

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening, Los Angeles, and thank you as always for joining us. I hope that you are getting through these days, and today was an exciting day in many ways. It is a nervous one, but one that we have been waiting for for a long time. As we heard Dr. Barbara Ferrer, our amazing head of our county Public Health Department, who said that beginning this Friday in just two days, on May 8, certain retail business in the County of Los Angeles will be permitted listed as non-essential before, are now going to be permitted it for curbside pickup. And some public spaces like trails and golf courses will also open.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Now that the County of Los Angeles has made this announcement, I'd like to take a moment and tell you what that means for Los Angeles and how we will make decisions moving forward towards a safer LA. In the beginning of this crisis, we were all called on to react to something we didn't know, a threat we couldn't see and then to respond to it quickly and swiftly by issuing our safer-at-home order, being one of the first cities in the country to do everything from testing, to requiring face coverings. We have led the way and you have led the way. Thanks to you, we have bent the curve. We still have a threat that is as dangerous today as when we started, but we have hopeful moments and we have learned every step of the way what to do and what not to do. And we are going to have to have that same wisdom guiding us in the days moving ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The honest answer to your question of what this means today is simple. Life is not going back to the way that it was before. I said the last couple of nights, this isn't about white and black, a completely closed city or a completely open one. Even as we stayed safer at home, we had plenty of things that were opened: critical and essential businesses as well as some that could safely continue to operate. When we found moments like with farmers' markets or others where we had to shut things down and improve, we did it. And we showed that all of us together could hang on to some of those things that were important to us and essential to our lives.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This virus continues to threaten all of us here in Los Angeles. Each day don't ever forget those numbers that I announced that you hear from the county. Our human lives, people that we know and have loved who are now gone because of this. We are not moving beyond COVID-19. As I keep saying, we are learning how to live with it. I know none of us want to, but we have no choice. And we are doing that by taking steps to safety. And really what was announced today are those first baby steps. We took a lot of steps backwards. Sometimes even leaps. But now these baby steps forward are going to be in all of our hands to make sure they succeed.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Together with the county, I will tomorrow modify our safer at home order here in the city of Los Angeles. And beginning Friday, florists, toy stores, music stores, bookstores, clothing and sporting good stores in the city of Los Angeles may offer curbside pickup, only curbside pickup, not going into those stores at this point. Car dealerships as well, and this is guidance for businesses. Remember how I said that what the state permitted was not something that they prescribed. In other words, the state has told us certain things could open by this Friday. Similarly, the county has said they can open, but it's not an obligation of any business to open. Do what you need to do to make sure you are safe, that you feel secure and

