

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening, Los Angeles, and thank you again for joining me. We've now been staying safer at home for four full weeks. And there is no question that we need to keep staying at home. And I want to thank you for the lives you have saved and the lives that you have connected during this crisis with each other. There is no question that this has been a rough ride for everybody and this was a tough week. We buried more dead this week than we have in any other week during this crisis. And we diagnosed nearly 3,000 more Angelenos just this week alone.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But in the midst of tears and facing the tragedy that we have, you have stepped up. You have been incredible first responders. You have shown the heart of this city and you have shown the guts of Los Angeles. You have shown LA love, and for that I am so grateful. There is a lot of news out there that people are starting to fray, and I know that it has been tough on a lot of people. But I want to be clear that while those stories can be found, that is not what we are seeing. 99.9 percent of Angelenos are doing the right thing. Even across this nation, I believe people want to save lives. That this is not about politics or partisanship, this is about people and this is about perseverance. Keep showing you courage.

MAYOR GARCETTI: You know, I said at the beginning of this, I would not wait one day longer than necessary to take the actions, the sometimes scary actions to save lives. But I also want to reassure you as well that we won't open things up one day earlier than we need to, but we will not wait one day longer than we need to either. We will continue be guided by health professionals, by science, by doctors. Not playing any games with your life or your lives. But we will do what is right for the life of Los Angeles, now and in the future.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So let's turn to today's data. Today's data snapshot is going to offer comparison where we were a week ago as well. And after that we will move as I usually do and do some announcements and updates. Over the past 24 hours, we have lost 4,591 Americans. To put that in perspective, that's more in a single day than we lost the entire Iraq War. We are experiencing more deaths than 9/11 every day in America right now. In the Los Angeles County, we had 567 new confirmed positive COVID-19 cases today, bringing our total to 11,391. This is a five percent increase since yesterday. One week ago today, there were 475 new cases on Friday, and a total of 8,430 cases.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In the city of Los Angeles those numbers are 241 new cases, bringing the total to over 5,000 for the first time, 5,093, also a five percent increase. And a week ago there were just 200 new cases and a total of 3,787 cases. And today we learned of 40 new deaths countywide. While lower than yesterday, an unthinkable number just a week or two ago. It brings the total of our fallen angels to 495 people, which is a nine percent increase since yesterday. We'll continue with the numbers, but I want you to say one thing we can't quantify is a loss. It is incalculable. And we know that for everybody out there suffering, that this is not about numbers, this is about the lives of a loved one and our hearts ache alongside you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I want to thank again this city, and all of Los Angeles, for your response to this crisis in the way that it has saved lives. Today our deaths are doubling every

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seven to eight days and we are making progress, we really are. That said, the last four days have seen the highest number of deaths reported since the beginning of this pandemic. So we still got a way to go. The data point I have not previously discussed is our mortality rate. That's the number of people who die from the positive cases that are diagnosed. Today that figure stands at 4.3 percent in Los Angeles County. Now, that can change because if we learn that more people were positive, even more than took tests, that number may go down but at 4.3 percent I want to compare that to our seasonal flu mortality rate of just 0.1 percent. Today it stands 43 times higher, more deadly than our seasonal flu. And as we come to learn more about COVID, as testing helps us get a more complete picture, we expect that that number may shift a little bit.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But if you are listening to scientists, you know how dangerous this still is, and why that number is so important for determining our decisions personally, and as a city collectively. Our strategy continues to be guided by physical distancing, aggressive testing and precautionary measures to stop the spread, and you are quarantine and isolating when you know that you have symptoms or, of course, are positive. So as we head into the weekend, and I know it is a nice weekend, it looks like outside, please keep this figure in mind because COVID-19 doesn't care how nice the weather is. It poses a risk to every one of us and it kills.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Making sure our hospitals remain below their capacity is part of how we are saving lives too. As we see in places from Northern Italy to our tragic pictures in New York City, when there aren't enough resources, enough beds, enough medical personnel, enough protective personal protective equipment, people can die. But there is good news here still. In Los Angeles County our general emergency hospitals have 1,551 beds available, including 1,309 acute care beds and 242 ICU beds. And we have an inventory that we have grown and now have available of 1,119 available ventilators.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And we need folks who are infected, even if you are asymptomatic, if you are feeling a little bad, that you're like, "I got this," we need you to get tested. We need you to get tested not only because it is important for you to know whether that cough you have or that fever you have, even if mild, it is COVID-19 versus something else, but we need to know because if you don't know, you might not be isolated from people you love, or when you go out because you think you are ok. And that kills people. That kills people you love, that kills your neighbors, that kills your housemaids, that kills your family. So please do get tested even if you have mild symptoms.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Last week, a week ago we had 19 testing locations across the city and the county. Now there are 30. And I want to thank everybody and the city who's been working on this and especially our county partners who have just turned up the volume and gone to so many more cities and neighborhoods to make sure everybody has a testing location near them, to either drive through or walk up too. Across our city and county sites last Friday, we had the capacity to test 6,000 people, and we have tested cumulatively about 7,000 at those sites. Today we have the capacity to test nearly double of that. In just one week, 12,000 people a day. And by the end of today, we will have tested a total of 67,000 people, nearly doubling of what we had just a week ago.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: There's about 145,000 tests a day being done in America. And with a capacity of close to 12,000 in a county that just has three percent of the population, that is something to be very proud of, and I want to thank every volunteer and firefighter, everybody working to procure the test, every lab technician who is turning those around and everybody who is going to get a test, for making sure that Los Angeles can continue to grow that capacity. Because we are working not just to save lives, but also livelihoods, and when you get a test, that helps us all. So one more time, go to coronavirus.lacity.org/testing. Anybody with any symptoms, any age, anywhere in the county can get a free test.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We know how hard this has been and how many people are hurting when it comes to our livelihoods. In fact, USC Dornsife Center for Economy and Social Research showed that fewer than half of Los Angeles County residents, about 45 percent still have jobs. Beginning in March that was 61 percent. So you see how dramatically this has hit Los Angeles. And people need to pay their bills, they need to make the rent, and I want you to know that there are resources available that not enough Angelenos are signing up for. If your employer has cut hours or shut down operations in this crisis, you should apply for unemployment benefits from the state immediately. And we know the federal rules have changed too, so folks that are independent contractors can now apply for unemployment as well. Having no job doesn't need to mean having no income. So visit the State's Employment Development Department at edd.ca.gov, that's edd.ca.gov, and if you need help navigating the application, if you have never filled it out before, call into one of our city's work source centers or call 311 and we will connect you there to reach your nearest location. And remember, for those of you who still want to work in a critical industry that is hiring today, whether it is in a grocery store or making deliveries or in a hospital, go to that portal that we set up at the very beginning of this because there are still jobs available at lajobsportal.org. That's lajobsportal.org.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Working families have been hit so hard in this emergency, and it is also underscored all the inequalities that we have in our society. The work that still needs to be done for racial and economic justice, for those of the community that have underlying health conditions, how hard hit it has been and of course, we know among the most vulnerable population, our Angelenos who are experiencing homelessness. Our homeless neighbors know that this was a crisis longer before COVID-19 hit. We are already confronting this crisis with a record investment, building more shelter beds than any city in the country, over 2,000 of them in an 18-month period. But tonight I'm enacting some orders to help accelerate the work that we are doing to extend our affordable housing to make sure that fewer people stay or become homeless.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So tonight all Housing Department deadlines that are related to financing affordable and supportive housing for people who need affordable housing or people experiencing homelessness will be extended. That will ensure that affordable housing development can continue without any penalties caused by missed deadlines and that funding won't disappear because of this crisis. We need that housing, we need every single apartment and every single bed that we can build.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: And with this virus touching every part of our community, we're doing whatever we can to keep those without a home safe. We have described many of those in briefings before the hundreds of sanitation stations, to wash hands and have soap on the street. The Porta Potties, the testing that we are doing. And I think that we continue to need more screening, testing and treatment to help Angelenos who are experiencing homelessness. So starting morning, I am proud to announce our city will surge a deployment of street medical teams to help fight COVID-19 among Angelenos who are experiencing homelessness.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We will send out field teams to provide rapid results field tests for people showing symptoms, health and welfare screenings in high-density encampments, which have already started and are in, I think, north of a thousand visits already. And advice and guidance on effective physical distancing on the streets. We'll offer transportation to new shelters and to hotel rooms to bring unhoused folks inside, and we'll send extra resources, additional county nursing staff and homeless outreach workers to Skid Row. And our fire department will set up a high-capacity pop-up testing clinic in that neighborhood to deliver fast results, and features physically distanced waiting rooms and provides direct referral and transport to isolation and quarantine beds.

