety protocols didn't work, the physical distancing didn't, and we'll have to retreat. Other times we'll

take steps forward and the world won't change, or it'll still be getting better and we can take bigger and bolder steps. But you are right. It is not just about reopening, it's about this recovery. And who will pay for it.

MAYOR GARCETTI: It is my philosophy, two things. One is the best thing we can do to pay for recovery is to get our economy going. That when people pay normal taxes, because they are back at work, because we have businesses paying sales tax, that that is the best way for us to finance recovery. Second, though, there is no question this will be shared sacrifice by all of us. Many have sacrificed who are at home, we made sure as a state and as a country we are paying for unemployment for people who can't work. Those who are working at getting haircuts, many are furloughed, taking pay cuts. Other people are looking at what we need to do to make sure we get help from the federal government, and every night I've said we can't do this if the federal government only bails out big corporations and banks but doesn't help cities and states.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Because we provide the critical city services, not just now during this crisis, but the ongoing crisis and that keeps people safe. Domestic violence survivors need to have somebody to call at 911 and make sure that a cop shows up. We need to make sure that when somebody is having a heart attack, that there is a firefighter there. We need the trash picked up, we need to make sure our parks are safe and green and beautiful. So there is no question there will be shared sacrifice, but I am trying to do my best to limit that impact especially on lower-income and working-class Angelenos, middle-class Angelenos who are the hardest hit by this.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We don't anticipate right now balancing the budget by raising taxes or raising any fees. I can't speak at the national level, where obviously they're spending a lot of money, how in the long-term they will pay for that. But at least here locally, we squirreled away more in the reserve fund than ever in our history, double what it was before the great recession. But this is also going to hurt more than the great recession. So to me the best thing we can do, is to enact smart ways that are safe to us to open the economy and ways that get more people working, get more revenues paid, get more people who are, you know, going to places that give us sales tax and parking tax and other things. And that should lead the way. If you go with taxes first, I know businesses can get back up and running, and they can't hire any people, it's like a never-ending sinkhole. So we will be looking at that more on that later this week when we are announcing some of the folks who are going to help us do that planning and that re-imagining of the future in a couple of days. Thanks, Jim.

JIM ROOPE: Thank you, sir.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Next question.

OPERATOR: Elex Michaelson with Fox11 News.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Elex.

ELEX MICHAELSON: Hi, mayor. Congratulations on the testing. That is a big deal.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you.

ELEX MICHAELSON: And de facto testing four million people, how is that actually going to work? Who is going to process all of this? What labs are going to be working on this? How long is it going to take to get those tests results back? And some of the bigger question about testing itself, a test shows where you are at right now in this moment in terms of coronavirus. You can get coronavirus tomorrow. So are we going to be having multiple tests for people?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So great questions, Elex. And we wouldn't have moved forward if we didn't have confidence at least in the capacity. We have been opening up each night to more and more people, and still at the end of the day we have some tests that are left over. So we have the confidence that we could move forward. I would encourage people, it's not going to be four million people all rushing to the testing centers overnight. And we are noticing, for instance, we have offered all of our firefighters testing. Not all of them are taking us up on it. People who feel healthy and say, "I haven't been around anybody and I've been, you know, staying at home for 14 days, I feel confident. I don't need to waste that."

MAYOR GARCETTI: For other people who are working still and maybe not in a critical industry, or other people who are around somebody who was sick but they never knew if they had coronavirus or not, this is a smart thing for us to do. And having that capacity absolutely allows us, not just to go once, but to go back multiple times. Now, you shouldn't be getting yourself tested every single day, that is not the doctors' advice, that is nobody's advice. But it is important, especially for people who are looking as we approach the May 15 date if we open certain sectors or certain spaces. If some people return instead of telecommuting from home, to working where they have other members of the public around them, it's smart to make sure that you are clear.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The second thing we've all talked about is blood tests. We know there 1.5 million of those coming to California. Those have to be used differently, and as Barbara Ferrer has always said, they don't tell you whether you're infectious right now. They are more a historical look. Have you ever been infected? And I hope that some of that can move hand in hand as the state begins to distribute those, and the state is looking to set up some more testing centers here on the day to day, are you infectious, virology tests too, which we welcome and will embrace. But if we could put both those together, you can see, Am I one of those maybe four or five percent that have actually had it? That is great to know. Doesn't mean necessarily you are immune, but it is great to know.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And then secondarily, the more important thing is, Am I potentially infectious right now? Because as we've seen, many people get infected that have no symptoms, and that is how this silent killer spreads. So I am very excited we're there. We have the confidence in it, even if it overwhelms, we've been getting usually about a 24- to 48-hour return time for our drive-thru testing centers of those results. Occasionally it spiked to three days, but it is generally not one to two days back. And then, lastly we also have a lot of tests that are not the drive-thru centers and walk-up centers. Those are the ones that we are doing with our unhoused