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that your people are protected as well as your customers. And I know our small business owners care the most about their employees and their customers of all of us, and that you will be doing that with us together.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And I would encourage all businesses to only open safely, so while you can open as early as this Friday, you don't have to yet until you feel right. Starting Saturday as well, you will be able to return to trails in the city of Los Angeles. Trailhead parks and our golf course will be reopened. Runyon Canyon will remain closed and we are adding a new requirement that face coverings will be required at all city trails and golf courses. I know some people think I'll never see a person, but you can round a corner and suddenly be face to face with someone. We want to make sure that as people exercise in those parks, in those trails, that people are still as safe as possible and not spreading this coronavirus. So this doesn't change any of our other rules. If you are 65 and older, you cannot go out to those places. If you have preexisting conditions, you cannot go out to those places. This is not an excuse for gatherings. Gatherings are still prohibited. We prefer you go by yourself or maybe one other person from your household, but nobody more than a household that is cohabitating together can go out together on these trails.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But we know what a difference it will make. We know that we've all been dying, not just to walk around the block one more time, but to see some of the natural beauty of this city, to be able to get out there and do it in a responsible and healthy way. You have to maintain your physical distance, you have to wear a face covering. And we are working around the clock to make sure that these are safe requirements. And there is only so much work that we can do, so we need your help, and I know that, yes, you have done, you will rise to the occasion. This is not some sort of green light to slack off. And remember at the beginning of this when we issued our safer-at-home orders, we initially had these spaces open. But we had to shut them down because people were not practicing those safer requirements.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I think we all know them now much better, and we know the consequences not following them better. So I have a lot of trust that we will be able to and a lot of hope that we will continue to keep this open. We are moving this slowly and this deliberately because hasty action, as I said of the beginning of this, kills people, people who you know and people you love and potentially even you. That is why we've developed a three-level risk analysis that has been used by the cities of LA County together with the county and neighboring cities to ensure that our data drives decisions, not political pressure. We owe you nothing less.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Those three things first are looking at key indicators like our death rate, our hospital surge capacity in hospital admissions. If the data shows us that we are taking too many steps backward, we are going to have to stop and even retreat. These indicators in that case would be shown as red. If the metrics are trending in the wrong direction and tell us we need to pare back our activity to prevent a larger outbreak, so maybe hold where we are, these indicators would be orange. And if we are doing things right and the numbers show steady progress, then the indicators will show up yellow.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I know some of you are looking forward to probably green, but we will only hit green when the crisis is over, when we have a vaccine and when we can truly return to getting rid of all of these requirements. And don't look for that in the foreseeable future. It will take time. Second, we will continue to have a phase return to a new safer reality, and this will come in phases and within those phases there will be steps. We are exiting phase one. Focused on crisis management and saving lives. So on Friday, March 8th it will mark the beginning of phase two with a slow and a gradual loosening of some of the restrictions while always ensuring there is an adequate safety measures that are in place.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And this won't be a linear process, which brings me to the third of these measures that we are using with the county together, steps to a safer LA. So sometimes you have to be prepared that we will move forward. Sometimes we will hold, and sometimes we will have to step backwards, depending on what this virus does, the season, the outbreak, the numbers that we see. So there will be times we step back in the businesses that might be allowed to open now might find themselves closed again or access to public spaces will again be tightened up or restricted. You will be able to track the status of these indicators as quickly as we do. That has been my promise to you from the beginning, is to make this confusing period a little less confusing. And we hope that those colors will help you know exactly where we are. We'll describe the phases, the steps that we are in and you will see that at coronavirus.lacity.org/saferla.

MAYOR GARCETTI: You can continue to depend on us. And you will continue to hear regularly from me. But to paraphrase Winston Churchill, this is not the beginning of the end but it is perhaps the end finally of the beginning. With that, let me get to the data that you need to know.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Today the county reported 851 new confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in the county, bringing our total to 28,644 diagnosed cases. This is a three percent increase since yesterday. And the average of the last seven days has in each day about 904 new cases, still adding cases each day. In the city there were 400 new cases, bringing our total to 13,868 cases in the city of Los Angeles, also a three percent increase. And today we learned of 55 new deaths countywide. This brings our total to 1,367 fallen Angelenos who have been claimed by this disease.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This is a four percent increase since yesterday, and our average over the last seven days has been 45 deaths each day. Our heart mourns with those who today are mourning their loved ones. Across the county, our hospital capacity remains strong and our general emergency hospitals, 1,147 beds are currently available, including 944 acute care beds of which there is 203 ICU beds and 1,142 available ventilators. We continue to ramp up testing across the country, the County of Los Angeles, the city of Los Angeles, the city of Long Beach and so many other providers now make it convenient, easy, and remember, free to get a test. We helped get ahead of future outbreaks when we do the testing, we help connect people with treatments so they can isolate, and it helps the county public health trace who those folks have been in contact with, to quarantine them and further bend the curve.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: Anyone can now get a testing appointment. Sick or not, you can get tested to find out if you have COVID-19. And on this point, I want to address a rumor that has been circulating as well here in LA, about people who test positive. This information will never be used to harm you or your family. The County Department of Children and Family Services will not take children away from parents who have tested positive. Supervisor Barger mentioned this, but we have heard this echoed a number of times, and I want you to hear it from me, that rumor is absolutely false. Testing is critical to our efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 so, no matter your immigration status as well, don't be scared about getting a test. That information is not shared with anybody. So sign up now at coronavirus.lacity.org/testing or call us at 1213978-1028 or just call 311 after 5:00 p.m.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We now have 36 testing locations, two of them opened up today to a great success. We had a lot of people in both Northridge and at Baldwin Hills Shopping Centers. And today we have the capacity to test 20,400 people. By the end of today, we will have tested through the centers 225,000 people. Testing and basic hygiene like continuing to wash our hands, are our tools to save lives. So we will continue to wear protective face coverings, we recommend that Angelenos wear those face coverings outside their homes, and we require them, remember, at any visits to essential businesses.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And now, starting on Monday, we are requiring all riders on the city of LA's LADOT transit buses to wear face coverings. These are DASH, Commuter Express and Cityride Buses. Our DASH routes provide an important service to so many Angelenos. And essential workers like nurses and caregivers who are going to work and who are a lifeline to Angelenos, who rely on transit to get their essential goods, it is very important that everybody take this step and cover their faces on buses so that other riders and bus operators can stay healthy. This measure is an addition to intensive daily cleanings, backdoor boarding and free rides on all DASH routes, as well as reducing the maximum occupancy allowed on buses to ensure physical distancing.

