

## Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening, Los Angeles, and thank you again for joining us. Tonight it's a pleasure to be joined by a longtime friend, and an amazing Angeleno, Michele Siqueiros, who is the president of the Campaign for College Opportunity. In a few moments, we're going to discuss actions too, that we're taking to help the class of 2020, that I know is facing this crisis in a different way than any of their predecessors in looking at their future, and assessing how they can have a great future.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The crisis has taken its toll on all of us. It's a crisis that hurts every single day. But we must not lose sight, excuse me, of the signs of hope. We see them all around us. We can feel them each day. And I know that as anxious as we are each and every night to get out, and during the daytime to do more, I want to thank you again for everything you are doing to keep people safe, to keep people healthy and to save lives. I saw the spirit of hope in this city this morning when I went to the All Peoples Community Center in South Los Angeles. It's an institution that served Angelenos for nearly 80 years. It's an amazing place. It's one of our city's family source centers, but it has a clear mission: to empower individuals and promote respect and self-determination for all.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I want to thank Sandra Bryant and her entire team who are doing an extraordinary job. That's our mission too, to carry all this work forward. And it's more important now than ever before. We're meeting that charge at the Family Source Center at All Peoples where we're distributing some of those Angeleno cards that many of you have applied for. These are cards that are helping our hardest-hit households, small amounts of direct cash assistance that can make a world of difference for Angelenos who are suffering.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And this work couldn't be more important, it couldn't be more urgent because people are hurting and people are anxious and they're unsure, unsure how they will pay for their next meal, unsure how they will pay for the rent, and we're seeing this challenge nationwide. Yesterday the numbers spoke volumes. The first three months of this year saw this economy shrink by its largest amount since the Great Recession. And today we saw another spike in our nation's unemployment numbers, bringing the total to more than 30 million Americans who have now lost their jobs in just the last six weeks. And that may well undercount the number of Americans that are unemployed.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We can never become numb to these news and these numbers because these are people and households, families and stories. No matter how many times we talk about it, no matter how bad we expect to be, we know that this isn't just about numbers, it's about people. And we are fighting for these people, Angelenos every single day here in LA. We continue doing everything we can to protect lives and livelihoods for all who call Los Angeles home. And that work always begins each night with understanding the data and the trends, so let me as I always do, turn to the numbers.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Today, the county reported 733 new confirmed positive COVID-19 cases, bringing out total to 23,182. This is a three percent increase since yesterday. For comparison, the past seven days have seen an average daily increase of cases of 836. In the city of Los Angeles, new cases were 483, bringing out total to 10,863 new cases, a five percent

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increase since yesterday. And the worst part of this evening for me, and I know for you, is the number of new deaths. We lost 55 more Angelenos confirmed the last 24 hours, bringing our total to 1,111, a five percent increase since yesterday, and in the seven-day average we're losing 45 people a day here in LA.

MAYOR GARCETTI: For all of those who are suffering tonight, we are with you. For all of those who have a hole that we cannot fill, we mourn alongside you tonight. And across this county, though, it's still good news in our county emergency, our general emergency hospitals where we have 1,126 beds that are available, including 905 acute care beds and 221 ICU beds, including an inventory of 1,213 available ventilators.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But because of the work of every Angeleno, we cannot let up. And I say this every night, but the path to an effective response and the road to the first phase of a recovery is paved by our ability to stick with our stay-at-home orders, our commitment to test more people, and so that we know who has the virus, who needs medical attention and where it is spreading. It's why every single day we've worked so methodically to expand testing here in Los Angeles, first to our most vulnerable populations, to first responders, to healthcare workers, to skilled nursing facilities, to our essential workforce, to people experiencing homelessness and more.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And while last night I announced that all Los Angeles County residents are eligible to get tested at one of our city of Los Angeles testing sites, priority will still be given to our highest risk individuals. We'll never let the opening up of new tests take away the priority of those who need it the most, but as long as we have more tests available, we should never let any go unused each day. The city will continue to make them available to everyone with or without symptoms. We know this is a silent killer. It spreads without us seeing or feeling it. And if we're going to save lives and open up our economy, we need to know where this virus is.

MAYOR GARCETTI: There are now 34 testing locations thanks to the great work of the county and the city and many other cities like Long Beach and others who have testing centers as well. We estimate that 14,000 people will be tested. That's double the number of people who took the test earlier this week, and I'm especially proud that those that were in the city today did between 9 and 10,000, that's triple what we usually do as a result opening this up and evidence that people want to get tested, and we will continue to provide them.

MAYOR GARCETTI: By the end of the day, we will have tested approximately 154,000 people through these testing centers. Some days appointments will fill up. But our testing lab has hundreds of thousands of tests that are available, so we will continue to scale testing and order more to meet the demand day by day. You don't have to wonder if that cough is COVID. You don't have to wonder if you were exposed to somebody that you know had or you think had COVID. You can go get tested now. And please do. So sign up at [coronavirus.lacity.org/testing](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/testing), or call 213-978-1028 or 311 after 5:00 p.m.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This crisis has hit us all. Even if we've been spared illness or the loss of a loved one, we feel its impact. We've lost things that were special to us. Maybe it was a

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concert, a wedding, a graduation. And I want to speak to the class of 2020 tonight because spring is supposed to be a magical time where you celebrate prom and graduation. You think about your future and the next steps that you will take and all the hard work that you put into your entire childhood to finally get to a place where many of you were looking at going to college.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Instead of having all those celebrations you've had to trade in your cap and gown for masks and gloves. You've had to set aside your celebrations and take on new roles in your families. I've been so moved by the members of this class who have become the primary earners for their families or taken on the role of caregivers for your siblings. Even teachers for your younger brothers and sisters while your parents have gone to work on the frontlines. This is not the spring that you hoped for. This is not the spring that you deserved. But it is a spring that you have.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So tonight, I want to talk to you, class of 2020, about your future and about the tough decisions you face about higher education. Many of you know how committed I've been to providing opportunity for young people to go to college. I was so proud that Los Angeles became the biggest city in America to make higher education free through our community colleges, and our community college district, the largest in the country already has the largest college Promise Program anywhere in this nation.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I know that for many of the students that have been admitted at four-year colleges and universities, that tomorrow is college signing day. This is the deadline for students to submit their intent to enroll forms, and while some colleges have extended that deadline to June 1, many have not. You face an agonizing dilemma right now, whether to accept and follow your dreams for tomorrow, or to put those dreams on hold and to help your families today. For many, this would have been a tough call anyway, but COVID-19 makes it even more excruciating. And we know COVID-19's impact has been uneven, while it doesn't discriminate on who it infects, how it infects us does, unfortunately, exacerbate so many of the inequities that we have in our society.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We're seeing indicators that disproportionate numbers of students of color and students living in poverty and immigrant students who have started to decline offers of admission because they're worried, understandably, about the present and worried about the future. For some, that might be because COVID-19 directly hit your family. For others, you're scared of not being there to help your family when someone's lost a job, or seeing reduced hours. For far too many, maybe you have no place to study and access fall classes that may be held online. These are real concerns that we shouldn't dismiss, but instead confront and try to help you with.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But hear me when I say that we don't want COVID-19 to take lives, but we also don't want it to steal your dreams. I'm grateful to those colleges and universities that have waived fees and extended deadlines to give students more time to make this big decision, but there is even more that we must do. That is why I'm announcing a special partnership with the LA Compact. This is a coalition of early childhood and K-12, higher education and nonprofit

