

Speaker 1: Welcome everybody. Welcome to our telephone town hall meeting. Thank you so much, for joining us tonight. We're actually late, this afternoon. We're going to be on, for the next hour. If you have a question, press 0, the 0 on the keypad on your phone. 0, if you have a question. And press 7, 7 on the keypad on your phone, if you want to provide us your email address, so we can send you email updates from time to time, we need that email address to do that, so press 7 for that. Again, welcome everybody. Welcome to our telephone town hall meeting. The Congresswoman has some very special guests on tonight. We'll be introducing everybody shortly. We just want more neighbors to get on the call. So, again, welcome to our telephone town hall meeting. Please, press 0, 0 on the keypad on your phone. 0, if you have a question. And press 7, 7 on the keypad on your phone, if you want to provide us email updates.

Speaker 1: I'm going to say this one more time, and then, Congresswoman, I'll hand it off to you. Welcome everybody. Welcome to our telephone town hall meeting. Thank you so much, for joining us tonight, or this afternoon rather. If you have a question, please press 0. We take those questions live, we can read them over the air, if you're more comfortable with that, we have plenty of screens on there, to get your questions all queued up. So, get that part going, if you want, ask those questions, press 0 to do that. 7, is the number you press, if you want to provide us your email address, so we can keep you up to date with email updates. That's 7, 7 on the keypad, on your phone. We have a lot of people already on the line, Congresswoman, so please take it away, if you would.

Congresswoman B...: Well, thank you. Thank you all for joining us today, on this telephone town hall. Wanted to give you some phone updates, since our last town hall, on what's happening on Corona virus and also, give you an opportunity to ask questions today. We have the LA Unified School District, South Superintendent Michael Romero with us. And we also, have Dr. Jan King from the LA County, Department of Public Health, with us to answer questions. Before, we turn it over to Dr. King, let me give you a couple of quick updates.

Congresswoman B...: First and most importantly, you may have heard, the Mayor Eric Garcetti, announced a new order, that everybody must wear a face covering in public places of business. Really, really important. Starting at 12:01 AM tonight, all non medical essential employees are required to wear a face mask, face covering at work. We've gotten some calls on this. So, if you're in the retail work, like a grocery store worker, if you're a restaurant takeout, if you're a food bank worker, if you're a gas station employee, if you're a hotel, motel worker, all of you have to wear a face covering at work. If you're one of these employees, know that the mayor's order, ensures that your employer must allow you also, to wash your hands at least every 30 minutes.

Congresswoman B...: If something's happening at your place of business and this is not occurring, call our office (310) 831-1799. You have a right to be protected at work. And businesses also, have a right to turn you away, if you're a customer who's not wearing a face mask. So, bottom line, is please, please, please wear a face mask. And when we say that, we're talking about, you can make a homemade face

mask. We're not talking about an N95. We're not talking about, one that's a medical grade. Make one at home, a simple covering will work. So, that is one thing I want to make sure everybody knows.

Congresswoman B...: Number two, there has been expansion of free testing in LA County. And one of those, is a newly added in this congressional district, at Charles Drew University. They're now, offering LA County residents, seven days a week, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, testing. You must have an appointment in advance. So, just make sure that you know, about where you can go. I know City of Long Beach has also, set up rapid assessment clinic. And maybe, Dr. King can answer questions about testing, who can get tested and, who gets a priority. But we are working to make sure with state and federal to expand all that.

Congresswoman B...: So, the last thing I want to mention, economic payments. Everybody wants to know, when are they going to get their \$1,200. The payments are starting next week. Next week, direct deposit, the IRS will be making direct deposit payments, if you filed the 2018 return or a 2019 return, and have your direct deposit information there. If you do paper checks, you're going to be in the second round. We can answer more of those questions, as well. So, with that said, let me turn it over to our first speaker, Dr. Jan King, LA County Public Department of Health. Dr. King, if you want to start us off with an update, the floor is yours.

Dr. Jan King: Sure. Yes. Thank you so much. Thank you Congresswoman Barragan, for inviting me to this conversation. These conversations, and these Q and A, questions and answers, are most important part of my job sometimes. I'm going to briefly talk about the numbers, touch on disparities and then also, say a bit about this new order that's in place. So, worldwide, there's about a 1.5 million cases of COVID 19, that have been diagnosed. And due to the lack of testing, is likely much, much higher than that. What we're going to see over the next couple of weeks, is that these numbers are going to continue to rise until, hopefully we reach a plateau and then, over time it will decrease. Here in Los Angeles County, we have over 7,500 cases that have been diagnosed, and there have been 198 related deaths so far. This is unfortunate, but it is where we are at this particular point in time and hopefully, with all the new orders, that we will decrease some of the transmission that we're seeing for COVID.