MAYOR GARCETTI: It's another step in how we intend to keep our essential workers who are protecting us protected as well. And I support Supervisor Janice Hahn's request that Metro adopt this for Metro riders as well at our next meeting, and thank you for your leadership on that. And I want to thank again all of our transit staff who are doing such heroic work. We've seen tragic stories of transit operators, the bus drivers and rail operators who've become sick and even some in other cities who have lost their lives doing the most basic thing to make sure we as a city can continue to function.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And additionally, I am announcing tonight that starting Monday all travelers at LAX will be required to also wear face coverings. The new requirement aligns with what many airlines are doing as well; right now many airlines required that passengers and flight crews wear face coverings on flights. And these are steps that will help us all be safe. We all know that this crisis has asked so much of us. It's asked us to sacrifice, it's caused us to suffer, whether that's in economic terms or psychological terms. We've had to go above and beyond our usual routines and up on nearly every facet of our lives. But that's not the case for the Angelenos in the frontlines of our healthcare systems. They've had to go even further. Our

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nurses, our doctors, our medical technicians, the folks who are receptionists at hospitals, those who clean our hospitals and lab techs, everybody have demonstrated the true face of courage and grace and determination in this crisis. They continue to do what they do best, what they've trained for years to do, but in overdrive and now under a new microscope in the most dangerous of times. They care for the sick, they treat our injuries and our illness and they prepare for the unexpected. They reassure those who are afraid and uncertain about what this virus means and they save lives.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Today is National Nurses Day, part of a national nurse appreciation week that begins today and ends on May 12th, the birthdate of Florence Nightingale. This morning I had the chance to deliver that same message I just shared with you with nurses at Children's Hospital, and I can tell you in the stops that I've made at the hospitals at eight o'clock at night where I gathered outside the emergency room with folks that are tired but committed and loving of all of us, I want you to know how much it means to them that we say thank you to our nurses and all of their colleagues.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I've gone by Kaiser at Sunset and Cedars Sinai, White Memorial, and I'll be continuing to hit more hospitals as many nights as I can. Those of you who can see or have seen through our media, city hall light up blue in some of our main buildings, it's every night that we say thank you. And we know that you nurses don't ask for accolades, you don't ask for recognition or praise. We know that you believe in this long before this crisis, it's who you are. But your work is a source of healing and hope, and we could never do enough for our nurses and our colleagues. We all know a nurse. I want to thank Natasha for what she is doing, a member of our family who works at Cedars Sinai. I want to thank each one of you who make sure that we are not only healthy, but hopeful as well on this, your day and your week.

MAYOR GARCETTI: As we enter a new face of this response, we can each do our part. Make sure, as I said, with these new freedoms that we would have, these baby steps forward, that we take on new responsibility. Make sure that it works. Let's show that success collectively of what happens when we begin to open the door just a crack and to let a little bit of light in.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I promised you at the beginning of this that--and it was raining at the time, if you remember just a few weeks ago--there were storm clouds all around us, but I saw rays of light breaking through those clouds. Today and this weekend will be the beginning of that, a time for Mother's Day where we can send flowers to our mothers, a moment where we can go out with somebody in our household maybe and take a walk in a park in Los Angeles. But let's make sure we use our judgment, let's make sure we adhere to the regulations and to the orders that are still before us. And let us earn each step moving forward with the hope and the idea that there will be a safer, a more prosperous, and a better future ahead for all of us. So, as I always say, stay healthy, stay safe, and stay at home. Much love and much strength, Los Angeles. Let's keep moving forward. With that, I'm happy to answer questions tonight. Thank you. I'll take the first question.