MAYOR GARCETTI: All of this means that if we encounter somebody who is living on the street or in their car, somebody who is in a shelter who is sick, they'll be able to test them right away and see if their symptoms are related to COVID-19 and if needed, they will be able to call in EMS transport to immediately bring unhoused folks to safety. We can do this thanks to our skilled workers across the city and the county, who I want to thank, our skillful firefighters and police officers, the brave work of our homeless service providers, outreach staff, nurses and medical professionals, our partners at the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and the Department of Health Services, and our leaders at the Unified Homelessness Response Center, which is run all the time even before this crisis out of our Emergency Operations Center who are coordinating this bold strategy.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And our work to serve Angelenos who are experiencing homelessness does not end there. We are ramping up beds and services at our rec and parks facilities, now more than 850 beds and four more due to open soon. There are at 95 percent capacity, and tonight, we are launching our first trailer program, utilizing trailers that were given to us by the state, one of the first cities to get this up and run. They would be used to house homeless Angelenos who are in the highest risk, tier 1 category. That is asymptomatic individuals, so they are not sick yet, who are over 65 years of age, have chronic medical conditions or both.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The first ten are going to open on the campus at Woodland Hills Rec Center, and our goal is to provide more than 300 trailers citywide in the coming weeks. As you can see, we are deploying every resource to help people who are most vulnerable and susceptible in this crisis. So alongside those trailers and those shelter beds, we are renting hotels and motels to house those in need of shelters, so let me update you on that as well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The state and the county and city have currently secured 24 hotels and motels with 2,400 rooms countywide for the tier 1 Angelenos who are at greatest risk of dying

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from this virus but who still do not have any symptoms, to keep them safe. The older adults and people who are already sick. And we are currently negotiating with more than two dozen additional hotels. In fact, some of those, I think, are being signed even as I speak, to add thousands of additional rooms across the county in the weeks ahead. This has been a monumental effort. And I want to thank everybody who stepped forward for the cities and counties Project Roomkey effort and the funding help that we got from this state, as well as FEMA, who is reimbursing us for a good portion of those rooms, and my ambassador to the industry, John Vein.