Angelenos, our seniors as well. Those are different sort of tests. Those take a little bit longer to get back, but it is definitely under a week. Those are effective as well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And we are saving those for specialized environments. And so, to that point, absolutely people could get multiple tests, that is not we are not putting a limit in that, but we encourage people. If you feel you need a test, get one. If you want to be safe, get one. And for the first time we are opening up that to people without symptoms, no matter where you work or even if you are not working at all. Thanks, Elex. Next question.

OPERATOR: Emily Alpert Reyes with Los Angeles Times.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Emily. How are you?

EMILY ALPERT REYES: Good, hi, mayor. The Los Angeles City Council voted today to ask you to put a moratorium on debt collection and to also to clear collection agencies as non-essential businesses. Do you plan to take those steps? And why or why not?

MAYOR GARCETTI: I want to thank Councilmember Monica Rodriguez who introduced that, I think it's a really smart motion. I think it's one that absolutely cuts to the heart of those who are hardest hit getting doubly penalized potentially. I've asked the city attorney to assess whether that's under the jurisdiction of what a city can do legally, or whether that financial oversight exists at the state and federal level only. If we do come back that we can do something at the local level, I am happy to not only embrace that, but to leave the nation with that. So we'll just wait and see what the city attorney says but I really want to appreciate whether we can do that ourselves or whether this motion helps us push for a state or national movement on this. I think it's absolutely critical. People through no fault of their own, who see because of COVID-19, lose their jobs and see their credit go down, are going to have years of digging out of that hole. And that just seems wrong. That is of no fault of their own, so 100 percent support that concept. We are making sure that we have a legal jurisdiction, if we don't, we'll push for that at the higher level. Thanks, Emily. Next question.

OPERATOR: Mary Beth McDade with KTLA Channel 5 News.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Mary Beth.

MARY BETH MCDADE: Hi, how are you?

MAYOR GARCETTI: I'm good.

MARY BETH MCDADE: Yes, I saw, or was listening to you and you were talking about May 15 not being, you know, a special day for making it to that day. And I am just wondering, though, what type of changes would we see, if any, as far as losing restrictions if the state doesn't lift their stay-at-home order?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So I think the state has been clear that regions can begin to move. They will have a base that we can't go beyond. But there's already been some flexibility. For instance, we, with some initial criticism, people were worried, as I said, about the construction industry. We thought those were vital jobs to protect and critical work to continue, and the housing crisis and all the infrastructure needs that we have between public transportation and our airport and port. We were able to pull that off well. Northern California today joined us. We never stopped doing that, and there were five or six counties that did that. So it shows how the state is allowing flexibility of regions depending on what they want to do.

MAYOR GARCETTI: It's too early to say the specific things, not because it's a secret plan, but it really does require making sure LA City doesn't do something that Long Beach isn't also doing and Pasadena isn't doing and Santa Clarita isn't doing, that the county is moving together, and hopefully some conversation between county leaders in the region. So just as we've seen in Northern California when a number of Public Health directors from a number of counties and a region moved together, I think that's a really ideal model to have Public Health professionals from Ventura and Los Angeles and San Bernardino and Riverside and Orange and maybe even San Diego County move together so it's not confusing to the public, so that it's uniform.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And because it just makes sense, a disease, a virus doesn't care where we draw a county border or a city border. We need to do these things together, but certainly I think in the area of where we can go and spend our money, if that can be safely done, as we've shown in grocery stores, the sorts of spaces where we can go and get some fresh air and to stay healthy while still staying away from each other. Those are places I am certainly looking at that I am hopeful that County Public Health would sign off on and having conversations with our supervisor Kathryn Barger, who chairs the Board of Supervisors and her colleagues with Dr. Ferrer, with my colleagues like Robert Garcia in Long Beach and Mayor Tornek in Pasadena. Both of those cities have their own health departments, to make sure we are moving together.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I just want to keep saying it every single time, May 15th isn't a day where everybody should be planning. It's over celebration, big parties, quinceañeras, bar mitzvahs resume, everybody is going to be back and hundreds of people, concerts. It's going to be small steps, but I do think people deserve those steps. Right now we are so hungry just to see a little bit of forward motion, and if we can do that in way, especially where the need is high, where the risk is low and the ability to make safe is high, to me those are the places we go first. Thanks so much. Next question.