OPERATOR: And the first question comes from the line--

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MAYOR GARCETTI: Sorry, couldn't quite hear, but go ahead. First question?

OPERATOR: First question comes from the line of Lesley Marin. Please go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Lesley, how you doing? Go ahead. All right, we might've lost Lesley. Let's go the next question if she's not on.

OPERATOR: Next question comes from the line of Steve Gregory from KFI News. Please go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Steve.

STEVE GREGORY: Hey, Mayor, good evening.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening.

STEVE GREGORY: I'm sorry, I joined a little late. Did you address beaches in your plan for beaches? Also, I'm wondering to know if any of your orders are going to be modified to reopen rec centers like the Barrington Recreation Center and things like that and the tennis clubs and things like that around city as well. Thank you, sir.

MAYOR GARCETTI: No, beaches remain closed, rec centers remain closed and any of those group sports that would be in a rec center remain closed for now. So all three of those are not permitted. These are the first steps, it's with trails, trailheads, golf courses full-stop for now.

STEVE GREGORY: So, are you pretty much following the five-page program that the county laid out earlier today or are you going to sort of customized it for the city?

MAYOR GARCETTI: No, as I said yesterday, this virus thrives off of division. Wherever we get good guidance from the state and the county, we will always try to align as close as possible, if not exactly, with them. And I do find that governor's phase is helpful. The county built on those and we will absolutely be using that. There will be times, and I want to be clear though, where I will have to make judgments for the city of Los Angeles in my power as mayor to sometimes go slower. But I feel confident that the same sort of drop-off that we have on the curve or pick-up on the curve that we have for restaurants is a safe enough activity for us to do with retailers moving forward, and that I do believe that we can make our parks and trails safe enough and our golf courses, especially now with face coverings, the physical distancing requirements.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And a remainder, this doesn't allow you to go for a jog with 20 friends, this is about staying still with that part of your household, staying still if you are a vulnerable population because of age or because of preexisting conditions. So we were absolutely in alignment. I talk all the time with our mayors like Mayor Garcia in Long Beach and Mayor Tornek in Pasadena was on the phone earlier this morning with a lot of mayors before we heard the new county guidance. And we are constantly trying to make sure we march together. So we

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are in alignment with the county, I hope to continue to always be, and we have those conversations long before to make sure we are. Thanks. Next item, please. No, next question, please.

OPERATOR: The question from the line of Lesley Marin with CBS/KCAL. Please go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Lesley, how you doing?

LESLEY MARIN: Hi, mayor. Hopefully you can hear me this time.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yes.

LESLEY MARIN: I just want to see how does the city plan to monitor, regulate that businesses that are set open on Friday and then Saturday are following these guidelines?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Great question and thank you for asking. Luckily, we are not starting from scratch, Lesley. We've been doing this with the order before we modify it. We've been doing this with the business ambassadors. I've said it's the three E's: educate, encourage and enforce, in that order. Educate people; let them know about the rules because 99 percent of people in businesses adhere to them. Second, though, if you find folks that aren't, encourage them to comply. Sometimes that takes two or three visits but we usually get 95 percent of those one percent complying with it.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And then for the small minority that after and education and encouragement don't adhere, we have enforcement. And as we've announced many times, here we've had to refer those through LAPD, to our city attorney and to court. So we absolutely have that full spectrum of things, but really, I want to encourage people to do it right. And a third thing I'll say is on the education side we're going to be putting out guidance to help. How does a retailer do this? I don't expect every mom-and-pop retailer to know exactly how to do that, so I know the county is looking to putting that out.