MAYOR GARCETTI: People like the hotel owner who wrote to my office this week and said that Project Roomkey enables us not only to serve the most at-risk Angelenos, but also to reopen our doors and our rooms and to reemploy our hardworking team and staff back into service. This is win, win, win. It's win for our health, it's win for people experiencing homelessness and it is a win for employees that were laid off or who had no hours. And she is right. So tonight, let me speak to every hotel and motel owner and operator in Los Angeles County, we need you. Please contact us and become a part of this movement. Get your employees paid, help us solve this problem of COVID-19 and find a permanent solution to homelessness in Los Angeles County. If you want to be a part of this, please go to coronavirus.lacity.org/rooms.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I have spoken to you also about our progress in building a medical relief center in the South Hall of The Los Angeles Conventions Center, which usually is full of visitors and conventions, but due to COVID-19 has zero business going on now. And our Medical Relief Center, I can now announce is ready to receive patients as needed. We built this center to ensure our healthcare system can handle a potential surge in COVID-19 cases. We will serve low acuity patients and free up beds in our region's hospitals. It is there if we have a surge in any of our homeless encampments or Skid Row, and we are working with local medical staff and agencies to bring our nurses, certified nursing assistants and other medical staff.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So far because you have done a great job flattening the curve, our hospitals have been able to manage the patients volume, but as I've said, our numbers continue to grow up even if they go up more slowly. And people are going into hospitals more quickly than they are coming out. So if we do see a spike in COVID-19 cases, this is a great insurance policy. The medical relief center is ready to absorb patients from hospitals, and we have begun with an initial 175 beds for patients who are Covid-negative. And if the need of raises, we are ready to both expand the number of available beds and shift course to absorb patients who are Covid-positive in other areas of the Conventions Center.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Putting this center together is a testament to that collaboration and that spirit of LA love that I mentioned. Our state partners, CAL LES and CAL FIRE, who helped us secure a federal medical station, and who are providing very important services. The National California National Guard who helped deliver and set up the station. LAFD, who led the buildout and the logistics, the Smith Group Architecture firm who provided the renderings of the Space Pro Bono and the county which offered crucial guidance along the way. And I want to thank Andrew Leeka, who is the former CEO of Good Samaritan Hospital, who we hired as chief

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administrator for the Medical Relief Center. And Dr. Lydia Lam of LA County and USC Hospital, who we brought on as chief medical officer of this facility.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Let me finally recognize also LAPD Commander Phil Fontanetta, who came out of retirement to oversee this project. LAFD Chief Andrew Worden and Captains Chad Richardson and Chris Winn, who coordinated and managed the logistics of this exceptional undertaking. And I would also like to acknowledge one additional person on my staff, Jason Crockett, you are doing an amazing job, Jason, and thank you. While we pray for these beds to go unused, it gives us all greater assurance that we are prepared to care for Angelenos no matter what happens in the weeks ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Being prepared also means being ready to deliver assistance to all of Los Angeles. That's what our philanthropic efforts have been about throughout Los Angeles. You heard last night about CORE. Each night you hear about what we are doing at the Mayor's Fund. And on Tuesday, as I mentioned, we started accepting applications for Angeleno cards. No-fee debit cards providing direct financial assistance without prejudice to the hardest hit families in our city. And we are still tallying the final figures, but after applications closed for this round last night, as I said, the more money we raise, the more we can give out. It appears that in just three days more than 454,176 applications were submitted. And I want to be clear, that's more than there are going to be cards for now.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But with your help, we can continue adding more, and this week we will start sitting down with those families and those applicants to make sure we can get those cards out as soon as possible to relieve the stress, to relieve that pressure, and to relieve some of the bills that people have. So we will contact applicants moving on through the process, to let them know the next steps, and we also sent text messages and emails to those who aren't receiving cards at this time. It is going to be done randomly but you'll still stay in the mix, and as we raise more dollars, you may be able to get in contact and give you more.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But also please be aware of scams. This made such huge national news that we have people from all over the country trying to get these cards as well and no official will ever call you and ask for your information like a Social Security number or a bank account. If you get a call like that, just hang up. We have more people in need than we have resources right now to help. So please do give, mayorsfundla.org/angeleno and thank you to so many people who have heard about this, stepped up, and put in more money, even doubling down on earlier donations. We are all in this together and we are going to get through it together.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Finally, let me just say in conclusion, I know how sad this week has been. Many of us have spoken with families of the fallen, with people who themselves were unable to hold their loved ones when they died as a result of COVID-19. It left more families that are grieving a parent or a grandparent, a friend, and we are here to grieve with you. One of the cruel things about this is that we can't be together, at some of the saddest moments in our life. We are hurting, we are worried, but I want you to know we are not powerless. We have the power to help one another. We have the power to change the destiny of this city. We have the

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power to change the direction, not just not just now of getting through this crisis, but what sort of city we want to build coming out of this.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This Sunday by charter I will be giving my annual state of the city address, and I will be going a little deeper into what this has meant, and what we might be able to do in the days ahead. But I want you to draw on the power that you have. Do not feel powerless or lonely at home, but to do feel powerful as part of this city of angels. So stay safe and stay healthy, and please stay at home. Thank you and all strength and love to each and every one of you. With that, I am happy to answer questions.

OPERATOR: And our first question comes from the line of Steve Gregory with KFI News. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Steve.

STEVE GREGORY: Hey, good evening, Eric. Thank you for taking the call. I just have a quick question about basically your opening statements about, you know, because what we are seeing out in the field is a little different than what you just described about people not staying home, and we are seeing aerial traffic now from traffic copters and stuff like that where there is much more traffic on the freeways and the roads than there were just two weeks, three weeks ago, and it is really starting to become pretty much an everyday occurrence, more and more people are getting more bold, and I am just wondering, at what point do you sort of adjust and pivot to make sure that this is either going to be taken care of or you are going to camp it up down a bit.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Well, there's two things that we look at. One is the data of the cell phones, not individual cell phones, we don't have that, nor do I want it. But to the anonymized data where people are moving, and that stayed pretty constant. There is no question that we see that, I know, you might be speaking about part of outside even the city, we've noticed one trend, for instance, along PCH, that that is one of the few areas where you see beginning and end of the day still yellow where everything else is green. Occasionally you see we red on the freeway, that's usually because of an accident. We see it rush hour still some places that are pretty crowded. But not anywhere close to where it was before.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So we go by the data, but there is no question, we won't hesitate, if necessary. We saw this week, for instance, at the skate park at Venice Beach and people were there, so we had to put sand into the skate park to make that unusable for now. When we come out of this, we'll clean that sand out. We haven't hesitated where these businesses that continue to flaunt the lot. Today we had the first shutoff of the power of a smoke shop in Reseda, that five visits later still refused to shut down. So we do have a good arsenal of tools to use. We are continuing to do enforcement. We appreciate people telling us these things.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But I would underscore what you said, for anybody who said, "Oh, it's been now four weeks, I'm getting out of the house more," please do not. That is not just bad for your health. It is bad for everyone's health, and it can kill someone. It might feel like you