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leaders who support kids, their families and schools. We've launched a page on the Compact's website where any student in the class of 2020 can fill out a simple form, describing your question, problem or concern. It only takes a couple of minutes. And within 48 hours of submitting this form, depending on the information that you provided, a counselor from your accepted college, high school or one of the great nonprofit partners that we have will be in touch to help you navigate this process and to get you through these days.

MAYOR GARCETTI: It's a wonderful gift. It's an incredible offer, and it's a great chance for us to understand that the help that you will need in the fall, so that teams right now can build the resources to help you start today. So all you have to do is go to [coronavirus.lacity.org/collegeconnect](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/collegeconnect). That's [coronavirus.lacity.org/collegeconnect](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/collegeconnect). And I want the class of 2020 and all of our students to know we have your back. We believe in you. We're not going to let this disease crush your dreams.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I want to speak directly to your struggles and to your parents and families and for that I've asked Michele Siqueiros to be here to say a few words to you today. As I mentioned, she's the president of the Campaign for College Opportunity, and one of the national leaders in the movement for access and equity for low-income students and students of color. I'm so grateful that you could join us here today. Michele. Microphone is yours. Thank you.

MICHELE SIQUEIROS: Thank you, mayor. Thank you for your support and love of this city and the class of 2020. I grew up here in Los Angeles, the daughter of hardworking parents who had big dreams for me. As the first in my family to go to college, I was venturing into the unknown, like many of you in the class of 2020 are today. My wildest dreams came true because I did go to college. I said yes to Pitzer and UCLA, and I'm a proud graduate of both of those institutions. Now as the president of the Campaign for College Opportunity, I get to fight alongside our mayor to ensure that you say yes to college so your dreams can come true.

MICHELE SIQUEIROS: Tomorrow, May 1, is the traditional college signing day, but as the mayor said, this one is not traditional in any way. The class of 2020 is facing this college decision with incredible uncertainty. As a parent of an LAUSD high school senior, I'm experiencing it firsthand too. I'm heartbroken for the proms, award ceremonies, grad nights, graduations and celebrations with your family and friends that are being postponed.

MICHELE SIQUEIROS: As a mother, I know your families are heartbroken too. But we cannot allow the way this school year is ending to trump the 12 years of dedication and hard work that got you to this milestone. You're on the eve of college, class of 2020, and I can tell you this with all certainty. The value of a college education has never been higher. Over their lifetime, a college graduate earns more than \$1 million, more than their peers who only graduated from high school. And in these uncertain economic times, I want you to know that it is college graduates who weather the storm the best.

MICHELE SIQUEIROS: College graduates have lower rates of unemployment and poverty, access to healthcare. As a college graduate, you're more likely to own a home, start a small

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business, and so much more. Bottom line, college is worth it. While this pandemic may be postponing graduations, proms, senior activities, moments with your friends and family, it cannot postpone your dreams. The mayor and I know firsthand that pursuing your dreams, even in the face of adversity will pay off. And that's why if you were admitted into your dream college and you can say yes, we urge you to say yes. This crisis will end. The pandemic will run its course, and we want to see you on your way to walking across the college graduation stage. You deserve to go to college, to graduate from college and reach all of your dreams because you've put in the hard work. And by doing that, you will make our city better and stronger.

MICHELE SIQUEIROS: Although we urge you to enroll in college this fall if you can, we know that some of you may not be able to say yes to college at this particular moment, or might be exploring other options to stay closer to home. Because of that, I will continue to urge colleges and universities to extend the deadline for students and their families to commit from May 1 to June 1. We are grateful that so many campuses have already done that. If you can't say yes right now, I join the mayor in saying that we are working together to support you. The Campaign for College Opportunity has been in the business of making college dreams come true for 16 years, and this coronavirus will not stop us.

MICHELE SIQUEIROS: Your dreams are bigger than this pandemic, and the city of angels is here to help you reach them. The one curve the mayor and I will not flatten is the college opportunity curve. Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you so much, Michele. Thank you for breathing those dreams back into the minds and souls of our young people. A reminder, please take advantage of this help. Go to [coronavirus.lacity.org/collegeconnect](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/collegeconnect). I know that you have worked very hard, and I want you to know how proud we are of you. And we know that this pandemic won't take away those dreams.