MAYOR GARCETTI: You can't read too many of these things. The state may put them out. But for businesses inside the city of Los Angeles, we're going to put those suggestions about how you can keep your people safe, what is prohibited and what is permitted. So it's crystal clear in kind of plain English, so we hope to have that up tomorrow, if it isn't already up tonight. We might be there at the Safer LA, coronavirus.lacity.org/saferla to help those retailers, for instance, that are a bookstore or music store or clothing store know how to do this and how to do this right. And one last thing, I'd encourage folks, don't open early just 'cause you can, get it right, build a system, make sure you have your employees safe, your customer safe and then open. It just gives you permission from Friday on, but we know most people will be taking more days and some other weeks to get it right. Thanks, Lesley. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: Next question from the line of Claudia Peschiutta. Please go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Claudia.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: Hi, I have a couple of questions.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: So, some people are getting really big DWP bills right now because they're obviously spending a lot more time at home than they normally would, which is ticking them up and higher tares. And I know that -- are not supposed to be shut off during the crisis. But I am wondering if there's any thought you've given to, you know, help alleviate those rising costs for customers. And then on the testing side, I did get a question about setting up more walk-up sites for people who don't have cars. And I continue to hear issues about testing at the drive-thru sites, confusion with directions, you know, samples being collected in a way that raises concern about they're being damaged and the test results would be affected and people continue to tell me, and obviously, I've heard from only a small sample of people but telling me that they're not getting the results anywhere near 30 hours, taking several days. Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure, let me work backwards and I know there was even put up on your Facebook page and got some really positive response about how quick the turnaround is. The average remains 30 hours, that's an average, so there will be some, and you'll probably for every other night that I'm able to make these presentations, be able to find somebody is taking longer. Let us know when you hear those because we love--or anybody listening who hasn't been in contact with the media, call us during the day, 311 week, usually specialized in a few dozen of those cases a day of the thousands that we do to make sure people get their test results. Sometimes exchange change phone numbers, sometimes there was a mess-up with how it's transcribed, but we have a very good rate. It's one of the fastest turnarounds in the country. We are very proud of these metrics and we always want to do better.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I also have questions for you, Claudia, because I know you asked again at the Country Press Conference and so I looked it in detail. The vials that we use are incredible strong, in fact after you put the swab in them, you shake them up. So we are not worried about them being damaged when there are dumped in. Secondly, in terms of the heat, we checked with the lab, 41 degrees Celsius is the limit of the heat and they still feel very confident it's nowhere close. That's about 110 degrees out, and they're picked up twice a day. So we are very confident that I know you said somebody told you about them being dumped there and they were in the hot air for too long and maybe damaging the test results, but we did follow-up and thank you for asking the question and we have that there too.

MAYOR GARCETTI: In terms of the data DWP bills, absolutely, we've been looking at what we can use of our coronavirus relief funds for. First we have to pay back the cost for testing, for the personnel, for the money we borrowed from the reserve fund, for the PPE, the masks and other equipment, for our firefighters and police officers, etcetera. But with remaining dollars, as I've said, we want to look at what we can do to help with housing and homelessness and help for everyday Angelenos. Whether you do that off of a bill or whether you give that, you know, in the form of food assistance, rental assistance, utility assistance.

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MAYOR GARCETTI: We've asked DWP, we're asking the Treasury Department to let us know what we can and can't do, so we absolutely want to continue giving financial relief. We know that if you can take some dollars off of a family's budget for food, that helps them pay the utilities. If you can help and take it off the utilities, that might help them pay the rent. If you can help them with the rent, they might be able to pay off both their power, water and get their food. So, absolutely that's on the table, nothing to announce yet, but it's something we've been looking at very aggressively and looking at what we can do potentially with the coronavirus relief funds that we've gotten.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Lastly, in terms of the tiers, you bring up a good point and you, it's a suggestion in some ways to me to look at if families who aren't, you know, a huge mansion that has a ton of lawns, using more water just because there's four, five people that kicks up to a new tier, maybe that's a place where we can help. So you planted the seed. Hopefully in coming weeks we'll come up with some programs. We'll absolutely be sharing those with you as soon as we have them. Thanks, Claudia, and thanks for the questions. Next question, please. Next question?