MARY BETH McDADE: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Allison Cohen with Los Feliz Ledger.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Allis, how are you?

ALLISON COHEN: Hey, I am great. Thank you, mayor. I think that's a really big deal that everyone can get tested. Fantastic news.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good.

ALLISON COHEN: I have two questions on two different topics. The first is regarding the 40 trailers that are going to Griffith Park and will be set up at Friendship Auditorium parking lot. I am curious since there already is a lawsuit against the bridge shelter that is going in there, housing. Why that location and why not maybe like the LA Zoo, for instance? And how was the site chosen?

MAYOR GARCETTI: You want to ask a second question as well and I'll answer both?

ALLISON COHEN: The second question is any update on the microloan program? How many applicants? Has it started to be funded? And how it has been made easier to apply? That's it, thank you so much.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Absolutely. Thank you. On the second one, I know you applied, and I asked folks to follow up specifically on your application last time, so I'll see if I can get you information. I don't have the update. I think the last time I got that was about three days ago, so let me follow up and give you the exact numbers. We are also hopeful we can continue to expand microloans and always simplify. We appreciated that feedback. We think we got them out to many people faster than even the federal government did. But filling that hole and using potentially some of the dollars we got from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, the CRF, which is part of the CARES Act is something together with the county that receives over a billion dollars from that.

MAYOR GARCETTI: What can we put together to help more small businesses who really the PPP program didn't hit, who don't bank with the big guys. So let me get you those numbers. In terms of Griffith Park, that was done by a whole group of people that work on this, from the Homeless Services Authority, my office of City Homelessness Initiatives. We consult with the county and the state on those. And we usually put them close to where people need them to be and where we can provide the services. So I believe that's why the services were there. I know we had a lawsuit on the bridge home shelter, which I just saw new pictures of. It's going beautifully and one of 2,200 new beds that are part of the different shelters that we are opening up around town.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And just as we've been sued other places, we continue forward. We've won those lawsuits and what was beautiful in Los Feliz is you had the resident's association, you had the neighborhood council, everybody embraced that. And there will always be some people who say no, and I understand those fears. I don't dismissed them but we can't solve homelessness by not building beds. And these trailers are a great way to keep people safe during this. We've seen how many people are experiencing homelessness along Los Angeles River and especially right there, not all the way up towards where the zoo is. And so we hope that that can be a resource to keep people safe and to bring them indoors. And then lastly, as I said last night, shame on all of us collectively from the federal level all the way down to the local if we let people just return to the streets when this is done. So I'm spending a lot of time. I convened a

group of business leaders last night to talk about how can we get the funds and ensure that we can use some of the COVID-19 relief dollars to bring people not just in the housing for a couple of months or for a year if this lasts that long, but then to permanently get them into housing because this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a bigger dent in our fight against homelessness. So I'll follow up with those other numbers for you, okay? Thank you. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: Claudia Peschiutta with KNX News Radio.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Claudia. How are you?