MAYOR GARCETTI: For all of our policies and programs, for all of our initiatives and investments, we've known from the start of this that we can't get through this crisis with government action alone. And we need the collaboration and compassion of partners from every community across all sectors of our city. We see that in a space like renter assistance, a topic on everyone's minds with rent due tomorrow. Here at city hall, we issued an eviction moratorium in the city of Los Angeles for tenants and businesses affected by COVID-19. We froze rents for units that are covered under our rent stabilization ordinance, the overwhelming majority of units here in Los Angeles. And we made it easier for residents to work with their landlords if they can't cover their monthly payment.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And on top of our efforts, we're seeing generosity from extraordinary individuals, including Anthony "Top Dawg" Tiffith, who grew up in the Nickerson Gardens Public Housing Development and became a force in the music industry. He never hesitates to give back to the neighborhood that gave so much to him. And he's doing that now by covering a month's rent for seniors in more than 300 units in Watts, across Nickerson Gardens, Jordan Downs and Imperial Courts.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: With May 1 coming up, this couldn't come at a better time. That's the Angeleno spirit, the LA love that I've talked about in these briefings each night at work. Everyone in Los Angeles is making sacrifices. Every single member of our community each day has had to step up, but for those in our city who already faced economic insecurity, this pandemic has been devastating. That's why we launched the Angeleno card for low-wage hourly workers whose incomes have been depleted or who have lost jobs and who need help right now without any discrimination of your ZIP code or your immigration status, your age.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And as I mentioned today at the All Peoples Family Source Center, I want to tell you a story of a woman I met named Valeria, who is a Fremont High School grad from South LA, who had a steady job at a shoe manufacturing plant until she was laid off in March. Valeria still hasn't received her unemployment insurance, and she told me how the Angeleno card was literally her lifeline. It would help her get through the day, help her pay her bills, help her to buy food until support from the state arrives.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I also spoke with Ana, an Angeleno who immigrated to Los Angeles from El Salvador. She is raising a son on her own--excuse me. She is raising a son on her own, and after losing her job at a long-term care center, she quickly ran out of places to turn for relief. Ana and Valeria were so grateful for the donations you and so many Angelenos have given, it's a source of relief for everyone and support that doesn't hinge on status. They are just two of the more than 15,000 people that we've already helped in just under two weeks, and cards are on their way to help 45,000 more Angelenos in the days ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But soon that number will grow because of some great news I received this afternoon. The Mayor's Fund receives support every single day from folks like you out there and every dollar helps. But today was a great day. Yesterday the fund was gifted \$5 million. No one had made a fundraising call, reached out to these donors. These are two people who simply stepped forward. What happened is that Bobby Murphy and his wife, Kelsey, they saw the work that we are doing, they felt for the people that they were assisting, and they put the check in the mail.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Before she began staying at home with her now one-year-old son, Kelsey was a physician's assistant working with low-income patients at St. John's Well Child and Family Center in South LA. So she knows firsthand how devastating this crisis has been for people like those that she worked with. And you may not recognize his name, but we all know his path-breaking enterprise. Bobby is the cofounder of one of our city's great success stories and tech companies, Snap, a company that's already supported the Mayor's Fund along with Snap co-creator and CEO, Evan Spiegel and wife, Miranda Kerr.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So Bobby and Kelsey, let me thank you. Because of your generosity, we'll now be able to distribute a total of 20,000 Angeleno cards to help 60,000 Angelenos. You are truly angels in this city of angels. These cards are a critical lifeline and all of it is through the generosity. We can't name every 5- and 10- and 25-dollar donor, but together those two put a card in the hands of somebody who needs it. So donate today at [mayorsfundla.org/angeleno](https://mayorsfundla.org/angeleno).

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MAYOR GARCETTI: In this crisis, there's so much that we can't see. Excuse me. And much we still don't know. Where we felt secure, we now feel untethered. Where we planned for things, we don't know what the future holds. But one thing is certain, and each night I hope you feel it: You are not alone. Whether you're a senior watching this on your own and now have the chance to have meals delivered from us to you, whether you're a class of 2020 graduate wondering what you're going to do for college, we're here to help and to advise. For somebody whose unemployment just arrived today and you were laid off, or whether it was an immigrant who wondered when our national government didn't step forward, do people believe that my contributions matter? None of us are alone in Los Angeles. We are all tied together. Our success will rise together, or we will fall together.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But I know that this new economic reality, while it may feel hopeless, we are here to help you not just survive, but also recover. We're responding to a crisis. We are looking at the steps to reopen, beyond that how we can recover and finally how we can reimagine. But for each one of us, those days of reimagining, of recovering and reopening depend on our response right now. And I'm so proud of the work that you continue to do, to not just bend the curve, but to save lives, to ensure that the chapter of this LA history that you are riding is one that will have the best possible ending.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We're in this together. So as I say each evening, stay safe, stay healthy, and stay at home. Much strength and much love, Los Angeles. Thank you. With that, I'm happy to answer questions. First question.

OPERATOR: First question will be from Jory Rand with ABC 7. Please go ahead.

JORY RAND: Hey, Mr. Mayor. Just a couple of quick questions for you. We saw the governor shut down Orange County beaches today. Have you been consulted by any officials down there in Orange County on the subject of beach closures, and if so, what have you offered in terms of advice? And I just wanted to really quickly ask you about being named the co-chair, the vice-president Biden by President Surge Committee? You're understandably really busy these days. I'm just curious how much of your time will this post take and any time spent on that, wouldn't that be time you'd be spending otherwise on your work as mayor during this crisis? And do you speak to Joe Biden at all? Have you consulted him at all during this crisis on how he would handle this situation or anything that you've spoken to him, consulted on this current situation? Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you, Jory. On terms of the beach in Orange County, no, I have not been directly consulted by any of the cities or the county officials there. I was informed by the governor's staff last night about the move and talked to the governor this morning as well. And I think all of us, as I think I've shared, I'm on an almost nightly call with every, sorry, the 13 mayors of the most populous cities in California.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And one thing that we share is we have to try to move together as much as possible. It's very difficult when some folks move more quickly or other folks move more slowly. I think these steps for a region should be taken as often as we can together because this

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virus affects all of us. It cares not where a county border is. It cares not where a city border is as well. And so I do look forward to the days ahead, as I've said, and been able to detail. We are looking very closely. I was a part of a call today with a couple of other mayors and board of supervisors, Chair Kathryn Barger, about how we move forward as a county and as 88 cities together. And I'm very proud of that work we've always done hand in hand.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But I do think that the governor has made some really tough decisions. We've all seen--we don't know the impact of moves for two to three weeks, so if we do things ahead of everybody else, we may not just be endangering our people, but endangering other folks who drive in from neighboring counties and neighboring areas. So I support that move that he had but I've not been consulted.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And in terms of any political questions, since this is city hall, I won't be able to answer those questions. I'd be happy to do those offline, but my 100 percent focus is on making sure we address COVID-19 and that's what the purpose of these briefings is. Thank you. Next question.

OPERATOR: Next we go to Steve Gregory with KFI News. Please go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Steve.