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haven't been out much, but you could be asymptomatic and a carrier from a trip that you took to the market where somebody else stayed asymptomatic or who was out there and shouldn't have been at it. This is how things explode quickly. And as we said, one projection I will keep sharing with you, if we lifted the veil of everything tomorrow and said, "Everybody go back to normal", 95 percent of us, it is estimated, would have COVID-19 exposure by August 1st.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I don't have to tell you what 9.5 million people on this county going through in the next four, five months COVID-19 would mean to our deaths, our death rate, our hospital capacity, etcetera. So also, though, in a hopeful way, please stay home because we are having these conversations and pushing our state and federal governments and working together with the county on, where can be right the rules of the road? Get the blood testing, figure out the ways that we can move forward. And I do want to say two things that I mentioned last night because I want to use different language because I think people can misinterpret it. When we need more testing or talk about things the immunity passports, those are things in other countries that companies in other places had in order to work here we need to have.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We are going to always do this with the values of our society, making sure we are not a police state. We are not going to become an authoritarian state. This relies on people's good behavior and where necessary, some enforcement. But we are not going to start taking people's data, we are not going to surveil people. Sometimes that word "surveillance" is used, all that means is a medical term, we need to know how many cases are out there, and that's done through blood tests so it's more situational awareness or case tracking. And those things I think are going to dictate that we can in the coming weeks, I spoke with Dr. Ferrer, and she has talked about this a little bit publically, you know, if we keep this up, sometime in May we can see some things potentially be relaxed with new rules, with very careful safeguards about maybe which shops open or some of the things that we can get back to doing.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But that has to be designed very carefully with our public health professional, and even the best case scenario, that's still a couple of weeks at a minimum off, if not more, so we need to make sure that we stick with this because I guarantee you, for everybody who is going out there and thinking, "Hey, I can drive or walk or put myself a little bit in harm's way," it takes about a week or two before you see those numbers creep up. And if I'm here a week from now or two weeks from now or three weeks from now saying, "You know what? The curve isn't flattening anymore." You are going to see this extend even longer and none of us want that. So please stay at home. Thank you. Next question.

OPERATOR: Next, we turn to line of Robert Kovacik with NBC. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Robert.

ROBERT KOVACIK: Mayor Garcetti, how are you, sir?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hanging in there. Strong.

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ROBERT KOVACIK: So to quickly follow up on what Steve Gregory said, but I do have another question.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure.

ROBERT KOVACIK: San Diego has started citing people, the people that are violating the stay-at-home orders. Just, we checked with the LAPD every day to see if it is something that they would do or the Sheriff's Department. So far, not yet, but I am wondering if that could possibly change. The bigger question, though, is if you can look to the dates that you have given us that we are going to see peak hospitalizations today, a peak in deaths on Sunday, with that said, and if we continue to follow the numbers as you are seeing them right now and the projections, could we possibly begin the phase one of the government guideline right in the middle of May when the order is supposed to be lifted?

MAYOR GARCETTI: I think we could, Robert, but that depends on all of us. So I know whenever I say this, then the headline usually comes out, and people click on it like when I was asked my opinion about whether we'd be in stadiums in a private meeting and suddenly it was on the front page of CNN that we weren't going to have any sports in any way. So I want to be clear this is a snapshot of today, but absolutely, I think that is possible. And I do want to give people hope that the work that we are doing actually will have an end to it. But I want to be clear too, that's not a flipping on of a light switch. It is not everybody coming out. There are people who are still very vulnerable. There are new rules that we have to write because we are going to have to interact in public spaces, in work places, and potentially schools in a new and different way.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But that, I think is something that is in the realm, we're seeing in Europe, who was a couple of weeks ahead of us in terms of infections, in cases, some places that have been as successful as us with our physical distancing measures and other, you know, early measures that I am very proud that we took beginning to look at that. But the headlines can be, this evening somebody said, "Germany is opening up. Are we soon?" Germany, in certain places, in very limited ways is opening up. Denmark opened up some schools but the kids are spaced apart and it's just starting, and they're experimenting to see what happens.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So I think that could be realistic, no question. In terms of citations, that is something we can use. We certainly cited businesses. And we've referred them even more to criminal proceedings, more than a citation and with a stronger, little bit of muscle behind that than just giving somebody a ticket. It is not my preference, though. It is not what I want to turn Los Angeles into. And as long as we continue to make steady progress, we are going to tell people, "You need to stay home." We are willing to do that, if necessary will, but we will do that in conjunction, I think, with the county, with Public Health and seeing what is most effective. And as long as I still see the data, that this is an exception, not the rule, we'll continue to use public education, we'll continue to let people know that there are consequences, and we won't, unless things get bad, I think, go towards that level. Thank you. Next question.

OPERATOR: Next, we turn to the line of Elizabeth Chou. Please go ahead, your line is open.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Liz.

ELIZABETH CHOU: Hi, Mayor. Thanks for answering questions every day like this.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Of course.