OPERATOR: Next question comes from the line of Elex Michaelson. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi Elex. Did you order your flowers yet for Mom? Elex. Are you there? I don't know if you're muted. Testing, testing ,Elex.

ELEX MICHAELSON: (Unintelligible) through the nomination, so many viewers email me about (unintelligible) in Riverside and they're now running with the largest state relief operation in the Inland Empire.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I think we are hearing a little bit of the broadcast, but Elex, he might be actually speaking right now. So, we will come back. Elex, call us if you have your question, let's go to the next question after that.

OPERATOR: Next question comes from the line of Louisa Marshall. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi. How are you?

LOUISA MARSHALL: Hi, mayor. I know that you just announced florists will be able to open Friday for curbside pickup, but we've witnessed them open in Downtown LA for weeks already allowing customers to come inside their shops and not practicing social distancing. You mentioned the city will be monitoring the shops but can you tell us exactly who will be monitoring them and how they'll go about doing that?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure. Look, we've had to do this not just with florists, but with smoke shops and all sorts of things since the beginning. I've announce here, people should call, let us know 311, folks who've seen businesses that are operating when they shouldn't be. And for those, because I know the downtown floral, some of the florists downtown have been in the news in the last day. We've made 65 visits with our business ambassadors to any stores that we heard

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that were open. 95 percent of them complied with the first, second or third visit, and it does sometimes take time. Remember, it's educate, encourage, and sometimes it's two or three times of encouragement. And we've had to refer three complaints by LAPD for action.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Some of them did move then from inside their shops onto the street, to sell on the streets, and street inspectors have gone out there for those. Obviously, moving forward, it won't be as much of an issue, if folks do go into stores though, now, because it is only curbside, we will continue to take those calls, to have visits, to encourage, to have business ambassadors, to have LAPD and potentially action by city attorney. So that isn't unique to florists. There hasn't been a 100 percent adherence. There are tens of thousands of businesses in Los Angeles. So we will continue to go out there.

MAYOR GARCETTI: You should adhere to what the orders do, and I hope now that there's curbside delivery and pickup, that that is something that will go a long way in helping these florists, those that might have thought that they could break the law, go against the order, now will have some of that oxygen release, get some business back. And I know this is a big, big weekend for them Mother's Day, if not the biggest, one of the biggest days for florists. So we'll continue enforcing not just with them, but with everybody, but we always start with education and encouragement first. Thanks for the question. Next question, please. Next question.

OPERATOR: Next question comes from the line of Stephanie Stanton. Please, go ahead.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Stephanie.

STEPHANIE STANTON: Hi, mayor. You have been pretty clear that you didn't feel that LA City was ready to step into phase two. I believe it was even until yesterday. Can you tell us what it was that sort of turned you around to allow the city to fall in line with the county for this Friday in terms of the reopening and does that involve any political pressure?

MAYOR GARCETTI: So, thank you for the question, Stephanie. I mean, I still do believe that much of what's described in stage 2, we are not ready for. But there are things that I believe we are, and whether it was done next Friday or this Friday, to me wasn't much of a difference. I do believe that curbside retail, which is very low-risk and which we've been exercising with food for a long time, can be done in the right way. I was confident about that when it was announced.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Card dealerships, I've nothing had an issue with too, as long as folks aren't, you know, in the showroom and they are doing it appropriately as the county prescribed. And recreation is one that we looked at potentially a week later, but the county decided to move now. I asked my team because I think it would have been very confusing for certain parks in the county to be open and trails and the ones in the city not to be. I didn't want have our LA City residents rushing into county trails that would perhaps endanger people because they are overcrowded. So the right way is to do these things together, and those two things I was comfortable in this next week moving forward with.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So both of those, I believe are either low-risk or things that we can safely do. But as I try to say in the beginning, these phases or stages have many steps in them. Governor Newsom has talked about that to, and there are things still in phase two that absolutely we are not prepared to take those steps forward. And I rely on our Public Health officials. So if Dr. Ferrer says it's okay, we feel confident and we can move forward. To me, sometimes will slow down just to get the logistics of implementing that because Public Health professionals say what is permissible, but at cities you get all the calls, who have to have the police or park rangers or whatever ready. So occasionally we'll take a couple more days, but I was confident because we've been gearing up for this, that the city of Los Angeles could move together with the county as they said on Friday. That was something I and the other 88 cities learned of just this morning. It was not political pressure. They made those decisions. You'll have to ask them and the Public Health professionals why this week rather than next week, but we were prepared to do that.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Looking forward, though, as I said, we need to move together. I think that every 2 to 4 weeks, or maybe 3 to 6 weeks, we should be kind of informally talking to each and saying, "What are the baby steps?" So far so good. We didn't see numbers going up, our indicators that I mentioned are still strong. Hospital admissions are steady. We have capacity out there. Our positive cases are okay, our deaths have not started to skyrocket. Then we can look at baby steps and maybe every month or month and a half we say, "It is time to take some bigger steps within either a phase or sometimes into the next one. I know that can be confusing, which is why I think it's going to be important, why the city will pull out kind of these colors to let people know like, how do you make these decisions? How do they make these decisions?"