STEVE GREGORY: Hi, Mr. Mayor. Good evening. I gotta ask, did you consult the Los Angeles County Health Department when you decided last night to open up testing for everyone regardless of symptoms? There seems to be a lot of confusion. Dr. Christina Galley today, in their conference, had suggested that there's no benefit to testing asymptomatic people. It's a very confusing message. She says that you folks are in constant contact, but she would never go so far to say that you consulted the department. I'm just wondering, these are the kinds of things that are starting to cause confusion and frustration amongst the public because they don't seem to be hearing a unified message. Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Look, I love working with the county and my 87 fellow mayors. We have an extraordinary close relationship. And I would say long before COVID-19 I'm proud that I think we have the strongest relationship between a board of supervisors and a mayor and our city council from the city of Los Angeles that in our history, that's borne out in our transportation successes like Measure M, that's borne out in the work that we're doing on homelessness. And we are so close that we have staff talking probably at any given time, we have people either co-working in the same space or talking every single day.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I always value, especially from, you know, there's two parts of the county, Dr. Ghaly with Health Services, Dr. Ferrer with Public Health, both of their input, whether it's in standing up extra beds, getting data for our hospital admissions, pushing out the messages that they put towards us, etc. And also the input of so many other places that we're in constant contact with. And I want the people of Los Angeles to know that. We're always talking with folks that are around the world. We're talking with people who are up at Harvard,

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people who are at some of the cutting-edge medical doctors giving advice on public health around the country.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And one thing that was very clear, and I stick to it, that I said last night is that this is a silent killer. It's not just those who have symptoms who can spread this disease. I think everybody in this country, with a couple of notable exceptions at the national level sometimes, say we need more testing. Period. And we need to be testing asymptomatic people. We know asymptomatic people spread this.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Second point, I'm never going to let tests go to waste. We have--before we open this up, each time we've opened it up, there are tests each day that we still had. And in a moment when we have a public health crisis, when people are eager to get back to work, to open up spaces, that depends on knowledge, and knowledge comes from testing, and testing more people gives us more ability to open up sooner, so I think it's from not only a health perspective, but also from the steps forward for our economy, a critical piece of that. And I would say there's no air between us. The county and the city have been standing up these centers together. When the city had them, we said we'd test anybody in the county. That's what I've done too with the asymptomatic folks. But we will always prioritize, and I do listen to that advice from all doctors I've talked to. Make sure that you protect for your critical workers, and of course, your symptomatic people, the number of tests they need.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But as we've shown, and as I said tonight, there are hundreds of thousands of tests we have access to, so I'm not worried about that supply. And it's something that we'll continue to do hand in hand, taking the advice of many, but absolutely, we are constantly in consultation. We were in consultation yesterday. We adjust language in our communications to make it clear, and I think that we have actually a very close alliance not matter what you might think. Thanks. Next question.

STEVE GREGORY: I'm sorry. Did you do this with the blessing of the County Health Department?

MAYOR GARCETTI: We don't--well, there's two different health departments, right? There's a Health Department and there's a Health Services, and there's Public Health. And absolutely, we consulted very closely with Public Health, had positive feedback, but it's not something where they need to quote/unquote sign on. Offering tests to people in the city of Los Angeles and saying that that's for the county too, is not something that I'm going to ever stop moving forward on. I think it's so critical for our health. It's so critical for keeping people healthy, and it's critical for opening up our economy. Thanks.

STEVE GREGORY: Thanks, sir.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Next question.

OPERATOR: Next, we go to Elex Michaelson with Fox 11 News. Please go ahead.

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ELEX MICHAELSON: Hi, Mayor.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Elex, how are you doing?

ELEX MICHAELSON: Governor Newsom decided not to close the beaches and other places other than Orange County. So I'm wondering what you would be looking for in terms of measureables to reopen LA beaches and what that might look like in terms of how to do that safely going forward.

MAYOR GARCETTI: A few things I would be. One, is to make sure people aren't loitering on the beaches, making sure that we have so much territory on the beaches, that anything we do with an opening is enforceable enough so that people don't begin to spread by tanning, hanging out, staying too long. I think we've seen countries like Australia where they've opened up beaches from 6:00 to 9:00 in the morning for exercise. That's a great first step. I saw in San Diego a much more careful approach.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But this is something that I think the beach cities, including Los Angeles and all the other cities from Long Beach all the way up to Malibu, should make together. Second, we should do that on the advice of Los Angeles County Public Health, which still does not advise that we open those, and we do not--in respect to the previous question, we take that advice and follow that. And I think it's very important for us finally to make sure as we do this that we assess things.

MAYOR GARCETTI: If you just open it up and everybody can go, I think that's a dangerous way to do it without any restrictions. But why not take a couple of baby steps in the weeks that are ahead, as I've said, that two to six weeks from now where we can get the beach cities lined up. We have the law enforcement lined up. We have the regulations clear. We communicated to the public, and we don't rush to do this. I'd rather go slower and do it right than rush and find out three weeks later we've done it wrong, and we're telling people, "You gotta go back indoors because we screwed up." That's not fair to anybody.

MAYOR GARCETTI: My goal is to get people safely back to those public spaces, not just beaches, but some of our parks like Griffith Park, etc. And we're doing a lot of really hard work within the city and also with working groups across cities and within LA County. And I do think LA County is a real example of how that is working well together. I know for some, they might see beaches are open, why can't we be that county? Say, because the advice of our public health folks is not yet, but we're getting closer. Thanks, Elex. Next question.

OPERATOR: Next, we go to Robert Kovacic with NBC. Please go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Robert.

ROBERT KOVACIK: We made it. How are you, sir?

MAYOR GARCETTI: I'm good.

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ROBERT KOVACIK: When I say “how are you,” I mean that completely sincerely because that cough makes me nervous.

MAYOR GARCETTI: No. No.

ROBERT KOVACIK: What's going on here?

MAYOR GARCETTI: I just got something in my throat. Nothing. Good. I'm doing really well. Very healthy, thank you.

ROBERT KOVACIK: You know, these days when the mayor coughs, it's big news. The other big news, of course, you made yesterday was testing. I got two questions for you. First of all, how did the rollout go today? Was the system overwhelmed with people who were inquiring about possibly getting tests? And then tomorrow is May 1, and everyone has sort of circled that day as we now begin, if you will, a two-week countdown.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yep.