Dr. Jan King: I'm going to touch on healthcare workers. So, we've documented about 320 health care workers, who've tested positive for COVID 19. And what we're seeing, is nurses are the largest group, within healthcare workers, who've been tested positive for COVID, followed by physicians, followed by emergency medical services, paramedics, as well as technicians. And this does make sense. Nurses usually spend more time, prolonged period of time, closer to a patient. And that's when they have exposure, and they get sick. And this is similar to general public. If you're around someone really close for an extended period of time, that's going to increase your risk of getting COVID 19. Unfortunately, we've had deaths of two COVID positive healthcare workers, and we're doing what we can do to really prevent that. One of the huge things that we need to

really focus on, is ensuring that health care workers have proper PPE, which is personal protective equipment.

Dr. Jan King: So, the next topic is, health disparities. So, we're starting to get some of our data and we're starting to realize, that there are some significant disparities regarding COVID. As we look at it, we're seeing that African Americans are showing a higher rate of death from COVID, when that's in comparison to other races. So, in Los Angeles County, we're seeing that, African Americans make up about, 17% of the persons who dies from COVID. While African-Americans, only make up 9% of the population. And what we're seeing in other cities, is similar. So, Chicago and Detroit are showing disparities as well, and sometimes it's even higher. So, the current lesson is African Americans, especially those that may have chronic underlying diseases, they need to really, take some of the orders that are in place, the stay at home orders. So that, there's decrease transmission.

Dr. Jan King: And as I say all the time, the best way to avoid really bad outcomes and dying, is really not to get COVID at all. So, stay home. Hopefully, stay in communication, because communication is really important with friends and family, but do that electronically, so by the phone, chatting, Skype, zoom, et cetera. So, all those are very important.

Dr. Jan King: Also, if an African American does get ill, it's really important, that once they know they have a fever or a cough or shortness of breath, that they really get in quickly to see their physician. And if they need to, they need to advocate, on their behalf of, "I need testing. These are the symptoms, am at a higher risk. I'm African American but also, I have these chronic diseases, so I need to be tested. I need to know."

Dr. Jan King: And then lastly, so about two weeks ago, was when we finally received confirmation that people who don't have symptoms, can transmit COVID to other people. And that's why, this most recent order, that Congresswoman spoke about, is really important. So, you can transmit to other people, if you don't feel ill or just right before you get ill. And so, the new order regarding face coverings, or masks that are cloth masks and not medical grade, is really to prevent transmission, if you're infected to others. So, it's really critical, that as we move forward, that we are protecting ourselves, as the same time, as protecting the rest of the community. So, I really look forward to answering some questions later on and I will stop there. Thank you for your attention.

Speaker 1: All right. Well, thank you for that. Let's introduce our next speaker, if we can on this, one way or the other. Mike, take it away, if you would please introduce yourself.

Supt. Michael R...: Sure. Thank you. Good afternoon everybody. I'm Michael Romero, and I'm the proud Local District South Superintendent for Los Angeles Unified School District. LA Unified is divided into six local districts. Local District South, we have 150 schools, almost 100,000 students, south end of the district. We stress from

Watts-Willowbrook all the schools in Carson, Gardena, Wilmington, Harbor City, Lomita and San Pedro. Congresswoman, I just, I want to share and thank you once again for everything you do on behalf of our school communities. This town hall is another example of your support and thank you very much. Constituents, I wanted to share what we've done, what we're currently doing and where we're going, as our schools are now closed, with the crisis here.

Supt. Michael R...: So, on Friday, March 13th, our General Superintendent, Austin Beutner made the right decision to close schools. At that point, every student in Local District South, this is almost 100,000 students, went home with two weeks of instructional materials. This was basically paper, pencil, instructional materials and as many devices as we could pass out. The following week, we had to plan fast and act fast with our teachers, we have almost 7,000 teachers in the South, in providing professional development, on how they would teach virtually online with their classes. So, we have three good days of professional development.

Supt. Michael R...: Last week Monday, we launched teaching. So, all of our teachers are currently teaching online, to the best of their abilities. This is all new to everybody and they're growing daily and getting better and working their tails off. It's been some heroic efforts from principals and teachers and staff members. All of our teachers, now have three days of one hour office hours. So, they do teach online virtually, our students have assignments, daily assignments, that they work on at home. And then, if they need to check in with their teachers, there's three opportunities per week, for what we call office hours. By last Friday, this last week, and by the way, this week we're on spring break, but by last week, all of the devices we had at our schools were sent home with our students. So, as we speak, our high school students and middle school students almost every one of them have devices. So, they can do online work.

Supt. Michael R...: But I do want to share that, we still have many elementary students that don't yet have devices. When I talk about devices, we're talking about Chromebooks. So, our plan, coming back from spring break on Monday, our General Superintendent, Austin Beutner, has made a \$100 million investment in devices. They're coming in currently, and they're being shipped to our elementary schools. So, beginning this Monday we're going to be having distribution times. And principals will be sending Connect Ed messages and emails to family, coordinating when they would come, and distributing devices. When we do this, we practice safety precautions, gloves, mask, six feet distances, and we've done a good job with that, up until this point. So, not all of our kids have devices. We do have a plan over the next two weeks, specifically for elementary schools.

