

## Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening, Los Angeles, and a good Monday to you all. Today was a day that I know all of us as Californians have been waiting for for some time. We heard Governor Newsom talk about a framework and some of the steps to open up our society and our economy in the days and weeks ahead. What I liked about what I heard was how it allows folks in counties to do what make sense in their region, to make sure that we develop the metrics that are important to us, to track this virus where we live and where we are, and to take forward steps to give us all hope that where we live today is indeed not our final destination, even as we accept that live would be changed for some time. We know the steps are important as is assessing each one of those steps.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And my promise to each and every one of you is that we will continue to be guided by, first, the medical advice we get from Public Health professionals; second, by making sure that we are not just saving lives but thinking about people's livelihoods as well. And that, third, we will always share all of our decision-making and all of our data with you, as soon as I get it, it is yours. These are the three things that have allowed us to make such progress in these past few weeks that have allowed us to save lives and that've prepared us for the days that are ahead. But I want to prepare you, these won't be easy days and they won't be normal days and we won't be rushing back to something we once knew for some time. But I have deep faith in the reservoir of generosity, in the strength of the discipline that you have shown, in the hard work ethic that is Los Angeles and the creativity and the love that surrounds us every single day.

MAYOR GARCETTI: LA County has saved countless lives, and our death rate is lower than the national average thanks to what you have done. But we nevertheless have suffered about half of the state's COVID-19-related deaths. And our timing on opening may vary from other parts of the state. We're a very diverse California, from very densely populated urban environments to sparsely populated areas where the density is much lower and where there is much more outdoor and open space. So it's important that we hear the governor know he isn't talking to all of us in exactly the same way. He's brought together a framework that then requires us do the hard work here to determine what is right for Los Angeles just as other counties are determining that for the places that they live as well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So in the coming days together with my fellow mayors and councilmembers in cities across Los Angeles County, led by our board of supervisors and our Public Health Department, we will make these decisions together. We will ensure that we are marching all on the same line. We're hard at work right now detailing what will reopen and perhaps just as important as what, how we will reopen. And I've always promised to tell you the good news and the hard truths together. It's been the hallmark of our communication, it is that there is good news each night and also sad and tough truths to face. And I will reopen our city with careful consideration, guided by the advice of Public Health professionals. And what we should already ourselves for is a new normal, no matter what is open or closed. Even as things may reopen in certain areas in the coming weeks, we still need to practice physical distancing even as our gathering places reopen, we still need to wear face coverings when prescribed. And all of us have to do our work to save lives because with new freedoms will come new responsibilities as well.

## Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I am here to lift up our hopes, and I hope that the news of a phase reopening does just that, we've been thirsty for that, for I know so many days and weeks and now months. But I am also here to share those hard truths that I mentioned, and I want you to listen careful and hear me when I say, "It's going to be tough for a while." This is hard, this hurts but this is our new normal. We've arrived at this place where we can even talk about what we will open because of you, because of the sacrifices you have made. This is the leadership out of a mayor or board of supervisors or government, it's the collective ten million of us here in Los Angeles County that have led every single time you've made a good decision, every single time you've stayed at home, every single time you've worn the proper face covering, every single time you've used discretion instead of aggression as the way that we move forward.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And the sacrifices you have made and the steps that we will take forward and back, because it will be sometimes steps forward and sometimes steps back depending on where this virus is. They will depend on you, on each one of us. And we can only move forward together because there is one thing I've learned about this virus, it thrives on division, this virus exploits division. But when we are unified, we can beat this virus and we have to keep that unity marching forward. We'll take and we'll make missteps. It'll take two, three, four weeks sometimes when we take steps to realize that infections have gone up. But we'll learn, we'll get smarter and we all, as we always have, we'll take swift action to save lives and to correct our course. And if we are committed to that together, I have tremendous confidence in the weeks and months ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We'll move forward faster by listening to scientists and heading data, not by inviting ignorance but by following the facts. So let's start with tonight's facts as I always do and give you your data snapshot. Today the county reported 568 new positive diagnosed COVID-19 cases; bring the total to 26,217 cases. This is a 2% increase since yesterday. For comparison, the past seven days have seen an average daily increase of 854 new cases. Here in the city those numbers are 225 new cases, 12,525 total, also a 2% increase since yesterday. And today in the county we've learned about 28 additional deaths; this brings our total to 1,256 loved ones that we have lost since this began here in Los Angeles County. That's a 2% increase and the past seven days have seen an average 46 people dying or being confirmed as having died each day, and we're still mourn each family and community grieving a loss.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Across the county, our hospital system remains resilient and strong, 1,276 available beds, 235 ICU beds in that mix, and an inventory of 1,113 available ventilators. This is a key measure moving forward; any nights where you see those numbers come down is a night we have to assess where we are at. But nights without holes means our work is continuing and it's good work moving forward. There are currently 1,819 of our fellow residents who are suffering from COVID-19 that are admitted into hospitals. And there have been 5,019 admitted since this crisis began. That's a 139 net new, some people left, some people came in, but 139 net new since Friday. And today, we have the capacity to test 18,500 people. It's an amazing number considering where we started. And by the end of today, we will have tested just under 200,000 people, 194,000 to be exact.

## Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: And tonight I can announce the opening of two additional testing sites, one at Northridge Fashion Center and another at Baldwin Hill Crenshaw Plaza. This is our fourth site in the San Fernando Valley, our fifth site in South LA. Drive-thru testing will begin in both locations starting on Wednesday, and appointment sign-ups are open right now. And I'm also glad to announce that beginning on Wednesday we will extend the testing hours that we have to deal with the capacity and the convenience of these sites. Each of these sites will now be testing through 5:00 p.m. to allow more people to be tested each day. And as always we are so grateful to Los Angeles Fire Department men and women and our partners at CORE for helping get these new sites up and running. They become a national model now visiting cities across the nation to help them stand up testing centers as well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And every week we are growing this testing capacity and for the data to be meaningful and helpful, we need to make sure every slot is filled. So sign up, get tested at [coronavirus.lacity.org/testing](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/testing) or call us at 213-978-1028 business hours or 311 after 5:00 p.m. I cannot overstate the work we need to continue to do to strengthen testing at our skilled nursing facilities. These facilities are home to people who are at increased risk of COVID-19 severe symptoms and possibly dying. And 40 percent of deaths statewide have occurred at nursing homes.

MAYOR GARCETTI: When we talk about stopping the spread, when we talk about saving lives, that challenge is greatest at these nursing facilities, and it is among the highest priorities for our Department of Public Health at the county. We've addressed this head-on by surging teams starting with one, then three, now six mobile testing teams that can surge in and on top of that, we've mandated the first city in the country that facilities provide free monthly testing for the residents and their workforce. Since April 8<sup>th</sup> the city has tested over 7,100 residents and staff of skilled nursing facilities. And our mobile teams plan to visit every single skilled nursing facility in the city to make sure testing is available.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But this only works if people living and working in these facilities know how, where, and when testing is available to them. So tonight I am updating my April 24<sup>th</sup> order and effective immediately all skilled nursing facilities in the city of Los Angeles are required to hand-deliver notices to all residents and workers which include the last date testing was offered and the next day that it will be offered. We've seen heartbreaking stories in the news; we know relatives and others that had wanted tests. These notices would ensure that they happen and it must be updated and circulated once a month and at least two days prior to when testing will be next provided. And an up-to-date notice must be publically displayed at the main entrance of every facility and provided to anyone in the media, the government or the public who asked for it. Our residents deserve nothing less.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This order will provide important accountability and potentially lifechanging, life-saving resources as we continue to navigate this health emergency together. You see, since day one we've always acted to protect those in our city who is the most vulnerable whether it's our seniors, whether it's people experiencing homelessness, whether it's frontline healthcare workers, people in our grocery stores, and driving our cars, we've made sure that they and first responders have the access to the protection that they need.

## Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: For those who are experiencing homelessness, it's a particular vulnerable population that often has underlying health conditions that also make them just like seniors vulnerable to severe symptoms and death. We've opened up 24 new temporary shelters at rec centers across Los Angeles. They are currently at 87 percent capacity, and I know I had a question about folks who want to get in, who are demanding more beds. Beds are available right now for folks who need to get in and calling 211 it is the best way to access those. We have 900 people safe and healthy in those, and we've also partnered with our city's hospitality sector to bring vulnerable people off the streets through Project Roomkey, a partnership with the state and the county, the city of LA and cities across Los Angeles County. This helps give badly needed revenue toward our hotels and motels, puts people back to work while protecting the lives of those people experiencing homelessness and saving the lives of all of us by ensuring spread of COVID-19 slows down.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Over the weekend, the county secured an additional 505 motel rooms, a huge 25 percent boost bringing our total of 2,711 rooms countywide, and thank you for that critical work, Los Angeles County. And tonight, I can announce the city has secured a large hotel downtown, in the heart of downtown delivering more than 460 new rooms which increases our total to more than 3,000 hotel and motel rooms as part of Project Roomkey. And it's also expected to bring more than 100 people back to work. This is a win, win, win for everybody, for Public Health, for our fight against homelessness, and for workers who are out of work. Because this is our first large downtown hotel, and because it's closer to the epicenter of our homeless crisis in Skid Row, it will boost our efforts to support Angelenos who are at the greatest risk of dying from this virus.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And even though this first downtown hotel represents big progress towards housing more Angelenos, we are continuing to look for others. As I mentioned on Friday, over 800 hotels we've called to date. But keep in mind, many of the newer world-class hotels nearby are very expensive. We don't want to overspend taxpayer dollars. We wouldn't be able to bring in as many people off the street from our city into rooms. So by finding the most affordable hotels we can and being fiscally responsible, we can continue helping the largest number of people who are experiencing homelessness, and hopefully putting those days behind. Each hotel brings new hope; each room could save a life. And hotel and motel operators are ambassadors of the Angeleno's spirit. So if you want to step up and help, please let us know and go to [coronavirus.lacity.org/rooms](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/rooms).