ELIZABETH CHOU: I wanted to ask a few questions. My first one is that you are doing your State of the City address, that will take off of the last year in the--and to chart your vision for the upcoming year, the priorities. I was wondering how you plan on tackling that in this context. And I have another, two other questions. One is about whether there's a goal for how many test kits to be made available per day that you think will allow for widespread testing to be available, even to people without symptoms. And also, how much have you raised as far as Angelino campaign and how many of these 450,000 might be getting the first wave of I guess checks, what size debit cards.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I will work my way backwards, Liz. We don't know because it will depend on the size of the families. It's at 700, 1,100 or 1,500, depending. So part of that will depend. We've raised, I think it was 10 million last time I checked, but it might be even higher. Hopefully it will get even higher. And we will continue to try to add more into that. That was the goal and I think we hit that, but we are hoping to get some of those checks in that was pledged, and I believe it's in the bank now. And my goal is to every moment we can, if we can double that, we can help twice as many people. If we can triple it, we can have three times as many people.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I would really encourage those of means who can, this is a moment to dig deep. If you have savings or if you have been lucky with your life and have millions of dollars, this is a moment to share that. I think for so many of us, my wife and I, we have done that. You know, everybody has giving, whether it's five bucks if they can or a thousand dollars if they can or 20,000 or some people who can have given millions. And I am so grateful to them but that will ride on how much but where up to ten million, I am confident already.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The second with widespread testing, there isn't a magic number where we can start testing people who are not symptomatic at all. And you know, because you have that point ten million people to test, and while our capacity is probably in the top five in the country and one of the top cities in the world, quite frankly now, we unfortunately don't have anywhere close to, you know, 10 million tests that we can do, testing people with the virology tests frequently like once a week or even once a month. So that is still a while off, but we may be, in coming weeks, if we continue to build at this space, be a place where everybody who is symptomatic can be tested and they are not fulfilling all those tests. We will start to look at asymptomatic people, especially for that situational awareness that I mentioned. Knowing how many people actually have it.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I hope that we can offer some of those tests with the blood tests that we are undertaking. Because remember, blood tests are a historical snapshot. Did I ever have COVID-19? Because a blood test will show antibodies generated in response to that. But it

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doesn't say whether you are contagious or not. The same time, virology tests show you whether you are contagious right now, whether you have symptoms or not. And if we could give those to the same people, we could see are some people getting, you know, showing evidence that they had it but they are not contagious or vice-versa, some people contagious but the antibodies have not yet been created. So we can look at using that to further the work that we are doing that will help us get to a place where we can open more quickly different parts of the city.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And then third, State of the City, I just gotta say stay tuned. I don't want to give the speech now that I have to give on Sunday, but I'll tell you the values behind it, that this is an immensely difficult year. That we will have to make cuts in our basic city services. That we will have to tighten our belts and have shared sacrifices as a city workforce. That some of the most important things that have been laid out in this crisis of our values but also our priorities, need to continue around public safety and health and housing. And then, lastly, I want to challenge our city not just to think about trying to rebuild the city of old, but how do we take this moment and a tragedy and from it find some triumph, and a way that we can rebuild the city, that doesn't just come back economically but it is more fair for people of color who don't have the same starting line than that other people do, for poor folks and immigrants, for people who have experienced violence, for children who are in schools that don't have the same education as other schools. Those sorts of questions is something that I am going to--are something that I am going to propose this Sunday. And challenges does not think about just getting through this, but getting through this stronger and better than we were before. Thanks, Liz. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: Next, we turn to the line of Ben Oreskes with LA Times. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Ben.

BEN ORESKES: Hello, Mayor. I hope you are feeling better.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I am.

BEN ORESKES: We have heard, Doug and I have heard from county officials and city officials as well, that how with Project Roomkey, there's been some challenge or struggle to lock down rooms in hotels for homeless people downtown near Skid Row. Have you determined whether you have the legal power authority to force hotels to be used as housing for homeless people or anyone during this emergency even if the owners of these hotels don't want that to happen? And if you have chosen not to go that route, why is that?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, we have made some good progress, I hope that some of the things that we were talking about earlier in terms of some of the contracts that are under negotiation right now should announced in the coming week, so that was a priority and I think we've made some headway in downtown. I do have the authority that we have the obligation financially in those places as well. I can take property as part of the emergency powers, but we are liable for that and that can be a long, drawn out fights that sometimes is more expensive than good negotiations.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: And I will not take that off the table, if that is necessary and we are coming up short, I think this week finally we saw some really good progress and there's been heroic work by the county, by the state leading up to this. It is not taking a single thing away from them. I am really glad that we could add John Vein as the person who sit down and talking to more hotels and more motels. And it's not just in LA City, of course, it's throughout the county. But I won't hesitate if we dry up and suddenly come to a point where we aren't getting new rooms or we aren't keeping pace with the number of people who are willing to come in, then absolutely, that would be on the table. Next question, please.

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

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: Thank you. Hi.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Claudia.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: Given the – Hi. Given that you are talking about furloughs and big cuts, I am wondering and I am taking a page here from my colleague Steve Gregory, who asked this on the county side. But I am wondering if you would consider, you know, talking a voluntary pay cut yourself as any of the city councilmembers, other in the city who get higher salaries, might be doing something like that. Even if it's just as a show of solidarity, I know it's not going to solve your budget problem but, you know, to set an example.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yeah. I prefer not to always publically talk about these things, but since you asked me, I did donate an equivalent of my salary for this month to the Angeleno Fund to help Angelenos who don't have that, I think that is a show of courage and a show of solidarity, and something I'll continue doing in this crisis, absolutely. But I do not about other councilmembers. Next question.

OPERATOR: And next we turn to the line of Carla Hall with Los Angeles Times. Please, go ahead.

CARLA HALL: Hi, Mr. Mayor. Let me actually follow up a little bit on something that Ben just asked you. With the hotel owners that we're hearing are kind of resistant to signing leases, are you at least maybe calling some of those people and trying to persuade them to sign leases?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yes.