Supt. Michael R...: Internet access. As you can imagine, a lot of our families did not have devices nor internet access. So, we have Charter Spectrum, Comcast, AT&T, T mobile, Verizon, there's a lot of providers that have come through with pre-internet. Constituents, I did want to share, what I just talked about now, and additional information. I want to invite you to go to our website. It's, L-A-U-S-D Local District South. You can Google LAUSD Local District South, right there on our homepage, there will be additional instructional resources. There will be

technology resources for families. So, those companies I just mentioned, we have 800 numbers on our website. We have a hotline for any community or family members or guardians. And our hotline number for support is (213) 443-1300. That hotline will steer you on a lot of directions for support.

Supt. Michael R...: Where we're going, and I just wanted to end where we're going. Our General Superintendent, Austin Beutner, will have a press conference this coming Monday. He's going to be talking about, if we're going to be closed a little bit longer, he'll be talking about that. So, I'm not announcing thing, but he'll share about, any extended closure of our schools. He'll talk a little bit about, how we're planning for summer school. So, we're now, wrapping up in our planning, for not a traditional summer school but this will be an enhanced summer school. So, for our students, we're trying to teach online and kids are trying to study and learn online. It's not like being in front of a teacher. So, what we offer this summer, it's going to be a longer block of summer, longer stretch of weeks and longer periods during the day for that. So Congresswoman, just in closing, I wanted to thank you once again. This is just another great example of your support for our school communities. And thank you. And I look forward to answering questions.

Speaker 1: Congresswoman, go ahead please.

Congresswoman B...: I think we're ready for questions.

Speaker 1: All right. I just thought I'd cue it up and ask, Pastor Sunshine, welcome to our telephone town hall meeting. Pastor Sunshine, where are you from and what's your question please?

Pastor Sunshine: I'm from San Bernardino, and I have two questions. So, let me just, run them off to you and then let you guys answer them. One has to do with price gouging in San Bernardino, and the other has to do with the stimulus checks. I have too many people, who are too confused and I have a very simple question, regarding the taxes that need to be done. Is it better, if you have both 2018 and 2019 done, or is it okay, just to have 2018 done, so that you get counted in the first wave of the stimulus check. That's number one.

Speaker 1: We'll get to the number two in a second. Go ahead and answer that, if you would please.

Congresswoman B...: So, if you filed only your 2018 returns, that is fine. The government will use the 2018 income to determine how much you will get. If you're underneath the \$75,000 threshold for a single person, they will use that information and they will give you the direct deposit based on that. If you have already filed 2019, they will use your 2019 income, but to repeat, you do not have to file your 2019 taxes for you to get a check. They will be starting to be distributed next week, based on whatever information you already have. If you already have your 2018

done, you don't have to rush and do 2019. If you've already done 2019, they will use your 2019 income.

Pastor Sunshine: What about the people that are on social security that-

Speaker 1: Okay, Pastor Sunshine, what's your second question please?

Pastor Sunshine: I'm sorry. My second question had to do with the Circle K. I gave the address, it's out here on Del Rosa Avenue. They're price gouging. They price gouge one product, three prices, within the same time, the same day. And I called in-

Speaker 1: Okay. What about price gouging Congresswoman?

Congresswoman B...: So, I'm going to give you a phone number, the California Attorney General, report price gouging to +1 800-952-5225. One more time, +1 800-952-5225. There's also website oag.ca.gov to report any price gouging. The last thing I want to say, before we go to the next question, is if you collect social security and you do not file taxes, you do not have to do anything, as long as you qualify on the income level, you will also receive a direct deposit, if that's how you get paid. If you get a paper check, you're not going to get a check until the third round. So, social security, by the way, recipients are not going to be in the first round, they're going to be in the second round of payments, which is going to start 10 days after next week. Okay? So, just so everybody knows the order.

Speaker 1: Let's take another question right away, if we can. Oscar, welcome to our telephone town hall meeting. Oscar, where are you from and what's your question please?

Oscar Marcio: Hi, good morning everyone. My name is Oscar Marcio from Compton, California. Thank you for holding this town hall. My father is on disability. We were just wondering, people who are on disability be eligible for the stimulus checks? Thank you.

Congresswoman B...: Thank you Oscar. Yes. People who are on disability will be eligible for the stimulus check. The key, is that people need to meet the threshold, income level, and they need to have a valid Social Security number. But if you're on disability, yes he will qualify.

Speaker 1: All right. And our question from the Spanish side from Walter is, "What will happen with small business owners? What are your recommendations to avoid getting infected?" Those are two questions from Walter from the Spanish side,

Dr. Jan King: Right. Do you want me to answer that one?

Congresswoman B...: Yes. Dr. King, if you want to answer the medical question, that'd be great.

Dr. Jan King: Sure. So, there're two ways that we really encourage people to put measures in place to prevent getting infected. The first one is, COVID is really transmitted, when droplets projected when people talk, sing and cough. So, it's important that we maintain a six foot distance from anyone. So, if you maintain a six foot distance from other people, you're going to prevent transmission that way. And so, that may mean, taping off a certain area and preventing individuals, who are coming into a small business from approaching a counter. It also means that you need to place your workers, six feet apart from each other.