ROBERT KOVACIK: What is Mayor Garcetti and his staff going to be looking at over the next two weeks that we could possibly begin to loosen restrictions on the 15<sup>th</sup>, two weeks later?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Absolutely. The testing was great today. I was as nervous as probably everybody else out there. We had, as I said, triple the amount of tests done at the LA City sites than we usually done, and a new record. Probably about 10,000 just in those sites by the end of the day, 14,000 between the county and city sites, so it was very successful. Folks that did not have symptoms were able to go there.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In the early part of the morning, we learned a good lesson, which is we had saved a lot of tests for symptomatic people and those who had vulnerabilities. We saved too many of those, so some of the tests available for people without symptoms ran out. We quickly changed that and were able to accommodate both people with symptoms and without. Some people are being pushed to a day or two ahead. I think if you go tonight, you'll get pushed to Saturday, which just shows the demand. But we are very confident in our ability to add more tests quickly. As I mentioned, we have hundreds of thousands of tests from our sources that we get tests. Their labs are able to process this. So it was really from our perspective quite successful.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In terms of the second question for reopening, I'm looking for two things before I say the things in terms of the industries and places I want to open because I think many of us rush to, "Hey, when I am going to be able to get a haircut? When can I go to a neighborhood store? When can I get back out to park?" But there is a process to get there. Two things that precede that: one, is that you have to look at the need, you have to look at the risk and you have to look at the safety measures on any place or space you want to reopen.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: And so, we are spending a lot of time right now looking at that. How can we make retail safe? And retail is very diverse. What would it mean to get back to restaurants? What would it mean to get back into parks? What would it mean to get some sports back in terms of what people are able to do at parks? So we are assessing each one of those from kind of a need, risk and then safety perspective.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Second, we need to have some metrics that we agree upon. And I am working with mayors across the state, working with the governor, working with our County Health officials as well to try to get those measures. In other words, how many tests for 100,000 people a day is a good measure? How many people entering the hospital on a given day, all of our hospitals is a measure of it getting worse, being okay or getting better? How many beds do we have available? Other measures of the infection rate: do we have 35 people for every 100,000 that are newly infected? Or is it down at 5, for instance? And maybe those would be triggers for taking more steps.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, those two things are very important before you get to the "what opens next." Now, and the things that I am looking at, and you'll hear me and Mayor Garcia of Long Beach, Supervisor Barger, Mayor Tornek of Pasadena because Long Beach and Pasadena have their own health authorities, beginning to talk about this with our fellow mayors and all the other supervisors and elected officials about what are the areas where in the coming weeks we can maybe begin to open things up?

MAYOR GARCETTI: I think, as you heard the governor talk about, some of that is in recreational spaces. That is a real need of people, I believe we can do that safely without endangering people, but it has to be done carefully and it has to be done in the right way. I think there are some retail spaces that we can probably get back into. We've shown through LA Protects and the making of masks like this that manufacturing can be done in many cases safely. I was very proud to see Northern California join us with construction, which has already stayed open and that we successfully preserved those jobs, maintain that momentum with housing and infrastructure while not seeing an explosion of cases in construction industry. So those are some of the things that we are looking at, a whole type, we hope to together be able to talk in more detail about that as early as next week.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But right now we are looking at every country of the world, every city that we can find, other states and assessing where people have made missteps because we've seen in places, you know, Germany, Singapore and places that said, "Hey, we got there," they opened up and suddenly they are seeing the caseloads start to creep up and seeing can we work with that, figure out the mistakes other places made, correct for them. But I am confident we will take steps forward in the coming weeks ahead. Hope that's helpful. Thanks, Robert.

ROBERT KOVACIK: Thank you, sir.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Next question.

OPERATOR: Next to the line of Lee Roth at Fox News. Please go ahead.

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

LEE ROTH: Hey, there, thank you Mr. Mayor. LA County's Dr. Ferrer made note of some troubling data regarding the virus in some of the highest density communities of the county. And she specifically identified several in Los Angeles, specifically naming Pico-Union, although there are others that she noted. Based on her data and what you've seen in your discussions with her, are you 100 percent sure, are you still 100 percent that people who live in these neighborhoods have been and remain safe at home? And that people who live there and have the ability to shelter somewhere else less dense shouldn't do so?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, I am never 100 percent sure of anything, Lee. But we have made sure that we are looking at that data at the neighborhood level, the numbers of cases per capita, obviously density in areas like Pico-Union make it a more susceptible place to infection. We've also made sure and we've looked closely at what we can do to make sure there is testing close to areas that are low-income, communities of color that are especially hard hit. I'm proud now that actually African-American testing is higher than African-American percentage of population, that together with Native Hawaiian are the only two ethnic groups that have more tests per capita in their population right now.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, we've dealt and confronted head-on the racial disparities in deaths from COVID-19. And in terms of looking at the ability for people to get to places, I want people to hear loud and clear, if you are sick or if you have to be quarantined, we have rooms available for you if you can't leave your house or you don't have enough space in your house. We have those in hotels, they are called tier 1 hotels, the county has helped set those up. We've got a couple of thousand rooms that people can either quarantine or isolate themselves. And so, please let the county know, take advantage of that, call 211. If you've gotten that positive test and you're worried about infecting everybody that is around there, we do have answers for you. Did that answer what you're getting after, Lee?

LEE ROTH: Well, it does. I guess perhaps you could speak more just to the idea of density and how significant that is, I mean, on a national level we're seeing, you know, that the meat facilities in the rural areas or even look at the Teddy Roosevelt, a very compact area and just a huge explosion of cases. And I am curious in what you're seeing with the neighborhoods like Pico-Union, if that does not register the idea that the density, that the packness of your living arrangement or your working arrangement, your day-to-day movements, may be the most significant factor in whether or not you contract the disease or suffer its most severe impacts.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I wouldn't say it's the most significant factor but it's one of the most important ones. Obviously, there's speed with which you get diagnosed, one of the metrics that I am looking at is can we test anybody who has symptoms within 18 hours? I think that's a really good metric and a goal to push for. I think tracking and tracing is as important as density. We saw, for instance, in New York, it was outside New York City in New Rochelle and those communities early on that are less dense where we saw the hugest explosion. And then it did

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move into higher density areas. Manhattan had some less than some less dense areas like Queens and elsewhere.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But there is no question that density can play a role. When people live closer together and especially, as I said in these briefings early on, with families that don't have an option and one of the family members contracts COVID-19 and can't isolate away because there isn't but one bathroom, there isn't an extra bedroom for that person to go in, that those are very troubling cases. That's why I am really glad we stood up those hotel rooms so that somebody can. These aren't just for folks who are experiencing homelessness; it's for people who are in denser living arrangements to be able to get out of there because we shouldn't be looking at this like, "Hey, one member of the family gets sick, all of us are just going to get sick." We want to slow the spread and that can be one of the most dangerous things. So it's a fact. I don't think it's the biggest factor, but it certainly has influence. Thanks, Lee. Next question.

OPERATOR: Next, we go the line of Anna Almendrala with Kaiser Health News. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Anna.

ANNA ALMENDRALA: Hi, thank you so much for taking my question.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Of course.