MAYOR GARCETTI: We are saving lives by supporting our most vulnerable neighbors. A clear example of that is how we are feeding our seniors, those who are homebound can't cook or get meals for themselves. We've already scaled from 5,000 to 12,000 seniors and doubled the number of meals per senior going from 25,000 to 120,000 meals home delivered each week. This past Friday we, through a state and FEMA program, kicked off a greater expansion of senior meals here in Los Angeles.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We called it the second phase of our senior meal emergency response and we expanded to 3,000 more seniors to date, partnering with the Hospitality Training

## Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020

Academy which is working with four hotels and hospitality kitchens that have hired back now 106 workers who didn't have a paycheck, as well as three taxi cab companies, LA Yellow Cab, United Checker Cab and Bell Cab with 50 drivers. We put more than 200 people back to work. So if you are in need of a home-delivered meal and you're 65 or over, or 60 to 64 with an underlying medical condition and you're not already enrolled in another meal program, call us, please, at 213-263-5226 or you can go online to [coronavirus.lacity.org/SeniorsMeals](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/SeniorsMeals). We have folks ready to answer your calls between 9:00 and 5:00 and the Internet is 24 hours.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We will also be partnering with restaurants as demand for meals increases. So if you're a restaurant that is ready to step up and help meet this need, go to the same website, [coronavirus.lacity.org/SeniorsMeals](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/SeniorsMeals), I think I said meals, /SeniorsMeals, and sign up. We want to get your restaurant back in business and your workers back to work. Whether it's seniors or whether it's Angelenos experiencing homelessness, we are focused on protecting the people who are hardest hit by this crisis while we protect everybody. Meeting that mission also means supporting the working families who may have one missed pay check away from eviction before COVID-19 and now face an unprecedented threat to their health and their economic security.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Having just passed the first of the month, I want to, again, encourage renters to notify your landlords if you're unable to make rent because of the impact of this novel coronavirus. The state recommends that you make this notification within 7 days after the due date, and also, it's important to remember our city does not compel anyone to provide this notice or documentation, but we do strongly urge you to do that as soon as possible. And for us the most important step to communicate with your landlords is making sure that they and you are talking, making sure that we never forget the only way to endure this though moment is by working together, and there are resources available for you at our housing website. That is at [hcidla.lacity.org](https://hcidla.lacity.org).

MAYOR GARCETTI: And we continue to support national legislation to help mortgages payments and rental payments be forgiven. That's a priority that I hope this congress will adopt and our president will sign in the next round of CARES Act. For families and households across our city, throughout our country and around the world, this outbreak has forced us out of our usual routines. We are still feeling topsy-turvy, we're feeling like our worlds are upside down. It's altered how we socialize and interact, stay in touch with grandparents or practice our faith. It's led us to seek new ways to interact, engage and communicate. For kids and for students and their parents, that's meant learning a new vocabulary about distance learning and Zoom classrooms, breakout sessions and more.

MAYOR GARCETTI: For teachers, you had to come up with brand-new approach to education, mostly on the fly with no notice, and as we enter teacher appreciation week, I hope all of us take a moment to recognize the immense work and effort that goes into teaching our children in these trying circumstances and say thank you to our teachers, thank you for stepping up to this moment, thank you for giving your heart to our children and thank you for using your heads about ways we will get through this without our children falling behind. If you are a student, think about what it takes for your teachers to plan those lessons, pay for the supplies out of their

## Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020

own pockets and go the extra mile to be available to answer questions tutoring anything you need. For parents will never ask what do teacher actually do, we've experienced who tough these jobs are and also how important they are.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And for all of us, let's think about how much time and love the teachers pore into their professions, their calling, and consider how they are going above and beyond the call by doing it all without the normal environment, yet with the same energy and effort each day. So let's thank on teacher this week, let's show our kids and ourselves what will be required to return to the classrooms and schoolhouses in the months ahead by the behavior we have by staying healthy and staying safe and by staying at home. Better days are ahead, and we will get through this together with strength and with love, Los Angeles. Thank you as always. And with that I'm happy to answer questions. Thank you. I'll take the first question.