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: Hi, mayor. On the testing for all regardless of symptoms, is that just for residents of the city of Los Angeles or is it open to any LA County resident as well? And then I have a second question.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure. It is for the city of Los Angeles residents to begin with. I know the county is working really hard on that too and may get there very soon, and we are in discussions with them. But right now it's for anybody in the city and that is symptomatic or that doesn't symptoms.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: Okay, sorry, it's really hard to hear you on the teleconference.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Oh, don't worry.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: I think you're done answering the first question. And then, the LA Times had an interesting article today on wastewater analysis as a possible way to monitor the spread of COVID-19. I'm wondering if that's something that might be done here? Why or why not? Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I haven't seen that article, I sometimes misread the clips in the paper. I'll check it out. I don't know, it's the short answer. It sounds very intriguing to use wastewater to look at some of that, but let me follow up with you. I'll talk to also LA County Public Health to see. We obviously have a lot of the sanitation, they have a sanitation district but if that is something that helps us, be able to assess that. It's certainly something we'll bring to them, but first I've heard of it. Thanks for bringing it to my attention, Claudia. Next question.

OPERATOR: Elizabeth Chou with LA Daily News.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Liz.

ELIZABETH CHOU: Hi. I actually have the same question as Claudia, but I couldn't hear the answer that clearly.

MAYOR GARCETTI: About the wastewater or about the testing?

ELIZABETH CHOU: Oh, sorry, about the testing, whether or not it's city--

MAYOR GARCETTI: It is city of Los Angeles residents. Right now moving forward it's the city of Los Angeles residents tonight starting, you know, tomorrow. And I know the county is working very hard. They could be there very soon. But right now, it's the city.

ELIZABETH CHOU: Okay, so I guess it is not all 35, it's some of the 35, right?

MAYOR GARCETTI: You have to go to through portal and you just give what your address is in there and that will direct you towards one of the centers.