CARLA HALL: And then, on a related matter, is there any thought of stopping expanding the rec center shelters and just concentrate on putting people in hotels and motels and maybe the trailers that you just mentioned. And I know you haven't had a lot of cases or many cases of COVID in the shelters, but once you get one, you end up quarantining the entire shelter and the whole thing gets complicated.

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MAYOR GARECTTI: Yeah. It is a good point. You don't always get one where we didn't need to, and we always go on Public Health's advice from the county, excuse me. But no question. I want to make clear there is no one team that if we're working on hotels can open up shelters or vice-versa, we're opening up shelters, we can't work on hotels. We need to be doing both at the same time. But, and there is no question that it's not just in congregate shelters where people can get sick. Hotels, we've seen throughout the country are places where this can spread too. There's shared HVAC systems, etc. So they're not perfect, but I do believe them to be better. As long as they have two things, they have the sense of the services there and the same sort of help. In a congregate setting, it is easier to do things like provide food, have nurses check on temperatures, etcetera, than in hotels and motels where people come and go and not everybody is there, and you don't always see.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But I do think that hotels and motels are absolutely a great solution and one that we put ourselves into, in which originally the state said, "Hey, we'll do this with counties" and we said, "Can we help as a city?" The county said, "Absolutely. We welcome you." And other cities are doing that too and some cities they've opposed but we don't have to name those tonight. But most of them have stepped up and together with the county said, "We realize this is an emergency." And so, yes, I have personally talked to folks. I'm willing to pick up the phone with any hotel or motel owner. But so far, the pace really, I want the story to be not that it's been tough, this has been a really good week in getting hotel rooms.

MAYOR GARCETTI: If you told me just a couple of weeks ago you'd get more than a thousand rooms in a single week, have a couple of thousand or a few thousand more ready to sign, that would have been difficult for me to believe, but I really do think that the momentum has started. It's well past the pumping prime for getting a lot of interest. We are signing a lot of contracts. We won't always be able to say where they are, to be clear too, because they're, remember, not just going for folks that are experiencing homelessness, but sometimes a mix of people who are not and/or who are experiencing domestic violence, and we had direct contacts. I've talked to one hotel owner, for instance, that helped us make sure that we had a hotel for victims of domestic violence because nobody was moving out of shelters, understandably, and a lot of people needed to move into those to save their families. I hope that helps. Next question. Thank you.

OPERATOR: Next, we turn the line of Kate Nishimura with the Sourcing Journal. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Kate.

KATE NISHIMURA: Good evening, Mayor Garcetti. Thank you so much for taking my question.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Of course.

KATE NISHIMURA: We are a publication that serves the fashion industry and it's retail and supply chain partners. My question for you is for the massive network of LA brand retailers and

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manufacturers that are dealing with store closures and other disruptions to their businesses. I know many are already engaged through the LA Protects Program led by your office to manufacture much needed PPE. But what other measures can members of this industry take to stay engaged with the community and maintain the health of their businesses through this crisis?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Absolutely. Look, we are going to--we are going to be looking together and it is great to see the governor's announcement of his economic task force and some great Angelenos that are serving on that. I've been talking with the county in depth and Dr. Ferrer, Chairwoman Barger, about what our efforts need to be here at the local level, because I think that LA can lead in a number of our industries. We can write the rules, potentially, for the country and the world on entertainment and music, how do we get back to filming and how would we have concerts even if there is no audiences, sports, things like that. And fashion is one of those areas that we've talked a lot about, the apparel industry.

MAYOR GARCETTI: My grandfather was a tailor. That is part of the reason I'm here today was because the opportunities this city afforded him in the apparel industry. And we have to make sure we don't lose those jobs and lose them permanently. So LA Protects was the first part, as you mentioned. This is the facial coverings being made by LA sewers and LA sewing machines, folks that right here are helping meet a need and hopefully being able to get those folks back to work.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But I hope that as we look at the new places that we will open up and the rules that we write, and this can be one of the first industries that can get back to work because it is possible to space people safely. It is possible to protect them. And that will also help us, as Dr. Ferrer said, at certain point people need to get some clothes for the kids. We have to look at our retail establishments. And while it will be very different, we have made temperature checks, we might have people phased to come in to stores. Those are the sorts of things that I think we can begin to see the rays of light ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In terms of other things, I would say just other PPE is helpful, I know the materials are difficult to obtain for the medical grade. But there are folks out there who need protection, not just facial coverings, but in places where they can be exposed. Folks who drive taxis and rideshare. People who clean hospitals and things like that. So that is another area. All of that can be done, if you're interested in a business through LA Protects, we can connect you with much more than just making face masks and know that it really is a priority for us to save this industry, to get it back on its feet quickly, and the number of low-wage workers that are there who are really hurting right now, the best way we can help them is to help them get back to work. So, thanks so much, Kate. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: Our final English question comes from the line of Doug Smith with the Los Angeles Times. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Doug.

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DOUG SMITH: Hello, Mr. Garcetti. I wanted to ask you, you have alluded to the fact that there's been cases at shelters, positive tested shelters. Are you considering or have you started doing any preventative surveillance testing at shelters?

MAYOR GARCETTI: With testing we've done some, and we are working with all of our homeless service providers, especially the medical providers, to do proactive testing on the streets and that includes people who we could test before they go into shelters. There are medical checks before anybody goes in. When there are cases that happen, we have the Public Health Department of the County there and we follow their advice. And it's worked the way it is supposed to be. From the beginning when I talked with Dr. Ferrer and her guidance, that it was much better to have people off the streets and in congregate shelters as long as they were spaced apart, as long as they were screened before coming in, than having them on the street.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But she also cautioned there will be people who do get COVID-19 have positivity. But with folks there having facial coverings, folks spaced properly is much better than on the street. So, so far it has worked the way it's supposed to. But in terms of going in there and testing everybody, we've done that in cases where we've had somebody test positive but not proactively yet, we didn't have enough testing for that. But as I mentioned, we are starting that targeted testing towards folks that are on the streets and who may be living in shelters, especially here in Skid Row with the pop-up that we'll do, and that will allow us to have those tests. We've also talked to some shelters that are privately run and we've been able to provide them with testing to proactively done that. And by privately, I just mean by non-profit groups that are part of the rec and park shelters. Thanks, Doug. Next question. I think this one in Spanish, is that right?