OPERATOR: The first, we turn to line of Kevin Rector with LA Times. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Kevin.

KEVIN RECTOR: Hi, sir. You joined more than dozen another mayors in the Giffords Organization on Friday to ask Congress for more federal funding like crime and support violence interrupters. Is that too backfill cuts in your budget for such gang intervention work? And how much are you looking for?

MAYOR GARCETTI: No, we are not looking to backfill, but we did have to make some cuts. We've always been looking for expanding some of the best, I believe in country, models that we have for gang reduction and youth development programs. Many of you know the story of how those started years ago, I was a councilmember and lost a young woman in my district who was walking with her boyfriend, a teenager who'd never been in any trouble but somebody shot her in the back and killed her two blocks away from where a park had been open. Together with my predecessor, Mayor Villaraigosa and I was present at council, we started building ways to keep parks open in the summertime and now into the fall, how could get former gang members in youth intervention specialists lined up to be able to get between, you know, guns when there was always escalation and intervene, and more important, also do the preventative work.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, no, we just believe deeply that we know when we can stop gun violence we can save lives. You know, before COVID-19 we saw this as, obviously, one of the toughest killers in our city, and while we see crime down at historic lows, go to certain neighborhoods and too many people still feel unsafe, but it is not to backfill. We made not cuts in the overall programs, we swept some dollars and said, "You are going to have to do that with less," but any new money that we get allows us to go to new neighborhoods that are right on the cusp, that could become much safer with this sort of intervention.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I've always believed that, and ask any the police officer, they agree, the best way to stop the bullet is with jobs and programs, not more policing, and we can change those relationships between community and the police department as we have with some of the best cases like our Community Safety Partnership, which puts officers in a neighborhood for five

## Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020

years instead of just a year or two. We'd like to see that expand. So we are proud to be part of that coalition, proud to have a call for more money. We don't have, I don't think, a specific amount, but certainly here in Los Angeles, if you look at what we could spend, I think we probably have a half or a third of what we need in those programs. They've done a miraculous job but we could always use more. Thanks for the question. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: Next, we turn to the line of Claudia Peschiutta with KNX News Radio. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Claudia. Happy Monday.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: Hi. I have two questions. I'm wondering how long on average people who go to the city's testing sites are waiting for their results? You said part of desire to expand the testing is to catch silent spreaders but for that to work, you'd have to have a pretty quick turnaround. The second question is on Project Roomkey. You were asked on Friday about the idea of commandeering hotel rooms and noted that the rooms that were they available were not filled. I spoke with Heidi Marsden today at LAHSA who said the rooms are no going unfilled due to a lack of demand, there is definitely a huge demand. There are a lot of people still waiting for rooms. Part of it is just facing it out to not overwhelm facilities or trying to find locations that are close to where people are actually living. So, can you address to those issues? Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure, of course. Yeah, one, I completely agree with Heidi. It takes too long sometimes but that's not the fault of very hard workers on the street. We are trying to make that, those matches, but right now that backlog isn't being slowed down. Was my central point by there not being enough beds. There's enough beds to meet that. We need to scale up both beds and shorten the time that people can get into them. And so that's why I always to share that news of nearly a thousand, well, a little bit over a thousand new rooms just in the last three days since I spoke to you which is, I think, an increase of nearly 50 percent. That's great news. It shows the pace is happening, and now with that, let's focus on getting people in it more quickly.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In terms of the results, it's about 30 hours as average for the turnaround for testing right now. So it's pretty quick. I mean, in an ideal world, and that's not something the city can singlehandedly do, obviously, but we've had a great relationship with the labs that we've been working and even those are quick turnaround s nationally, some of the best in the nation. That doesn't mean everybody always get 30 hours, it may take sometimes 2 days, some people had early on, gone longer and occasionally you still got a case or two that for whatever reason gets lost someplace in response, but we're good at tracking those down, and people call us, please call the helpline if it's taken, you know, more than 3 days.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But no question, to your main point, and something I'd really like to continue working with our state and our working with our county on is to make sure that we do have the tracking and tracing as well as the quick turnaround on testing. And it's not just how long does a test take to get the results back, it's also how quickly can we guarantee somebody can get into testing with symptoms and we're met kind of with that national threshold is, people

**Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020**

said within 24 hours. I'd like that to be down to 18 or even 12. Obviously, we have the testing centers closed from 5:00 now at night till 9:00 in the morning, so there're might be more than 12 hours, but we should be able to turn that around quickly 'cause we need to make sure we get them in there if they have symptoms. Secondly, be able to turn around, and as you mentioned, for people without symptoms who we are trying to track down, we also need that quick turnaround time, but it's about 30 hours on average right now. Thanks. Next question, please.