Dr. Jan King: The other piece is, sometimes COVID is transmitted when surfaces are contaminated and that could be tables, door knobs, railings or other places. And so, it's important that there's frequent sanitation with wiping down those areas with approved sanitation wipes or liquids. So, six feet distance maintained as well as increased hygiene.

Speaker 1: Thank you for that. Let's just take another question, if we can please, right now. Let's take Frank. Frank, welcome to our telephone town hall meeting. Frank, go ahead with your question please.

Frank Miller: Yeah. Hi, this is Frank Miller in South Gate, and I'm actually working with Patricia, who's out of the congresswoman's local office, probably the Huntington Park office and she's trying to help with this. Here's my situation. Here in California, California does not pay unemployment for the self employed. I'm self employed. But under the new federal bill, I am entitled to \$600 a week. So, the question, and even I don't think Patricia or even Lena Gonzalez's office, has figured this out. How do I apply for the federal \$600 a week, knowing that California is going to deny me? I've already applied to California, but we're just waiting on that denial letter.

Congresswoman B...: So, thanks Frank for your question. Under the new law you're correct. Historically, if you're self employed, if you're a gig economy worker or you're an independent contractor, you do not qualify for California unemployment, historically. This changes that, this is going to allow you to, as you've already done, applying to California unemployment and they're getting direction on the guideline, so they will know that you will qualify and therefore, you will be able to get the \$600 payment. So, if you get a rejection letter based on the fact that you're self employed or you're an independent contractor, call our office. I have spoken to the director of EDD myself, and this was the intention of Congress. So, I am aware of your situation, but we passed this law, specifically to include people who have historically not been included. So, you should qualify for unemployment and then be able to get to \$600 check. If not, please reach out to our office. If you're working with Patricia, you're in good hands.

Speaker 1: From the Spanish side, Lanose from Maywood, asked, "Is it mandatory to wear a mask or can we decide? Second, I manage a building. How can we know, if people have the virus. We had an emergency but we don't know why the pandemic came, if it was from out of the virus or not. How can managers find out?" How can managers find out about, what of people that are infected in the

building, I think, and is mask an optional situation, I think in conclusion of what he's asking. What are your thoughts please?

Dr. Jan King: Sure. So, the first one regarding mask, no, it's not an option, as of probably, depending on city by Friday, tomorrow. In the County, maybe a little bit longer. So, you need to wear mask and you could be refused service, if you present and you don't have a face covering. So, that question is pretty straight forward, that we all need to start wearing those, especially, if we're going to be around individuals. If you're at home, of course you don't have to. If you're out and you're not really around people, nobody's going to enforce that. But if you're around, people are in a business, it's mandatory. And part of that, is to protect workers, so that they do not become infected.

Dr. Jan King: So, the tricky thing about the next question is, how do you know? So, initially, three months ago, we thought, okay, you basically start transmitting once you have symptoms, but now, we see that people can actually transmit, if they don't have symptoms. So, technically, you have no way of knowing, who has it and who does not. And that is why, it is also really important, that people start wearing face covering, because you can't tell by looking at someone, you can't tell by how they're feeling. So, you need to wear a face covering, just in case.

Dr. Jan King: And then, there're protections against individuals regarding their medical information. So, you cannot just ask for another person's medical information. That information is not going to be provided, in a business or other situations. So, that's really up to the individual to be able to provide that information or not. So, everyone needs to maintain six feet. You need to wash your hands with soap and water is better, if you don't have soap and water, you can use hand sanitizer. And then, you need to make sure there's frequent wiping down and cleaning of high touch areas.

Speaker 1: Well, thank you for that. I want to remind people, that if you wanted to get on the email list, please press 7 now, 7 on your keypad, on your phone and provide us with your email address. We can send you email updates from time to time. We'd really appreciate it. Let's take Joyce next, if we can. Joyce, welcome to our telephone town hall meeting. Joyce where from, and what's your question please?

Joyce: I'm from Wilmington, and my grandkids go to Long Beach and they're in Turin Junior High and one is in elementary. And there's been talk, that they might have to redo their grade over again. Is that something that's going to happen or?

Supt. Michael R...: Joyce, this is Mike Romero, I don't supervise schools in Long Beach, but I'll tell you, for Los Angeles Unified School District, this is our policy. Whatever the grade our students were earning as of March 13th, will be the grade they'll receive, unless they work hard and it goes up. So, there's only one way to go with the grade in LA Unified and that's up, by the end of the school year. So, in

other words, kids are being held harmless but again, Joyce, I'm not sure, how Long Beach Unified is doing that.

Speaker 1: Thank you for that. And let's take another question directly, if we can. Our next question is from Coral. Coral, Welcome to our call. Coral, Where are you from and what's your question please?

Coral: Hi, yes, thank you for taking my call. This is something that has been on my mind for quite some time. I live in an area that is isolated. And we don't have many services here. And I'm a senior, I'm a diabetic and I recently had surgery for cancer of the breast. And I don't like going too far away from where I live, and I'm wondering, how do I get services, get tested for the virus, because I do qualify for it, as a senior with medical problems. But I don't know exactly where to go and we don't have any services here like shopping. This area is totally ignored. And that's been in my call for a long time. Because when I moved here in 1960, so you know, how long I've been here, there were all kinds of little stores, Mom and Pop Gas Stations and-

Speaker 1: What do you think about Coral situation please?