ANNA ALMENDRALA: My first is for expanding access to testing. What's your ultimate health policy goal? Is it to aid in the reopening? Is it to help to understand the prevalence of the illness? Or is it to hand over those positive contacts to LA County for a contact tracing? And then secondly is how confident are you in the accuracy of these tests that they are using, which is now in the mouth instead of in the nose area?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So let me work backwards. We are confident in the accuracy; no tests are a 100 percent accurate where I know there's been some back and forth between nasal and mouth. We feel are equally accurate, most testing is showing that. This is the same test that the Air Force is contracting with. We've looked at that and it's a combination both of tests, the speed of being able to turn around in labs. So we feel we have hit at least a sweet spot to get to as many people as possible. There will always be an error rate from serology and virology tests, but so far so good.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In terms of what our health goals are, really, I don't define health goals but I think about them a lot. That's really for the county to determine. But I'll tell you what would be helpful for me as a decision-maker, it's more data. Yes, of course, part of it is how to return to work, and that is helpful if we can find everybody who is infected. I don't pretend that we'll have overnight four million tests in the city of LA for everybody to take daily. What we do have, though, is the ability for people who wonder and maybe who couldn't get something because they didn't have symptoms, they couldn't get a test to now be tested and to find some of

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those diamonds in the rough, make sure that we do pass those on to County Public Health so they can do the contact tracing, and also the tracking of symptoms from folks to see if it gets any worse. That's really, really important.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Secondly, I want to have more data so that we can kind of have more triggers, more hair triggers. If we are testing enough people who are asymptomatic, I can have a better sense of exactly what the infection rate is, measure that, track it day to day and then tell the city when I need to, "Hey, guys, we got to step back and become more restrictive." Or have the confidence and say, "We can hold where we are or even step forward and open things up more." If we wait the two or three weeks before we are just looking at hospital admissions or even worse, looking at deaths, that means we're two, three, four weeks behind where we should be in assessing where the virus is in any given point.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Last thing is if we ask the right questions as we're doing and as Public Health asked us to do, we can track the impact by zip code, we can track the impact by ethnicity and race, we can track the impact by gender. We haven't had a lot of discussions of that, but this is disproportionately affecting men and not women. We are seeing, of course, things like that there is in our senior facilities 40 percent to 49 percent of our deaths. So it helps us focus our public policy, our testing, so more data, more cases allow us to be able to attack this better, track it better, and ultimately, yes, open up better. So it's all of the above. Thanks. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: Next is on the line of Elizabeth Chou with LA Daily News. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Liz.

ELIZABETH CHOU: Hi, my question is about the standard testing to asymptomatic people in the city of LA. I understand that you explained that there's plenty of tests that are going unused and you don't want them to go to waste. But it sounds like the county is looking at it in more long-term way to--they're saying that there is a constrained testing supply situation right now nationally, and they want to save the tests to when it's most useful to be using them, which is I guess in their consideration is I guess in the future there would be tests needed when things are to open up. And also, testing people right now doesn't seem to be that effective if you're asymptomatic because they say that the existing Public Health orders are enough for people to be following, it being tested right now doesn't really change anything about what we would be doing. So they really want to save it for the limited situation in which there are outbreaks and things like that and where they have the most concerns. So can you talk about why you think this is a better policy than what the County has provided?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure, I think our policies are absolutely complimentary, and I keep restating that because I know folks try to make bigger divisions there are. And as recently as my discussion this afternoon with Kathryn Barger, a discussion my staff had with our counterparts, our fire chief with the county fire chief and others who are very excited about expanding to asymptomatic people to county. There is not ever one single philosophy but there really is one team when it comes to this.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: First of all, on supply, I am not worried about that. We have over 300,000 tests that are stockpiled from the folks that we get the tests from. And it's not that we are saying, "Hey, don't give those to other cities or other places, we want them for ourselves for this." They are confident that they are able to continue meeting the demands of others and be able for us to expand the number that we are doing. Secondly, I think it is, said cumulative, by the way, we can do 50,000. We think we can get up to about 50,000 a day if we need to, although there isn't even not demand including folks that don't have symptoms.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Second, we are coming close to May 15<sup>th</sup> where I do think that it's reasonable to expect some of the beginning steps forward and revising our stay-at-home order. We do want to know who asymptomatic people are, whether they are going to work in a revised order or whether they are not because they are a danger to people in their household, they are a danger when they go shopping at the market, they are a danger when they go to, you know, at the pharmacy to pick something up.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Or for those who are working on the frontlines, if they don't know that they have that, that can be very dangerous. So it's why we expanded asymptomatic tests or tests for people without symptoms to our drivers who are taking people around to get to places they need to go and taxis and rideshare, folks who are delivering as part of the delivery services. I think people wanted to know too whether they have symptoms or are COVID-19 when they are dropping our food at their front door. There's so many good reasons to be doing this, and I have to say the overwhelming response that's been positive, I got a lot of calls from a lot of doctors, public health officials from around the country, mayors today who said, "It's finally time that we do this as a nation. Thank you for leading the way." And I know that the city and county will continue to do that hand in hand, even if there is sometimes slight difference as of philosophy between individuals. There is an overwhelming consensus. We need more tests, we need them now, and since we have the capacity to do that, it's time to lead. Thanks, Liz. Next question.

OPERATOR: Our last question will be in Spanish. It goes on the line Abel Alamillo with Telemundo 52. Please, go ahead.