MAYOR GARCETTI: Well, we've all agreed on those indicators now between the county, city of LA and other cities, that it is important to track these things, deaths, hospital capacity, how much PPE is available, what is the tracing capacity that the county has to quickly find people who have been in contact with positive COVID-19 patients. And as long as we have those that are measuring and we can see what the status is, it will inform those decisions. When it is in red, we are not moving forward at all, and even hypothetically, and I don't believe Dr. Ferrer would ever recommend when it's red moving forward, but if the county did put out something saying this is what is permissible, I will not be shy about in the city of Los Angeles saying we're not ready to do that yet.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But these are appropriate little baby steps that we have the capacity to protect. It will never be just government, though, final message is kind of where I started. It's also on all of us to adhere to this. So that is why we are putting a little bit additional in there. And I am sure other cities will do as well as they implement the county's orders to wear facial protection while you are outside in the trails and parks, while you are golfing, things like that because that ensures us that we can keep these victories, maintain them and not retreat. Does that answer your question?

STEPHANIE STANTON: Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Okay. Thank you, appreciate it. All right, I am told there are no more questions. I guess we didn't get Elex back. Elex you can ask me two questions tomorrow. I

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want to thank everybody again. I'm going to give some remarks in Spanish as well. Again, please go to coronavirus.lacity.org and check out those guidance pieces for businesses. Those are up now? So they already are up. I want to just ensure that those are up today. If you go to those, you can check it out. That is coronavirus.lacity.org/saferLA. If you are a business that now is permitted to open, check it out, see if you can adhere to it. Take your time if you need to. Do it right, and to the people of LA who are going out this weekend to some of our trails and some of our recreational opportunities, adhere to the guidance, be safe and remember, it changes nothing else in the order. Thank you all, and I will see you tomorrow, and now in Spanish.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Buenas tardes, Los Ángeles, y gracias por venir otra vez al ayuntamiento. Hoy la Dra. Ferrer anunció que ciertos negocios minoristas anteriormente clasificados como no esenciales podrán abrir para ofrecer compras para llevar y ciertos espacios públicos como senderos para caminar podrán abrir de nuevo. Esto significa que la vida no va a regresar a ser como lo era antes. Este virus sigue siendo tan peligroso hoy como le era el día que apareció. Entonces no nos olvidamos del COVID-19, simplemente aprendemos cómo vivir con él. Y lo hacemos con tomar pequeños pasos adelante para protegernos.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Mañana haremos modificaciones a la orden Protegidos en Casa. Empezando el viernes floristerías, jugueterías, tiendas de música, librerías y tiendas de ropa y deportes podrán ofrecer compras para llevar, y concesionarios de autos podrán abrir. Y empezando el sábado podrán regresar a senderos para caminar y canchas de golf. Sin embargo es necesario que mantengan la sana distancia y que sigan llevando coberturas faciales, lavándose las manos y la higiene adecuada.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Estas medidas siguen siendo más importantes que nunca. Tomando acciones apresuradas podrá matar a gente, por eso diseñamos tres niveles de riesgo para guiarnos. Primero, miraremos nuestra tasa de muerte y capacidad de hospitales en Los Ángeles. Si los datos indican que estamos retrocediendo y todos tenemos que quedarnos en casa, estos indicadores estarán de color rojo. Si muestran que estamos moviendo en la dirección equivocada y que tenemos que frenar actividades para prevenir otro brote, estarán de color naranja y si estamos progresando y moviendo en la dirección correcta estarán de color amarillo. Solo logramos el nivel de color verde cuando se acabe esta crisis.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Estaremos regresando de manera gradual a una nueva realidad que es más segura. Estamos saliendo de la primera fase y el 8 de mayo será el comienzo de la segunda fase cuando soltamos poco a poco ciertas restricciones y hay muchos pasos en cada fase. Y tercero, estos pasos que estamos tomando para protegernos, para salvar las vidas. De vez en cuando avanzaremos, otras veces nos detendremos y de vez en cuando tomaremos pasos hacia atrás y posiblemente tendremos que cerrar empresas de nuevo. La responsabilidad está en sus manos, la responsabilidad es el resultado de estas nuevas libertades. Para seguir esos datos, especialmente si tú eres un dueño de una de estas tiendas, visita la página coronavirus.lacity.org/saferla.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Ahora les comparto los datos de hoy. Hoy hubieron 851 nuevos casos en el condado de Los Ángeles, llegando a un total de 24,644. En la ciudad tuvimos 400 nuevos