Dr. Jan King: I can do the testing question.

Congresswoman B...: Dr. King, do you want to take this question?

Dr. Jan King: Sure.

Congresswoman B...: About where she could go get tested? I mean, I could certainly mention Charles Drew university, which is not too far from I believe where she's at. But I know she needs to have an appointment in advance. Do you want to give other options? Maybe, can you help connect her.

Dr. Jan King: Sure. So, yeah. So, there're multiple sites that are standing up right now, regarding testing and there's two actually in the Martin Luther King Campus. One is at the MLK Ambulatory Center, and then one is at Charles Drew. There's also an initiative from Los Angeles city, you do need to go online and make an appointment to be seen. But an easy one stop place to find additional information, would be dialing 211 and so, that's the County number, that they can assist, in linking you with testing sites, as well as medical providers and almost anything that you need in Los Angeles County.

Speaker 1: Well, thank you for that.

Dr. Jan King: And, they likely can assist with the other services that you need. So, 211.

Speaker 1: Alright. With that, let's take Jessica, if we can. Jessica welcome to our telephone town hall meeting. Jessica, where are you from and what's your question please?

Jessica: Hi, my name is Jessica. I work for Long Beach Memorial hospital, and I just became aware that, there is some Democratic agreement, that just went through. It's called the Heroes Fund. Will that be coming up soon? How long will that take?

Congresswoman B...: Thanks Jessica for your question. I will going to have to look into the Heroes Act, to get you more information. I do know that we've been pushing in Congress. I certainly have to get hazard pay for essential workers, including medical professionals and those on the front line. So, we haven't yet in Congress provided, passed any legislation to have hazard pay. It's something we're pushing to get. And I will have to see, if the program you're talking about is a local or state program. I'd have to look into that, but on the federal level, we haven't had legislation yet passed. We are trying to get that done.

Speaker 1: Our next question is from Margaret. Margaret, welcome to our call. Margaret, where are you from and what's your question please?

Margaret: I'm from Hollywood and I'm a gig musician and independent contractor. And so, all my work has been dried up, because I'm used to playing for large groups and that type of thing. And I know that I'm supposed to be eligible for unemployment right now. When I try to fill out the form, I just come upon questions that don't seem to be geared to me and sometimes it doesn't accept my answers. For instance, it doesn't, when it asks your work and I just write musician, it doesn't, or independent contractor, it doesn't seem to accept that. I don't know what that is. But I was wondering, if there's going to be a separate form for people such as myself, that don't have an employer, but are independent contractors, that is being made up for us. Or if I'm supposed to somehow plow through this form and opt, if I'm supposed to use this form. It's now been a few weeks. I just am confused.

Speaker 1: Let's try and get Margaret's question answered please, if we could.

Congresswoman B...: Thank you Margaret. I was on a call today with another member of Congress and had the similar issue has arising for folks, who are independent contractors. And my understanding, is that EDD, that unemployment, has not yet put up a form for those who are independent contractors. And that's part of the problem, because there is nothing geared on there for folks like you. So, we're going to continue to follow up with the unemployment office and, if you can call our office, so we can make sure to follow up with you. We will do that, because we want to make sure, that everybody who qualifies for unemployment gets it. And the California unemployment is a little behind, as of this morning, that I heard from another member, but we'll call unemployment office directly, for you to get an answer. The other thing I want to do is I want to give a +1 800 number for unemployment. Their +1 800 number is +1 800-300-5616, that's +1 800-300-5616. Now, their hours are only from 8:00 AM to noon, Monday through Friday. Or call our office and we will confirm, when that form will be available.

Speaker 1: Thank you for that. Let's take Allan next, if we can. Allan, welcome to our telephone town hall meeting. Allan, where are you from and what's your question please?

Allan: Hi, my name is Allan. I'm from Carson, California. My question is for the rep. I did see that Daily Times, recently just published an article saying, unemployed Californian will get an additional \$600 a week. Is that a true statement? Is it, it will start on Sunday. I just want to make sure, with all this other media out there, want to confirm what we're seeing is true.

Congresswoman B...: Thanks Allan. The \$600 weekly unemployment benefit is true. You have to first, file for unemployment to the California EDD system and you have to qualify for unemployment. So, you don't get an automatic payment. You need to apply for California unemployment. And once you're granted it, let's say they give you \$100 a week on the California side, you will get an additional \$600 a week from the federal government per week. So, that is true. You can qualify. You need to apply.

Speaker 1: All right, well thank you for that. Let's take Ronnie. This question is for Dr. King. Ronnie, welcome to our telephone town hall meeting. Ronnie from Compton ahead with your question please.

Ronnie: Oh, yes. I was wondering about the effects of 5G, causing the corona virus, is that true? Hello?

Dr. Jan King: I'm sorry. That's an interesting question. I'm here. I'm sorry. I was on mute. I have not heard or seen any of that information, consistent with that. Now, we know what we know, when we know it. A lot of things are changing with time, but I have not heard that association, yet.