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

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Elex. How are you?

ELEX MICHAELSON: H, mayor. Happy Monday, hope you had a nice weekend.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you, you too.

ELEX MICHAELSON: On the downtown hotel, which hotel are you talking about? And if you can't tell us, why can't you? And on the biggest, most important question of the day, are we looking at retail businesses opening up in Los Angeles on Friday for curbside delivery? Is that what you think is going to happen?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, I hope that tomorrow or Wednesday at the latest, myself and some, couple of other mayors as we remember on March 19<sup>th</sup> stood together when we took the final action of the stay-at-home order, we now got together with Kathryn Barger, representing her incredible colleagues on the board of supervisors, each of them who has done a stellar job, Hilda Solis, Mark Ridley-Thomas, Sheila Kuehl and Janice Hahn, that we stood there with Dr. Ferrer to announce that I hope that we can go through how we'll reopen and then later in the week talk about what will reopen.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Our order runs through the 15<sup>th</sup>, I'm listening very closely to Dr. Ferrer and others about how to do that safely so just when the state opens that up, it doesn't mean that every place is ready or that has all of the regulations, but we've been busily working on those things together. So, in terms of Friday curbside delivery, that is not my expectation this week but that is very fluid. It is my expectation that by the 15<sup>th</sup> we'll be able to take those steps forward. I hope that that will be in places like retail and recreation and we may be able to do that in some small areas even before next Friday. In terms of the downtown hotel, I've been told not to say what the name is, obviously, so it can get open and running, help people get there and to safeguard the privacy of the folks that are there but if that changes, I'd be happy to share that with you in the future but that's what I've been asked by the project. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: Next we turn to the line of Steve Gregory with KFI News. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Steve. How it's going?

STEVE GREGORY: Mayor, good evening. Thank you, I'm well, thank you. I'm well. Are you concerned at all with the case number going up and, you know, despite the fact that the



## Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020

governor is wanting to start to reopen some things and to slow rollout, if you will, but are you worried at all as cases continue to raise? This could be a little too premature? I mean, do you support fully what the governor is doing? Secondly, I'm wondering if you are concerned at all looking back at the timeline with the sense of urgency of the release of inmates within the county and the city of Los Angeles and the urgency that that happened when the same urgency did not apply for evacuating nursing homes and getting them into independent care or into the field hospitals and trying to sort of curb that as quickly as they did on the early release of inmates? Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure. Let me take that first one first. I think the seniors and inmates are very different because they are best cared for, actually where we have nurses. In these skilled nursing facilities we wouldn't have had that level of care in any of the field hospitals or anyplace else, but it does concern me. Our senior nursing facilities, which is why I've talked about them so aggressively, put this order in place, revised it again today.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In terms of inmates in general in general, it is extremely dangerous. We're seeing in the federal prison on Terminal Island, the largest outbreak in the federal system, at least percentagewise, I think is half of the inmates there as well as deaths have occurred, while it's not technically city land because it's owned by the federal government, that's right here in the Southland and that was incredibly tragic to see. That said, I hope that we are doing these releases with some measure of maybe some options of where we can keep people who are particularly prolific, incarcerated in safer settings than the congregate jails because as we saw, some people are becoming these multiple offenders two or three crimes in two or three days.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I forgot what the exact statistic, but if I remember correctly, it was something like over 10 percent of the crimes being caused by just 3 percent of the people who were released. That does trouble me. So I hope as we learning things about COVID-19 how to respond better to public spaces, how to protect people, that we come up with some better solutions than just the mass incarceration. Though I do support that folks who are there for lowlevel crimes, non-violent crimes who are, who we can still track and who can still come back to court and can still do their time or pay their penalties, we should not be killing them by keeping them in jails and prisons as we're seeing in other cities. So I think that's sound. In terms to the first, my concern about opening up. Absolutely, every single day I'm concerned about opening up. That's what I stay up late, you know, gnashing my teeth about because the responsibility I have to the city and the moves that we make as a city within this county and as an example nationwide have human consequences.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So what I like about what the government has done is he hasn't said all of California must do this. He has said, California can do this. Now it is up to counties to figure out where they are at. In Modoc, where they have 9,000 people, almost no cases and a lot of space, not only can they probably move to where he is talking about on Friday. They may be able to qualify for phase 2.5 or whatever he called it today, which allows people to be self-certified by their county, supervisors and the county public health officer to say that they can go even a little further. In a denser of an environment like Los Angeles, it's going to be different. And sometimes it will be slower, and I know that will be frustrating to people. But I

**Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020**

just want people to know I am never making those decisions based on anything political. I am not making those decisions based on ignorance. I am making those decisions based on advice from the people who are the medical professionals who tell us where we should move forward or who advise us, "If you want to try to go forward, this is how you can do it." We believe in the safest possible manner.