OPERATOR: And our next questions come from Spanish. First from Abel Alamillo with Telemundo 52. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening. Buenas tardes.

ABEL ALAMILLO: Hi, Mayor. In regards to the use of motels and hotels, would symptomatic homeless patients be housed at these locations? And what would you tell those residents who oppose having motels and hotels house the homeless in their communities?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So I will answer this in English. You know, I think people have for the most part really embraced this, and I want to thank folks because they know there has been a public health crisis called homelessness long before COVID-19. And the best way we can start to serve that is getting more and more people indoors. There's never 100 percent agreement and those who oppose it sometimes have louder voices, but besides a case or two that I talked to supervisors about, cities have embraced this and, you know, sometimes, some of the motels that we are talking about have themselves been problems. They've been places of prostitution or drug use, they never have security on site the way that these do, never have services on site the way that these do.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So it actually is an upgrade to look at using them as a shelter as opposed to some of the uses in the past. So I would say, we can save a life and we can transform a life. And in the terms of the rooms themselves, there is two different types of them, there's tier 1, which is for folks who have not yet had any symptoms and we are keeping them safe because they are very vulnerable. And there's tier 2 for people who do have symptoms and who have tested positive for COVID-19. Those are for folks without homes as well as with homes who might not have any place as to go for quarantine.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So en español yo quiero decir también que es importante en todas las ciudades del condado de Los Ángeles aceptar estas habitaciones en hoteles y moteles por las personas que están experimentando, permítame, indigencia. Los indigentes de Los Ángeles merecen un lugar seguro donde nosotros podemos obtener seguridad, comida y cuidado médico y es mejor en nuestras comunidades a tener a nuestros hermanos y hermanas de las calles en hoteles y moteles de las calles, en los campamentos, campamentos donde COVID-19 es una amenaza muy grande. Yo espero que todas las comunidades no solamente puedan aceptar este, pero con el condado y el estado nosotros podemos encontrar más dueños de estos hoteles y moteles que pueden dar estas habitaciones a la ciudad, a el condado porque también sus empleados pueden trabajar, y esto es bueno por la salud, por la salud de nuestra economía y contra la indigencia. Gracias. Thank you. One more Spanish question, I assume?

OPERATOR: And our final question comes from the line of Víctor Cordero, with EstrellaTV 62. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hola Víctor. Hello.

VÍCTOR CORDERO: Alcalde, ¿qué tal? Muy buenas tardes.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Buenas tardes.

VÍCTOR CORDERO: Thank you very much for doing this and answer the questions. I am going to ask in English and then I will try to do it in Spanish really quick. I remember the first time that you did the virtual press conference. Like if it was yesterday, and sometimes again, I think it was like ages ago, when you said at end, "Our lives will change forever." That still bounce in my head like I even get the chills. If you can talk to us really quick, after few weeks of being in quarantine, how has this changed our lives and how is this going to be our new normal, when kids go back to school, when we can go back to a restaurant, or when we can go back to a concert or a sports event? I am going to do it in Spanish really quick.

VÍCTOR CORDERO: Alcalde, cuando dio su primera conferencia de prensa virtual, yo me sorprendí mucho como si lo escuché ayer o como si han pasado décadas cuando usted dijo que – para terminar, que a partir de ese día en la vida de nosotros los angelinos iba a cambiar para siempre. Si nos puede ayudar a decirnos, ¿cómo ha cambiado esa vida y cómo cree que va a cambiar una vez que regresemos a la nueva forma habitual de vivir en donde nuestros niños vayan a la escuela o podamos ir a un restaurante a cenar o a ver un concierto o a un evento deportivo?

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MAYOR GARCETTI: So, in English, first. Our lives have changed fundamentally. But I hope not permanently. And I know in my bones it's not permanent. That this will not be the way of the future forever. And that our diligent and hard work to respect that order Safer at Home has made sure that lives have been saved, and that days have been shortened when we will return to being outdoors. It won't happen in one day and won't happen all at once, but it will happen.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I think what's changed a couple of things too, for our children, this will be the fundamental moment of their childhoods. This will be like their 9/11, this will be like their Challenger disaster. These moments in time that are seared into us, our earthquake here. It will be like all of those put together and extended. Days feel like years today, and I hope that one day years will seem like days. And we will remember these dark days, but we will be proud of them. And I hope that the last thing that changes is not just the economy, but that if we come back together, that we will see a changed attitude towards one another.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Look, I'll be honest with you, I think a lot of people feel like with that moment where this might start to fray. I am confident that we all can lead away from that, that this doesn't have to go back to us hating each other because of what party we are a part of or what color we are or religion we have that we practice. We can't go back and let this be a tribal moment or a desperate moment. We have to remember the best moments of this crisis, which 99 percent of the time has been when we helped a neighbor, shopped for a senior, given a donation to a food bank, made sure that somebody who is our son or daughter is not scared. And that we apply that to making sure that when this crisis is over, that we make sure that every kid has the same start, that we don't drown people in college debt, that we don't have more homeless on the streets of this city than anywhere else, that our immigrants are not forgotten.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I hope that is what will change in a positive way from this. So, simplemente este crisis ha cambiado nuestras vidas. No es normal pero el nuevo normal no debe ser las condiciones de hoy, pero pueden ser nuestros sueños de mañana. Espero que durante esta crisis, este trauma para nuestros jóvenes, por ejemplo, por nuestros hijos este es como 9/11 o un terremoto, es las vías más importantes de su juventud. Pero después de este desastre, espero que nosotros podemos recordar los actos de generosidad, de amor, que nosotros tendremos una ciudad donde inmigrantes están respetados, la gente en las calles no existen, y tenemos la oportunidad a cambiar nuestras actitudes en este país y tal vez en esta ciudad también.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yo tengo mucho orgullo de ser el alcalde de esta ciudad de Los Ángeles, pero necesitamos recordar nuestro nombre y acta como los ángeles que somos. Y si este es el resultado de este tiempo, es una victoria muy grande durante una tragedia muy grande también. I'll now switch to Spanish for my evening remarks. For everybody else, I wish you a good weekend, a strong weekend. Please, stay at home, do everything to show that love and that support of one another. Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Muy buenas tardes, Los Ángeles. Ya hemos estado cumpliendo con la orden más protegidos en casa por un mes, cuatro semanas. Y al quedarse en casa están salvando vidas. Ustedes han demostrado mucho valor, ustedes han salvado más vidas de lo que es posible