Speaker 1: All right. Our next question is from Latasha. Latasha from Compton. I think this is for Dr. King, I think. Latasha, go ahead with your question, if you would.

Latasha: Hi. Yes. I do have a question pertaining to the school closures and everything. I'm a child care provider. I have a center in the city of Compton. So, I want to know, are we still able to operate with this day at home order? I've been closed since you guys mandated the order and I just wanted to know, are we able to operate or how does this go?

Dr. Jan King: Yes. So, childcare centers are considered essential businesses. And the reason they're essential, is that there's many people, who are working in other essential businesses that need to have someone take care of their kids, so that they can get to work. So, law enforcement, fire, public health, et cetera. But there are a lot of guidelines for institutions that provide childcare. If you go to our website, just Google or search public health, Los Angeles County, and then you go to our Corona page. And then, if you scroll down under the numbers regarding cases, as well as deaths, there are multiple guidelines and then

there'll be one under childcare. There are some guidelines that include, increased sanitation. Two, the kids should be kept in, I think 11 kids or less in groups of the same. And caregivers should remain with the same group of kids. And then, there're other guidelines as well. So, go to our website and look for the guidelines. But definitely childcare is really important that we maintain that and provide that to our public.

Speaker 1: Our next question is from Nathaniel. Nathaniel from Carson, welcome to our telephone town hall meeting. Nathaniel, go ahead please.

Nathaniel: Yes. Hi. Good day everybody. Nathaniel right here. My question is, my wife is one of the front liners. She scans COVID patients every day. And I'm a caregiver myself and I'm just asking, is there a program just in case, if we do get the virus. We have an 11 month old baby and we don't have any family, who could take care of him. Is there a program that would take care of our baby?

Dr. Jan King: That's a good question. First of all, prevention is the best and so, it's important that you use good hygiene, soap and water. It's good that when you can, maintain a distance. And then, it's also important, that you use a face covering, as well as your employer provides appropriate PPE, so that you don't get infected. And I would have to get back to you regarding, if there're programs that would take care of your child, if both of you are ill. But I would highly recommend, that you become very, very strict regarding prevention. Yeah, so that does not happen.

Speaker 1: Our next question is from Stanley. Stanley, welcome to the call. Stanley, where are you from and what's your question please?

Stanley: I'm from the city of Compton. Pastor Stephanie Prince and I work with the homeless. My concern is, how are they monitoring the movement of the homeless, because they travel from city to city. Our main place of services is downtown LA, mission, but I see some here in Compton that travel and get around. So, do they have a monitoring system in place for the homeless?

Dr. Jan King: Yeah. So, there's a lot of systems that are being built right now, whether it's financial whether it's health wise, public health wise. So, currently in Los Angeles County, there are many efforts to try to actually, house people, who are homeless, whether they need to quarantine, isolated or we just need to get them off the streets. So, when someone becomes positive, some of the databases that are connected, say a person becomes positive and then, their house, and they decide to move on somewhere else. I guess medical advice, we do know who they are. So, if they present again to one of the shelters or housing organizations, they're flagged and we'll know. But we don't track every single person, homeless or not homeless here. Although, there's lots of countries that have, and there's lots of, use of cell phones to attract people as well as to see, if they're adhering to certain orders. I mean, they've done in New Zealand, they've done in South Korea, and they've in China, but not here in Los Angeles or the United States.

Speaker 1: Thank you doctor.

Congresswoman B...: Thank you Dr. King. I want to also, just add quickly, in the Cares Act, the Congress provided for \$1 billion to keep America's homeless citizens safe. Which is going to building emergency shelters for homeless individuals and for families. And we know here in Los Angeles, the Project Roomkey is county-wide and it's a partnership between the County, the city and lost it to have hotels, dubbed Project Roomkey. And the first one opened on April 3rd in Los Angeles, and it has over a thousand beds. And my understanding that there are, these hotels, that are going to be throughout the County, to help out with the homeless situation.

Dr. Jan King: Correct.

Speaker 1: [Chaz 00:42:11] from Long Beach is next. Chaz, welcome to our telephone town hall meeting. Chaz, go ahead please.

Chaz: Hi, my name is Chaz. I'm calling from Long Beach. And I'm an independent contractor, who mainly has worked online work for Amazon companies. And so, I don't qualify for the \$1,200 stimulus check, since I'm self employed. I have heard that, there is a program for small business loans, that hopefully, get converted into a grant. You don't have to pay back, that I might be eligible. And I was just wondering, what is the process for applying for this thing and how do I get started?

Congresswoman B...: Thank you for your question Chaz. First of all, the stimulus check, anybody qualifies, as long as you meet the income threshold. So, if you made more than \$75,000 last year, then you wouldn't qualify for the entire \$1200. It would taper off at around \$99,000. If you made over \$99,000 last year, you're right, you would not qualify for stimulus check. But if you otherwise made \$99,000, well under \$99,000, you would qualify for stimulus check. Number two, you can apply for unemployment. Historically, as I mentioned earlier, people who are self employed or independent contractors didn't qualify. You can, under the Cares Act, so I would encourage you to do that.