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casos, llegando a un total de 13,468, y hoy supimos del fallecimiento de 55 personas más en el condado, llegando a un total de 1,367 muertes. Lo siento mucho por las familias que están sufriendo como el resultado de estos fallecieron. En estos, en nuestros hospitales tenemos 1,147 camas disponibles y entre ellas 203 están en las unidades de cuidados intensivos, y tenemos 1,142 respiradores disponibles.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hemos ampliado el acceso a pruebas para todos, si tienen síntomas o no. Y quisiera corregir información falsa que dice que personas con resultados positivos están en riesgo de que el Departamento de Niños y Familias se lleve sus niños. Esto es completamente falso. Nadie usará sus resultados médicos para hacerle daño a su familia, y no es importante su estatus migratorio. Toda la gente, todos los residentes de Los Ángeles pueden tomar una prueba y merecen una prueba. Todos pueden hacer una cita para hacerse una prueba aunque estén enfermos o no. Visita la página coronavirus.lacity.org/testing o llámanos al 213-978-1028 o al 311 después de las 5:00 de la tarde.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hoy tenemos 36 sitios de pruebas y la capacidad de hacer pruebas a 20,400 personas al día, y para el final de hoy habremos hecho pruebas a 225,000 personas en estos sitios. Además empezando el lunes todos los pasajeros de los buses LADOT, el Departamento de Transporte por la Ciudad de Los Ángeles, estos son por ejemplo DASH, los buses de DASH, de Commuter Express, todos los pasajeros serán obligados a llevar coberturas faciales para proteger a nuestros residentes y a nuestros empleados.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Además empezando el lunes todas las personas en LAX, en nuestro aeropuerto, incluyendo todos los pasajeros, serán obligados a llevar coberturas faciales y en nuestros parques este fin de semana es una obligación también tener, llevar coberturas faciales. Finalmente hoy es el Día Nacional de Enfermeras. Yo fui al Hospital de los Niños aquí en Los Ángeles esta mañana y es nuestra oportunidad para reconocer cuánto las agradecemos por su trabajo en salvar vidas y cuidarnos en estos tiempos difíciles. Nunca podemos hacer suficiente para ellos y para ellas pero podemos ayudarles con estas mismas acciones. Hermanos y hermanas, quédense en buena salud, quédense protegidos y quédense en casa. Tenemos más pasos en estos próximos días pero hay una luz y estamos marchando a esta luz poco a poco, paso a paso y estos días mejores son en los días de esta próxima semana. Fuerza y amor Los Ángeles y hasta mañana. Thanks, everybody.