ABEL ALAMILLO: Hi, mayor. Regarding rents, we keep receiving numerous phone calls into our newsroom from people that are concerned about not being able to pay their monthly rent. Many of them are undocumented families who are also unemployed. What is the best advice you can give them?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So the advice is two- or threefold. One, is make sure you have a plan. Make sure you contact your landlord. And in English, in Spanish and 22 other languages, we have forms that you can fill out and send to your landlord. If you are unable to pay the rent or pay a portion of the rent. You can find those at [hclala.h-c-i-d-l-a.lacity.org](http://hclala.h-c-i-d-l-a.lacity.org). Second is there are no evictions that are allowed. We are looking every day at how we can continue strengthening that eviction moratorium, but nobody can be evicted during this, and you have 12 months, the most generous in the country, and other cities are now stepping up to copy this as well, time to repay that rent.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: So that you can plan and hope when everybody is back in a better place or starting to get the benefits that they need, starting to get a paycheck again, that they can pay that back. Third, I support the national level of getting rid of rent and getting rid of mortgages right now, and there's legislation for that that I strongly support in Congress that I hope they will pass to help both mortgage holders, the mom and pops who own some of these places and live off of these, many of them immigrants themselves, and their renters together. You have to have both being assisted or else both can crumble together.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I'm also very supportive of where folks aren't able to keep buildings, what we can do to step in and have more public housing or more social housing. I think that's a very good idea and we're looking around homelessness as well. What can we do not just to house people now, but buy to housing so that people aren't just back on the street afterwards.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So my advice is know your rights, look carefully at what we passed that protects you. Your landlord can't make you sign something. Make sure you send them a letter and pay what you can. If you have some ability to pay, please do. And my heart goes out especially to immigrants and people who live with immigrants, who this federal government refused to help. You know, you could be living with somebody who is an undocumented immigrant, if you're married to them, you couldn't get as an American citizen, the help that every other American taxpayer got as a part of this federal relief.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I just think that is flat-out wrong. It's one of the reasons we've pushed forward the Angeleno card that will help now 60,000 people, if folks have applied, my advice is hang on as we get more money like we did tonight from the Murphys. That's something that will help thousands and thousands of people more. So those things together can help people and also my last point will be make sure that you know that not only you can you not be evicted, but afterwards if you get harassed by a bad landlord trying to evict you, we will be building up more legal defense to allow you to have a lawyer to help defend you. I'll answer that in Spanish now as well. And before I do that, I just want to thank everybody who is tuned in in English. Thank you again to the class of 2020. And I'm told I have one more English question, so let me answer it in Spanish and then I'll the English question.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, brevemente en español yo quiero decir también, por los inquilinos en la ciudad de Los Ángeles, ustedes tiene derechos, y toda información está en el sitio de Internet [hcidla.lacity.org](http://hcidla.lacity.org). Este es nuestro Departamento de la Vivienda. Tenemos formas en español para asistirte con la información que usted necesita enviar a sus dueños de sus apartamentos. No hay evicciones, desalojos, no hay desalojos durante esta crisis, y ustedes tienen 12 meses para pagar su renta. Es importante tener un plan. Es importante comunicar con su dueño, y yo apoyo también la legislación a nivel federal para tomar la renta, tomar el dinero por los mortgages que los dueños necesitan pagar y dar asistencia a todos los inquilinos y los dueños en los Estados Unidos durante esta crisis.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Y es mi esperanza que con esta legislación no será necesaria pagar su renta, pagar su mortgage como dueños, pero esto solamente es una propuesta ahora en

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Washington. Finalmente tenemos programas como la tarjeta Angelena a dar asistencia directa a las familias de Los Ángeles, especialmente a los inmigrantes. Es un crimen que los líderes en Washington no están ayudando a nuestros inmigrantes, especialmente a los inmigrantes sin documentos, y aquí en Los Ángeles toda la gente son igual, toda la gente son parte integral de Los Ángeles, y nosotros defenderemos los derechos de los inmigrantes.

MAYOR GARCETTI: With that I'll take the last English question. Thank you.

OPERATOR: We go to the line of Claudia Peschiutta with KNX Radio. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Claudia.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: Hi. Thanks for coming back to me.

MAYOR GARCETTI: No problem.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: I think the County Health Services director made it pretty clear that the city and county testing policies are not complementary at the moment, but anyway, I get what you are saying about not letting tests go to waste and expanding testing to identify silent spreaders, but with the big stockpile of tests that you mentioned that the ability to get many more. I'm wondering why not offer them to the county to first catch silent spreaders in nursing homes and other institutional settings with deaths are mounting and what we know that there're thousands and thousands of people at high risk of serious illness and death before opening up testing to low-risk-asymptomatic people. Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure. Look, I want to be very clear that we are not a complementary, we are working together every single day. We help built the portal that the county and city uses together. We're using the same purveyors. We are working together side by side. You may find a disagreement now and again, but we are absolutely one team. Secondly, the county doesn't need to go through the city for those tests. We use the same company, so that's something that the county can do today, they can make those decisions for all the nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities today. But we've worked really closely together, and I want to say the county has done a marvelous job.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Barbara Ferrer has stood up in institutional settings, folks early on when there's outbreaks, whether it's at a private homeless shelter like the Union Rescue Mission, whether it's in our senior homes, whether they're in the city or not, we are working really hand and glove and we try to add capacity and surge capacity, as I mentioned, starting this week, we had six teams now that when we hear about outbreaks, rush in and can help a senior facility get testing. We've mandated now that those senior facilities, by the way, who don't necessarily need free help to do it, they are businesses that run and should be able to purchase these tests. We mandated that they must, in the city of Los Angeles, offer those tests to employees and to residents each month.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: So we're absolutely putting a high priority on that. We're doing the same thing people who are experiencing homelessness. We stood up here actually around city hall today, free testing for folks that are in the civic center, we've doing that down in San Pedro. We've done it in Skid Row day after day and with service providers. Bottom line is each one of those places still have tests each day too. So it's a much better point today than it was 40 days ago. There are enough tests and the county can make those decisions, the city can make those decisions.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We don't always have to agree but I'll continue to lead forward and lean in. We know that this is a silent killer. We know that there are people who are asymptomatic and we know that they can spread, and that was something that's been crystal-clear to me from every health official I've talked from the beginning. So I'm really proud and it was a good success today. Thanks. I'm going now transition to my Spanish for the rest of this presentation. Thank you again everybody who's tuned in, especially the class of 2020 and Michele will be joining me for the Spanish as well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Muy buenas tardes, Los Ángeles. Esta noche es un placer estar aquí con Michele Siqueiros, presidente de la Campaña para la Oportunidad Universitaria para hablar sobre cómo estamos ayudando a la clase de 2020. Esta mañana estuve en el centro comunitario All Peoples en el Sur de Los Ángeles. En nuestro centro de recursos familiares localizado allí estuvimos distribuyendo docenas de tarjetas Angelenos con ayuda directa en efectivo para algunos de los hogares más afectados por la crisis. Este trabajo es urgente. Hoy hubo un aumento en solicitudes para seguro de desempleo.

MAYOR GARCETTI: En total tenemos 30 millones de residentes sin empleo en nuestro país. Continuaremos haciendo todo lo posible para proteger la vida y sustento para todos en Los Ángeles. Ahora como siempre, les comparto los datos de hoy. Hoy hubieron 733 nuevos casos en el condado de los Ángeles, llegando a un total de 23,182. En la ciudad tuvimos 483 nuevos casos, llegando a un total de 10,863. Hoy fallecieron 55 personas más en el condado, llegando a un total de 1,111 muertes. Y lo siento mucho para las familias que están sufriendo con el resultado de esto.