Congresswoman B...: Now, if you want to go the small business route, there is two programs that we are telling folks about. One is the paycheck protection program. You can go to the SBA website. This is one where, a part of the loan is forgivable, that's if you have employees or you re hire people. The other program is an economic injury disaster loan program, that's also on the sba.gov website, which includes a \$10,000 grant for businesses, that you don't need to pay back. That will help cover things like salaries. So, I would encourage you to go on sba.gov, or if you want to call her office (310) 831-1799. We can send you very specific information about the two programs and you could always apply it to either one or two both and see, if you qualify for any of the grant money as well.

Speaker 1: Let's take Lana next, if we can. Lana, welcome to our telephone town hall meeting. Lana, where you're from and what's your question please?

Lana: Hi, my name is Lana and I'm from Wilmington. And my question is for the superintendent. You mentioned that planning is underway for summer school and is summer school going to be part of an extension of the current school year or is it only going to be required based on fall spring grades?

Supt. Michael R...: Lana, thank you so much for your question. We are currently planning and discussing those types of questions now. So, we don't have an answer yet. But we're planning over the next few weeks and then, of course we'll share that with our community. What I do want to share is, we are definitely going to extend the summer program and we're going to make sure that we have morning hours and PM hours. Typically, we have only an 8:00 to 12:00 session. We want to make sure, that summer school is open to all students, who would like to participate, regardless of credit recovery needs or anything like that. As you know, summer school has traditionally been some makeup opportunities for students. Students will still have those opportunities, but we're looking right now, that all kids having a seat at summer school and some enrichment as well. Thank you for the question.

Speaker 1: Another question is comes from Lola. Lola, welcome to our telephone town hall meeting. Lola, where are you from and what's your question please? Go ahead please, you're up, if you wouldn't mind please. I think they had themselves on mute.

Lola: I'm sorry. I'm sorry. This is Lola. I'm from Carson, California and I have been going through the portal to try to get tested and answering the three questions, but it keeps getting stuck. So, I'm putting in my year of birth, my birth date, and then my date of birth. It seems like it's in a backwards sequence and it won't let me go no further, it keeps getting stuck. So, I don't know where else to go, because I really need to get tested, because-

Speaker 1: Any thoughts about what Lola was saying? Go ahead, please.

Dr. Jan King: Sure. So, what site are you trying to get into?

Lola: Well, I live in Carson, California.

Dr. Jan King: Okay. All right. So, I'm not familiar with the site, but you may want to look for a phone number on that page, that goes to the organization, that's supporting testing, and they may be able to provide technical assistance for you to get through, and if not, call 211 to find a different place.

Speaker 1: Let's take another question right away, if we can. It's Shasta. Shasta, welcome to our call. Shasta, where are you from and what's your question please?

Shasta: Hi, I'm from San Pedro and I want to say thank you very much for these town halls. They're very helpful. I have a question about schools. My son is going to be starting kindergarten in the fall and I'm wondering, when school offices are going to be open for business, for questions about general enrollment, wait-lists, things like that, so I can start understanding what I'm supposed to be doing for him.

Supt. Michael R...: Yeah. Shasta. Thank you so much for the question. Like many things right now, we're building, as we're flying. You'll have to sit tight for the enrollment procedures for next year. We are planning, how do we do it virtually. Right now, there are no plans to bring staff back at this point, at least prior to may 1st, for any enrollment opportunities for families. If we end up having schools close beyond May 1st, we could think about office hours, limited staff per school in San Pedro, where you would have an appointment to come in. We'd have folks behind, six feet behind the desk and we'd get you in and out. But Shasta just sit tight. We are beginning to plan for that at this point. But we're not quite there yet. Thank you for your patience.

Speaker 1: Let's take Anita next, if we can. Anita from Compton, go ahead with your question, if you would please.

Anita: You said Anita?

Speaker 1: I did. Go ahead please.

Anita: Okay. My question is, I'm over 65, I'm from Compton, and I have diabetes and fibromyalgia. And I had been trying to understand, for you to go through the line which are set up in different places. You had to have your family doctor to write you a prescription to go and get tested and I'm unable to get into to see her. And also, I understand a couple of days ago or yesterday, they open on Drew Medical Center and that's by my house. So, I would like to know, how would I be able to go and get tested, me and my husband, when we can't get into our family doctor. To get the paperwork to get-

Dr. Jan King: Right. Is your family doctor at MLK? Where's your family doctor?

Anita: My family doc is with Kaiser, but I'm unable to get an appointment, because the offers are closing. You just call and-

Dr. Jan King: So, if you have a family doctor and it's at Kaiser, that's probably the best way for you to get in and get tested. Kaiser has set up multiple call lines. So, nursing information lines, so that individuals, who are concerned about COVID or have symptoms, you can call in and talk directly with the nurse and they would assist in getting you through, either a message to your doctor or providing you accurate information that you currently need. So, I would call either the general line for Kaiser, or go online and see, if you have information regarding the nursing call line, the helpline.