ELIZABETH CHOU: Okay, thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, it's not on every single one, correct. Any other thing, Liz? Is that it? Okay, all right. I think I was told that was the last question, so I'm going to switch to Spanish, I'll be taking some questions in Spanish at the end. But thank you again, everybody, please sign up, get a test. We are going to continue adding as much capacity as we can. But we appreciate all that you are doing. I know in these next two weeks it feels like each day is almost like a year, but hang in there. I believe in you, I believe in the city and I believe in our future. Thank you and have a good night. And now switch into Spanish.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Muy buenas tardes a Los Ángeles. Hoy observamos el Día de Denim, el día de concientización contra el abuso y la violencia sexual y lo que tenemos que hacer para detenerlo. Hoy nos juntamos a lo lejos para reafirmar nuestra creencia que aquí no toleramos la violencia doméstica, el abuso sexual, ni el acoso en cualquier forma. No se tolera ni en Los Ángeles ni en ninguna otra parte. Y para los sobrevivientes en nuestra comunidad, les recuerdo que no están solos, su ciudad está aquí para ustedes.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Ahora les comparto los datos de hoy. Hoy hubieron 1,541 nuevos casos en el condado de Los Ángeles, llegando a un total de 22,485 casos. En la ciudad de Los Ángeles tuvimos 683 nuevos casos, llegando a un total de 10,380. Y hoy fallecieron 56 personas más en el condado llegando a un total de 1,056 muertes. Nuestras oraciones y nuestros pensamientos están con las familias que están sufriendo esta noche. En nuestros hospitales tenemos 1,276 camas disponibles, y entre ellas 258 están en las unidades de cuidados intensivos. Y tenemos 1,091 respiradores disponibles.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hoy también recibimos un nuevo reporte del Departamento de Salud Pública indicando que en nuestros vecindarios de más bajos recursos en el centro de Los Ángeles están falleciendo más de 40 personas por cada 100,000. Esta tasa es cuatro veces más alta que la del condado entero. Esto nos dice que esta pandemia ha creado nuevas injusticias basadas en inequidades históricas que reflejan generaciones de abandono y discriminación. Estas injusticias nos impulsaron a tomar acción inmediata con respecto a crear acceso a pruebas de detección gratis para todos. Desde el 20 de marzo hemos estado ofreciendo pruebas gratis, ampliando poco a poco el acceso a más residentes.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hoy tenemos 34 sitios de prueba en la ciudad y en el condado, y tenemos capacidad para hacer pruebas a 18,000 personas al día. Y en el último mes hemos hecho pruebas a 140,000 personas. Y hay pruebas disponibles para empleados esenciales con o sin síntomas, primeros socorristas, profesionales médicos, trabajadores en mercados, conductores de autobús y Metro, choferes de entrega, taxistas y conductores de viajes compartidos, y trabajadores en construcción. Pero mientras esta enfermedad siga matando a la gente, tenemos que ampliar el acceso a pruebas aún más.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sabemos que este virus es un asesino silencioso que se está moviendo entre nuestra población, y por eso hacerle pruebas a personas sin síntomas es esencial. Hoy estoy orgulloso de anunciar que Los Ángeles será la primera gran ciudad en el país que ofrece acceso a pruebas para todos los residentes si tengan síntomas o no. Entonces, hágase la prueba, no hay duda que éste es un paso para acercarnos la reapertura de nuestra economía. No esperes y no te quedes con la duda, puedes hacer una cita para una prueba en la página coronavirus.lacity.org/testing. Y estas pruebas están para todos los residentes del condado de Los Ángeles, en los centros, en la ciudad de Los Ángeles. Todos los residentes del condado de Los Ángeles pueden recibir una prueba gratis con o sin síntomas a los centros en la ciudad de Los Ángeles.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Mientras están todos protegidos en casa, sabemos que para algunos el estar en casa no es siempre lo más seguro. Para satisfacer las necesidades de las víctimas de violencia doméstica durante esta crisis junto con el Mayor's Fund, el Fondo del Alcalde de Los Ángeles y Rihanna y Jack Dorsey con sus donaciones de 4.2 millones de dólares hemos lanzado el proyecto Safe Heaven, Proyecto de Amparo Seguro, para alojar hasta 900 sobrevivientes de violencia doméstica. Lanzamos una página de recursos para los que necesitan en coronavirus.lacity.org/DVResources para saber cómo obtener la ayuda que te mereces.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Además, hoy firmé dos ordenanzas: derecho para reclamar y permanencia de trabajadores para asegurar que se puedan priorizar que los empleados afectados obtengan su empleo de nuevo cuando compramos la economía de nuevo. Y gracias a la presidenta del concejo municipal, Nury Martínez, por su liderazgo con estos dos y sus colegas también en el concejo municipal. Mientras continuamos esta fase difícil, les prometo siempre mantenerlos al día con novedades y recursos. Gracias por su paciencia y determinación mientras mantenemos nuestros esfuerzos para salvar las vidas de nuestra comunidad. Quédense en buena salud, quédense protegidos y quédense en casa. Fuerza y amor, Los Ángeles.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I will say one thing in English, even though I am going to take some questions in Spanish. I was corrected; it is just in the city centers, but all county residents with or without symptoms can be tested starting tomorrow, so at city sites all can be tested. And I also got the numbers for the Los Feliz ledger, 22,196 applications, 3,735 processed already, 89 of those approved and out the door. So we'll get you more statistics as that grows and we appreciate that feedback. En español, yo puedo recibir preguntas.

Q: Alcalde, la pregunta sería, hay un grupo de pequeños negocios que entablaron una demanda porque se consideran no esenciales. ¿Qué piensa de eso?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sí, la decisión de cerrar los negocios no esenciales no fue una que tomamos fácilmente. Pero estamos enfocados en salvar las vidas de nuestra gente, y por eso tomamos las acciones seguras por nuestros expertos médicos, no son decisiones políticas, decisiones médicas. Yo sé que esto es difícil para estos negocios, para nuestra gente, los empleados, y por eso hemos lanzado un programa para préstamos para pequeños negocios. Y hemos implementado una suspensión de desalojos para espacios comerciales también. Lo más pronto que podemos aplanar la curva, lo más pronto podamos abrir nuestra economía y nuestra ciudad de nuevo.

Q: Y hablando de negocios, cuando los restaurantes ya finalmente pueden abrir, ¿la ciudad va a aprobar un plan específico para ellos o los van a dejar a cargo los restaurantes en su lugar?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hay ayuda ahora para los restaurantes, zonas, por los automóviles, también un programa para personas de tercera edad, por las cenas para estas personas, y nosotros usaremos los restaurantes locales para esto. Pero sí, las regulaciones en las próximas semanas y meses para los restaurantes, por ejemplo, menos personas en estos espacios, la opción de tener mesas en la sidewalk u otros partes de sus, por ejemplo, sus propiedad. Éstas son ideas ahora que la industria de los restaurantes ha dado a la alcaldía, a los supervisores también, y espero que en estos próximos meses tendremos más restaurantes abiertos finalmente y los empleados regresando a sus lugares de trabajo.