MAYOR GARCETTI: It is going to be a very imperfect science, but it's one that we can assess quickly if we're smart, learn from the mistakes or missteps, go further with the ones we do successfully, and I think we already have a pretty good record. Construction early on, a lot of concerns. We've shown how to do that successfully without an outbreak in large numbers in the construction industry. That is a great example. Other parts of the county, other parts of the world we have seen people make missteps and boom, it goes right back up. And I remind people what we saw in some place like New York can still be LA in a matter of just a few weeks if we do this wrong.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So I would much rather take these steps carefully, have a regular check-in, do them together as a county than rush just to score points and say, "Look, we opened everything up." The last thing I will say is I know this isn't just about politics for people, this is about their livelihoods. So wherever we can stretch and remember there are people suffering and they don't have money and they need to pay their rent and feed their families, that is also what guides me together with saving lives. And so, yes, to answer the question succinctly, of course. I am concerned about opening up too soon, but I am confident that what we built here is the right coalition to march together and I look forward to announcing that together with my county colleagues later this week. Thanks. Next question.

OPERATOR: Next, we turn to the line of Erika Martin with KTLA. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, good evening.

ERIKA MARTIN: Hi, Mayor Garcetti. Thanks for your time.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Always.

ERIKA MARTIN: I have a question related to reopen, well, to private gatherings. Aside from businesses in open spaces reopening, when do you think people would be able to gather in groups ten or smaller again? You know--

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure.

ERIKA MARTIN: -- ehind closed doors?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yeah. I think that is a thing that public health professionals have told us that, you know, as we go through, I don't like really the term phases or stages because it implies you are always going to be moving forward and sometimes we are going to move forward, sometimes backwards, so I will call it levels for now. But in each one of these levels, level one,

**Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020**

we are not permitted to be together at all. Level two, there's guidance that maybe no crowds more than 10 people. When you get to the third evolution, maybe you can get to folks who are 25 or 50. So those are the sorts of members. I hope that the county can advise us on that we can give the feedback to and we can come to some sort of agreement this week, so when we get together as a group and share that, we can put that forward.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But there is no question that I do believe there's safe ways to be able to do that. We have shown that. People who are working together now have shown how to do physical distancing. But none of these rules work if we don't adhere to washing our hands, wearing our facial coverings, practicing physical distancing, even as we are allowed to come together. So I am confident we can take those steps, but I am only confident that the steps will succeed if we all adhere to that guidance. So I hope, as I mentioned the last question later this week, we'll be able to announce some of those things together with Los Angeles County and other cities here in LA. But I do believe that would be a part of the next step. Thank you. Next question.

OPERATOR: And next we turn to the line of Mary Beth McDade with Channel 5 News. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Mary Beth.

MARY BETH MCDADE: Hi, Mr. Mayor, how are you?

MAYOR GARCETTI: I am good. Thank you. You?

MARY BETH MCDADE: Good! But just to follow up on a question. I forgot who else asked it, but to follow up on it. So, you know, with it being said that I know we can't open everything all at once too quickly, that that would be too deadly. But what I am confused about is, you know, right now we can go pick up food curbside safely. Why don't you see us not being able to pick up flowers or books curbside until at least May 15<sup>th</sup>? Why not this Friday?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Well, as I mentioned, we have half the deaths in the state and we are 25 percent of the population. So we have to be careful. Food has been done, let's be clear, with some risk because there is always come risk because that is really essential. I think even above a book or flower. But would I like to see flowers delivered to mothers this Mother's Day? Absolutely. Am I talking to public health professionals about ways we can do that? Absolutely. So I do have confidence that we can, but each one of these steps we come at risk. And with risk means further spread, and with further spread means more death.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Unfortunately we are in this really difficult place where I don't believe we can throttle this economy to death so that we will never recover and people suffer so greatly. And we can't throw the doors open too quickly where people die in our hospitals and we double, triple, quadruple the number of deaths. But in between that, we have to recognize the uncomfortableness of living in a place where we will do things, it won't just be like, "See, I told you so, it was successful." It will be in most cases, a little bit more infection, and some of those