imaginar. Gracias. Ahora los datos. Hoy hubieron 567 nuevos casos en el condado de Los Ángeles, llegando a un total de 11,391. En la ciudad tuvimos 241 nuevos casos llegando a un total de 5,093. Hoy fallecieron 40 personas más en el condado, llegando a un total de 495. Y fue más durante esta semana than las otras semanas. Por las familias, por la gente que están orando porque ustedes han perdido un miembro de su familia. Estamos y somos contigo.

MAYOR GARCETTI: En nuestros hospitales tenemos 1,551 camas disponibles. Entre ellas 242 están en las unidades de cuidados intensivos. Tenemos 1,119 respiradores disponibles. Tenemos capacidad de hacer pruebas para 12,000 personas al día y hasta ahora hemos hecho pruebas a más de 67,000 personas. Si tienen síntomas, pueden hacer una cita inmediatamente para una prueba en la página coronavirus.lacity.org/testing. Por favor. Por su familia, por su vida, por esta ciudad. Un informe hoy de USC, la Universidad de California Sur, revela que menos de la mitad de los residentes en el condado de Los Ángeles, el 45 por ciento todavía tienen empleos. En marzo este número fue 61 por ciento.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Si su empleador le ha cortado sus horas por el resultado de esta crisis, debe aplicar para beneficios de desempleo, el estado inmediatamente usando la página edd.ca.gov. Y si necesita ayuda con su solicitud, pueden llamar al 311, un servicio gratis de la ciudad. Y recuerde que lanzamos la página lajobsportal.org. Vaya a ayudar a angelinos encontrar un empleo y hay empleos por angelinos. Seguimos nuestro trabajo para proteger a nuestros residentes honorables sin hogar. El lunes la ciudad de Los Ángeles va a desplegar equipos de atención médica para ayudar a nuestros vecinos sin hogar, y ofrecer pruebas de detección en campamentos y educación sobre cómo mantener la sana distancia.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Además ofreceremos transporte a un refugio/hotel para alojarlos. Colaboramos con el condado. Ahora tenemos más de 200 habitaciones en hoteles y moteles en la ciudad y casi 2,400 en el condado. Pero necesitamos 15,000 en total. Por eso esta noche quisiera hablar con los dueños de hoteles y moteles en Los Ángeles en este momento de necesidad. Le estamos pidiendo que tengan el mismo espíritu de generosidad y bienvenida la gente que no tiene en dónde vivir. Si tienen cuartos disponibles, su ciudad lo necesita. Visite el sitio coronavirus.lacity.org/rooms para unirse a nuestros esfuerzos.

MAYOR GARCETTI: El Centro de Alivio Médico abriendo en nuestro Centro de Convenciones, ya está listo para aceptar pacientes para asegurar que nuestros hospitales pueden manejar un gran número de casos de COVID-19. Hasta ahora nuestros hospitales tienen suficiente capacidad pero sabemos que esto puede cambiar en un momento. Empezamos con 175 camas para pacientes sin COVID-19, y si cambia la situación, estamos preparados para ajustar para el aumento. El martes empezamos aceptando solicitudes para la tarjeta angelina. Tarjetas de débito sin tarifa para ofrecer asistencia financiera directamente para familias en Los Ángeles afectadas por esta crisis.

MAYOR GARCETTI: En sólo tres días recibimos más de 454,000 aplicaciones. Empezaremos distribuyendo las tarjetas la semana próxima y estaremos en contacto con los aplicantes durante todo el proceso. Enviaremos textos y correos electrónicos a personas que no recibirán tarjetas en este momento, pero continuaremos aceptar dinero, donaciones de nuestras gente en la ciudad y

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daremos más y más dinero en las próximas semanas. Por favor, sean conscientes de fraude también. Nadie le debe de pedir su número de Seguridad Social o cuenta bancaria por teléfono. Si tiene duda, cuelga la llamada. Hemos visto más gente en necesidad sin tener los recursos para ayudarlos. Si pueden contribuir cualquier cantidad, por favor visite mayorsfundla.org/angeleno.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Necesitamos más ayuda, nosotros podemos distribuir más ayuda. Esta semana fue muy difícil, perdimos a mucha gente y muchas familias están llorando la pérdida de un ser querido. Estamos sufriendo pero no somos impotentes. Podemos salir adelante con quedarnos en casa. Entonces, hermanos y hermanas, quédense en buena salud. Quédense protegidos y quédense en casa. Mucha fuerza, mucho amor. Hasta el lunes. Gracias, and thank you, Los Angeles.