MAYOR GARCETTI: En nuestros hospitales, buenas noticias. Tenemos 1,126 camas disponibles hoy, entre ellas 221 están en las unidades de cuidados intensivos, y tenemos 1,213 respiradores. Y nuestra capacidad para hacer pruebas también nos ayuda en esta lucha. Anoche anuncié que todos pueden obtener una prueba gratis en Los Ángeles, tengan síntomas o no. Ahora tenemos 34 sitios de pruebas en la ciudad y el condado, y tenemos capacidad para hacer pruebas a 18,000 personas al día, y para el fin de hoy habremos hecho pruebas a 154,000 personas en el condado en estos sitios.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Puedes hacer una cita para una prueba en la página [coronavirus.lacity.org/testing](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/testing) o llama al 213-978-1028. Para nuestros estudiantes, yo sé que esta crisis les ha afectado el fin de año y sus celebraciones, y es muy, muy difícil. Esta noche me dirijo a ustedes, la clase de 2020, para hablar de su futuro. Mañana es el día de firmando de colegio, de college signing, la última fecha para someter su formulario expresando su intención

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para matricularse. Y me imagino que la decisión de seguir adelante con su plan para la universidad debe ser muy difícil en este momento, pero quiero ser muy claro. Esta pandemia no debe robar sus sueños. Por eso me uní con LA Compact para conectar a jóvenes con un representante de la universidad donde han sido aceptados para ayudarles a navegar el proceso. Lanzamos la página [coronavirus.lacity.org/collegeconnect](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/collegeconnect) donde cualquier estudiante que se gradúa en la clase de 2020 puede llenar sus datos, y alguien se comunicará contigo dentro de 48 horas. Ahora les presento a Michele Siqueiros para hablar un poco más sobre este tema. Gracias, Michele.

**MICHELE SIQUEIROS:** Buenas tardes y mil gracias a nuestro alcalde de Los Ángeles que se preocupa por todos sus residentes y en especial hoy la clase del 2020. Yo crecí aquí en Los Ángeles. Soy hija de padres inmigrantes que trabajaron muy duro porque tenían grandes sueños para mí, y como la primera en mi familia que asistió a la universidad, solo por esa razón mis sueños se hicieron realidad. Ahora como presidenta de la Campaña para la Oportunidad de la Universidad, puedo luchar al lado de nuestro alcalde para asegurarse que sus hijos también puedan decirle sí a la universidad para que esos sueños se hagan realidad. Mañana es el 1 de mayo. Es el día tradicionalmente reconocido como el día que nuestros hijos firman su aceptación a la universidad. Excepto por, obviamente, este 1 de mayo no es tradicional de ninguna manera.

**MICHELE SIQUEIROS:** La clase de 2020 está enfrentando esta decisión con mucha incertidumbre. Como padre de una estudiante en su último año en la preparatoria de LAUSD, yo también lo estoy enfrentando con mi hija. También me duele ver la cancelación de ceremonias, de premios, noches de graduación, graduaciones y celebraciones con amigos y familia, pero no podemos permitir que la forma en que este año escolar esté terminando supere los 12 años de dedicación y trabajo duro que sus hijos han hecho. El valor de una educación universitaria nunca ha sido más importante.

**MICHELE SIQUEIROS:** Durante sus vidas los graduados de la universidad gana más de un millón de dólares cuando se compara a alguien se graduó de la preparatoria. Y en estos inciertos tiempos económicos, quiero que sepan que los graduados universitarios son más protegidos. Los graduados universitarios tienen tasas más bajas de desempleo y pobreza. Ellos son más probables de ser dueños de una casa, iniciar un negocio pequeño y mucho más. El mensaje final es que la universidad vale la pena. Mientras que esté pandémico puede estar posponiendo graduaciones, proms, actividades de los graduados y tiempo que estaríamos con familia celebrando, lo que no pude hacer es posponer sus sueños.

**MICHELE SIQUEIROS:** El alcalde y yo sabemos de primera mano por nuestra propia experiencia que seguir nuestros sueños, ir a la universidad vale la pena, y por eso si a su hijo o su hija lo han admitido a su colegio, a una universidad, te recomendamos que digas sí a esa invitación. Esta crisis terminará. El pandémico correrá su curso para los estudiantes de la clase 2020, y queremos verte en camino a realizar tus sueños y graduarte de la universidad. A los hijos les digo directamente, tú mereces ir, mereces estudiar, mereces lograr todos tus sueños porque tú te has esforzado para recibir esa invitación, y al ir a la universidad harás nuestra ciudad de Los Ángeles mejor y más fuerte.

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MICHELE SIQUEIROS: Aunque les urgimos inscribirse en la universidad este otoño, sabemos que algunos de ustedes no van a poder hacerlo. Tal vez quieran quedarse más cerca de casa, y por eso aquí con el alcalde estamos listos para apoyarlos para asegurarles que tendrán más opciones y ayuda. Por lo tanto continuaremos urgiendo a los colegios y universidades que empujen del 1 de mayo al 1 de junio, el día en que necesitan saber de ustedes si pueden asistir a la universidad. Agradecemos que muchas universidades ya lo han hecho. Si su estudiante, su hijo o hija, no puede decir sí hoy mismo, me uno con el alcalde para decir que estamos trabajando juntos para apoyarlos. La Campaña para la Oportunidad de la Universidad ha estado en el negocio de realizar sueños universitarios para californianos a través de este estado, y el virus no nos parará. Para los estudiantes, tus sueños son más grandes que este pandémico y la ciudad de Los Ángeles está aquí para ayudarte a lograrlos. Gracias.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Gracias, Michele, por sus palabras poderosas e importantes, y gracias por su presencia hoy. Hoy tuve la oportunidad de conocer angelenos quienes han recibido su tarjeta angeleno para ayudarles durante esta crisis. Valeria, por ejemplo, perdió su empleo en una planta de fabricación en marzo. Y Ana, madre soltera de El Salvador, perdió su empleo en un centro de cuidado. Mientras esperan su seguro de desempleo, la tarjeta angeleno las ayuda a comprar comida, cuidar a sus familias y pagar sus facturas. Estos son dos hogares entre los más de 15,000 que recibirán su tarjeta de angeleno y hay más en camino para ayudar a 45,000 personas en total.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Pero ahora, podremos ayudar aun más personas gracias a una donación de 5 millones de dólares que recibimos hoy de Bobby Murphy y su esposa Kelsey. Gracias a su generosidad, ahora podremos distribuir 20,000 tarjetas en total para ayudar a 60,000 angelenos. Si puede donar, por favor visite la página [mayorsfund.la.org/angeleno](http://mayorsfund.la.org/angeleno). Les recuerdo que nadie está solo en esta lucha. Estamos aquí para apoyarlos. Si les falta esperanza sepan que estamos aquí para ayudarles mientras tanto quédense en buena salud, quédense protegidos, y quédense en casa. Mucha fuerza y mucho amor. Gracias Los Ángeles. Hasta mañana. See you tomorrow.