infections will lead to more death. So, these are really, really tough decisions, so for me, I don't think a week is the difference. I want to make sure we get this signoff.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Today we do not have those signoffs from my county public health, and I won't move forward unless we do have that sort of agreement. I think it is the wrong step for any political leader to decide on their own that they know better than the doctors. Sometimes we will have to use our judgement and doctors will just give us advice, they won't prescribe absolutely open or close. But right now I think we have really working relationship, we are getting good advice, and I do believe that whether it is, you know, this coming weekend or two weekends from now, we will be able to move forward not just with things like retail, but hopefully some of our recreational spaces.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We have shown manufacturing can work with the facial coverings. We need to scale that in, I believe, in the right way too. And if we do that successfully, because we will never know in the first few days after we do something, it literally takes two, three, four weeks before we see the indicators, is this spreading again? If it is not, you can hold, if it is going up a little bit, you can proceed, if it has not gone up at all or if it does go up in a worrying way, we might have to sometimes rewind and move backwards. But that is the framework, and I am really glad you asked this question because I know it is confusing for folks out there. It's like you got the federal guidance, you got state guidance, now the city and the county are working on it. I want to be really clear that this is going to be longer than just a couple of weeks, that there isn't a giant reopening. This is a series of steps and steps that we have to assess each time, and they will succeed more if we practice the prescriptions that are given to us. Wash your hands, facial coverings, physical distancing, and for our businesses the safe practices that we are developing right now. And I would rather have those spelled out really well than say, "Go open" and irresponsibly see spread. So I think we are getting close and I won't worry about whether it is two or three days or seven days apart, we will move forward. Thank you. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: And our final question is in Spanish and from the line of Abel Alamillo with Telemundo 52. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Buenas tardes, Abel. Good evening.

ABEL ALAMILLO: Buenas tardes, alcalde. You just mentioned that Los Angeles may partially reopen in a different timeframe than the rest of the state. Do we know what that timeframe looks like? Is it days, weeks or months from now?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure. I will say in English first because I think it is really important. I want to be clear because I know there is confusion. People think that because the governor said, "You can open on Friday," that the whole state will open on Friday. That is not what the governor said today. He said counties can and should assess on the ground where they are and determine whether they should take those steps on Friday or because they're permitted to, whether they do that at a later date.

## Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: What I have been working with our county officials on, my fellow mayors and city councilmembers across the 88 cities is that date that was given to us by the county and in agreement with our order of May 15<sup>th</sup>. So that is a one week difference from what the governor announced today. We've put a lot of work in preparing for that day. I don't think that we'll take many steps before that, but it is possible they could advise some baby steps before our small steps. So this is really a matter. I think, of a little bit over a week, May 15<sup>th</sup> and adhering to that and making sure we continue to see those numbers.

MAYOR GARCETTI: As I mentioned on Friday's press conference, we had more cases last week diagnosed than the week before. At that could partially be because we are expanding testing. So then you look at deaths. We had more deaths last week cumulatively than we had the week before. So let's see where we are this week to see it is there's a trend, not just a flattening of the curve, flattening often means till the numbers are still going up. Can we level off those numbers and have the confidence? And I think by May 15<sup>th</sup> we'll know that.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So en español también. El gobernador no tuvo una prescripción para Estado de California hoy, pero él ha permitido los condados y ciudades de California expandir, reabrir su economía y sus espacios. Pero es muy importante porque sus palabras fue exacta. Cada, cada condado, cada ciudad deben asesar la situación en su área de California y luego tomar los pasos, hacer los decisiones que son específicos a esta área. Los Ángeles ha tenido mitad de los fallecieron en el estado, y solamente tenemos un cuarto de la población del Estado de California. Es doble nuestros números en comparación al nivel federal, tendremos--tuvimos mucho éxito en estas semanas pasadas, pero es importante mantener el progreso aquí en Los Ángeles.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Y por eso probablemente no tomaremos pasos este semana, pero en el 15 de mayo, cuando nuestro orden tiene un deadline, tiene una fecha específica por el condado de Los Ángeles. Pero es posible en nuestros conversaciones entra las ciudades y el condado de California, liderazgo del condado también o tomar pasos pequeños este semana también. Pero es mi expectación el paquete de pasos más grande será en el 15 de mayo.

MAYOR GARCETTI: With that I want to thank everybody again who has tuned in. This will be a big week, I look forward to standing with the county and my colleagues to announce hopefully the work that we will be moving forward on the framework of how we can begin to see some steps forward and also what we will do specifically in specific industries and spaces. That will be forthcoming hopefully in the next couple of days, and we will stand together moving together. In the meantime, and just from the bottom of my heart want to thank you for what you have done to save lives and what you are doing to keep marching forward together and not divided. With that, let me turn to Spanish and give my talking points this evening in Spanish.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Muy buenas tardes, Los Ángeles, y gracias por venir otra vez. Feliz lunes. Hace unas horas recibimos pautas del gobernador sobre cómo los condados pueden avanzar hacia la reapertura. Estas pautas permiten que las localidades tomen decisiones basadas en los datos locales. Y aunque las acciones de nuestro condado han logrado salvar vidas,

## Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020

tenemos más de la mitad de las muertes en el estado, y por eso es posible que tomaremos más tiempo para abrir de nuevo una semana adicional.