Q: Hay un medicamento que se llama remdesivir, está usado ahorita para el ébola. ¿Usted cree que puede ayudarnos y es algo que puede llegar a la ciudad en general?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sí, ésta es una medicina en California, una compañía de California, y yo tengo mucho orgullo de este trabajo a encontrar una medicina a ayudar las víctimas de COVID-19. Aunque no es una vacuna ni una cura, me alegra saber que hay una opción que está mostrando promesa para ayudar a personas a recuperar más pronto y según las pruebas que han hecho. Claro, necesitamos dos o tres opciones: el espacio, la distancia social, segundo, medicinas, y finalmente una vacuna. Los tres juntos son el formulario a regresar a una vida más normal.

Q: También los Lakers hicieron una petición para incorporarse a sus prácticas. ¿Cuál es su postura en esto?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yo amo mis Lakers. Yo soy un súper fan de los Lakers, y qué lástima que nosotros no podemos ver nuestras súper estrellas como Lebron, pero mi oficina ha estado en comunicación con los Lakers y otros equipos también en Los Ángeles, tanto como los otros equipos, a encontrar una manera a jugar estas ligas sin los fans. Estas conversaciones son muy preliminares ahora, y nos enfocamos en las mejores prácticas para posiblemente abrir las instalaciones deportivas en algún momento en el futuro. Y yo he tenido muchas conversaciones con los líderes de estas ligas de basquetbol, de fútbol, de fútbol americano, de hockey, y yo tengo mucha confianza en sus recomendaciones porque ellos quieren ver, o ellos quieren proteger su

gente. Y es mi plan a tener probablemente en este año, partidos sin los fans en cooperación con estas ligas.

Q: Next question is from KNBC.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure, yeah, okay.

Q: One of the questions is, is it really possible for LAUSD schools to open in late July and at what capacity? And the second one was about, you gave us a history lesson last week on the 1918 Spanish Flu in which some Bay Area opened sooner than Los Angeles with some devastating results. Six counties in the Bay Area have just extended their stay-at-home order, is that something until May, is that something that we will do the same?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, we already have ours extended, obviously, May. Some of them look at longer. I think that the idea that certain places have dates that they are extending it to and then that date is when everything ends, we are all going to be, whether we're "opening a little" or closing more in a society that is mostly closed and having some small openings for some time. That's, I think, the same everywhere. For instance, as I mentioned, the Bay Area just opened more, so they closed down maybe the extension of how long they thought somebody stay-at-home orders would be, but they opened up. I think they had golf and tennis, landscaping, gardening, and they added, of course, construction, which we have had and safely we're monitoring. So it's always a conversation between, I think it is very different than in 1918 when what happened in San Francisco is they threw all the doors open.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We've learned that lesson collectively. I talked to London Breed, my dear friend who is the mayor of San Francisco, I've talked to Libby Schaaf, who is also a dear friend, mayor of Oakland and Sam Liccardo in San Jose. They are doing a good job of working together and making sure counties move together, but we are talking all the time to make sure nobody is too far ahead of anybody else, and that we take these steps all together.

MAYOR GARCETTI : The first half of it was LAUSD opening. That's something I think better directed to the superintendent in the board. I do think it's probably a little bit early of an estimation. I've only heard them talk about the fall and even frank for the fall will be a big enough undertaking. How do we do this safely? We absolutely have to get our schools opened, though, because parents can't return to work if they are permitted to, if their kids aren't at school. It is just a basic part of our economy, and as I've said each night too, we can't forget those children that won't be able to return because they have preexisting conditions that make them vulnerable.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We have to continue to provide for their education while they stay safer at home until there is a cure. All right, I think those were the last questions. Thanks to everybody for joining us. Thank you to Telemundo for helping us out tonight as well with the feed. We said it before, obviously members of the media can get tested even before this announcement, now everybody can, so take care of yourselves as well and to everybody in Los Angeles, be well, stay strong, stay safe and I will see you tomorrow. Buenas noches.