MAYOR GARCETTI: No abriré la ciudad de manera imprudente. Lo haremos poco a poco, siguiendo la ciencia y los hechos. Y por eso les comparto los datos de cada día. Hoy hubieron 568 nuevos casos en el condado de Los Ángeles, llegando a un total de 26,217. En la ciudad tuvimos 225 nuevos casos, llegando a un total de 12,525. Y hoy supimos del fallecimiento de 28 personas más en el condado, llegando a un total de 1,256 almas que nosotros hemos perdido. Y lloramos con todos quienes han perdido un ser querido en esta crisis.

MAYOR GARCETTI: En nuestros hospitales nosotros nos quedamos muy, muy fuerte. Tenemos 1,276 camas disponibles. Entre ellos, 235 están en las unidades de cuidados intensivos y tenemos 1,113 respiradores disponibles también. Hoy tenemos la capacidad de hacer pruebas a 18,500 personas al día, y para el final de hoy habremos hecho pruebas a 194,000 personas en estos sitios. Y hoy estoy anunciando la apertura de dos sitios adicionales para pruebas en Northridge y Baldwin Hills. El miércoles empiezan haciendo pruebas en los dos sitios, y ahora hay disponibilidad para hacer una cita.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Además el miércoles empezaremos a extender las horas para hacerse una prueba hasta las 5:00 para permitir más personas que se hagan la prueba. Puedes hacer una cita en la página [coronavirus.lacity.org/testing](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/testing) o llama al 213-978-1028 o al 311 después de las 5:00. El hacer pruebas en los hogares de ancianos es muy importante debido al alto riesgo que tienen sus residentes. Y es una prioridad para mí y el trabajo de la ciudad. Por eso lanzamos el equipo móvil de pruebas y requerimos que ellos proveen pruebas gratis mensuales para sus empleados y residentes. La ciudad ha hecho pruebas para 7,100 residentes y personal de tales hogares de ancianos.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Y hoy estoy actualizando mi orden, obligando a los sitios de enfermería diestra en la ciudad de Los Ángeles que entreguen avisos escritos para residentes y empleados indicando la última fecha que se ofrecieron las pruebas y la próxima fecha que se ofrecerán de nuevo. Además hoy estoy anunciando que hemos garantizado la colaboración de un hotel en el centro de Los Ángeles para brindar más de 460 habitaciones para alojar a personas sin hogar. Si te quieres unir a este esfuerzo, visita la página [coronavirus.lacity.org/rooms](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/rooms).

MAYOR GARCETTI: Además nos hemos unido con Everytable para preparar 120,000 comidas a la semana para 12,000 angelinos mayores. Y hoy lanzamos la segunda fase de este proyecto para incluir a más personas y unirnos con la Academia de hospitalidad para contactar a 106 empleados para preparar estas comidas. Y estamos colaborando con tres compañías de taxi para desplegar a 50 choferes esta semana para entregar estas comidas. Este es una cosa buena, no solamente por los trabajadores, pero por nuestra población de personas de tercera edad y también por la salud de nuestro condado. Si eres mayor de 65 años, llámanos al 213-263-5226 entre las 9:00 y las 5:00 o visita la página [coronavirus.lacity.org/seniormeals](https://coronavirus.lacity.org/seniormeals).

MAYOR GARCETTI: Además si eres un restaurante y te interesa participar, puedes registrar en la misma página web. Les recuerdo también a los inquilinos que le avise por escrito al

## **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020**

propietario de su casa si no puede pagar la renta esta mes. Si necesita un ejemplo de una letra y más información, nuestro Departamento de Vivienda tiene mucha ayuda para usted. Visita la página [hcidla.lacity.org](http://hcidla.lacity.org). Finalmente, esta es la semana de aprecio para enseñantes. Tomemos un momento para agradecerles por sus esfuerzos en educar a nuestros hijos en este nuevo ambiente. Y recordemos lo que es necesario ahora para que podamos regresar a las aulas en el futuro. Mis amigos, quédense en buena salud, quédense protegidos y quédense en casa. Hay días mejores en las próximas semanas y gracias por su fortaleza durante este tiempo. Y con mucha fuerza y mucho amor, yo quiero decir gracias. Buenas noches.