Speaker 1: Anna is next. Anna, welcome to our telephone town hall meeting. Anna from Los Angeles, go ahead with your question please.

Anna: Hi, good afternoon. My name is Anna, calling from Los Angeles. About two to three weeks ago, I was sent home from my job, because I had a cough and I was asked to get tested. So, I went to the hospital to the little lineup that they do, and they just told me that I had bronchitis. They give me a note to go back, this coming week, on Monday. But I still have my cough and it's still very, how it's cold, so it's really persistent, and I was wondering should I still, hold off to go back to work or can I go back with that doctor note and just continue working, just wearing a mask.

Dr. Jan King: Right. So, wearing a mask is important, washing your hands is important. And then, you need to discuss your clinical presentation, what symptoms, how you're feeling, need to really go through your physician, to figure out, if it's appropriate for you to come back yet. So, I couldn't make a recommendation, without actually having, a more personal conversation with you, as well as examining you or at least doing telemedicine.

Speaker 1: Thank you for that. I want to remind you, we're going to be getting pretty close to the top of the hour. So, if we run out of time, I'm just going to say, you should leave a message at the very end of this call, if you could. You can leave a voicemail with your contact information, if you want us to get back to you. But you've got to stay to the end of the call, if you wouldn't mind please, because that's just the way the system works, what can I tell you? Anyway, I'm trying to find Paul or Megan on this thing and take the next question if I can, but I think they're probably providing their email address. So, with that, why don't we start right now, if we could, with Mike, why don't you give us some final thoughts, if you wouldn't mind please, that would be great.

Supt. Michael R...: Sure. Again, thank you Congresswoman for this opportunity. Remember we have a lot of information on our Local District South website. You can Google LAUSD Local District South. We have a hotline available, that will steer you in the right direction. I want to give you that number again, (213) 443-1300. And I forgot to mention, we have been serving breakfast and lunch at our grab and go sites in Local District South. There are 12 sites, Monday through Friday from eight to 11 o'clock. And right now, LA Unified is serving over 400,000 meals a day. So, take advantage, Banning High School, Curtis Middle School, Dana Middle School, Dymally High School, Edison Middle, Fremont High, Gompers Middle, Malcolm Middle, Narbonne High, Terry Middle, Rancho Dominguez High School and White Middle. There's 12 sites Monday through Friday. If any families need meals, they're free and it's basically a community grab and go. So, please take advantage of it. Thank you for the opportunity.

Speaker 1: Dr. Jan King, your thoughts please? You're on mute.

Dr. Jan King: Yes. So, currently Public Health is challenged, because we don't have the three tools we usually use for outbreak control and prevention, which include a test of

widely available vaccine and medication. So, it's really important that we institute prevention measures. So, it's important that you wash your hands, you keep six feet from other individuals, you use a face covering and you use heightened hygiene. So, good luck and stay safe.

Speaker 1: Congresswoman, your final thoughts, if you would please.

Congresswoman B...: First, I want to thank everybody, for joining us on this call and for all your questions. I know many people had questions still, that we did not get to. I want to just add some, that I saw come through. "If you do not wear a mask, will there be a fine?" There could be a fine in certain cities, certainly in Carson, in the beach cities, they are assessing fines. I know people have said, they've gotten warnings, but it is an order and so, I would assume you could get a fine, regardless of where you are. So, let's keep everybody healthy by wearing that mask. And so, people please, make one at home. Don't leave your house, unless you have to. And if you do, please wear a mask.

Congresswoman B...: We also know that there will be, check in with our office, if you need to know where a testing center is. There may not be one in your city, for example, somebody asked about South Gate, I heard that Ultimate out of South Gate was doing testing. So, we know that there is testing in South gate through Ultimate. But if you want to know where, call our office at (310) 831-1799, that's (310) 831-1799. We also received questions that I want to quickly address, on evictions.

Congresswoman B...: The state of California has ordered, that there be no evictions and no foreclosures for 90 days after the state of emergency, until 90 days, after the state of emergency is lifted. So, if you are being evicted, if somebody is foreclosing on you, call our office, so that we can immediately make a phone call and open a case, to make sure that we address it. You can also call the SBA, the Small Business Loans office. I want to give you that number is (818) 552-3201. Again, that number is (818) 552-3201. And so, those are some numbers, if you didn't get your questions answered, please feel free to call our office or those numbers. We're here to be a service.

Congresswoman B...: Congress is working on another package. We were trying to get funding this Friday, to add more money to go to SBA loans for minority owned businesses, for veteran owned businesses and women businesses. Many who don't have preexisting relationships with banks are being left behind. It's a problem. Democrats are pushing hard to try to get money allocated, so that those folks are included. And so, you may hear about that in the news. And so, that's an ongoing effort. I can also tell you, that we have constant phone calls every single day, on the phone, with members of Congress and the leadership, into looking at the next package.

Congresswoman B...: Okay. We are talking about things like, extending loan forgiveness. We're talking about extending unemployment times for benefits. We're talking about, trying to get additional stimulus checks, because one, is not going to be enough.

\$1,200 is not going to cover the rent. It's not going to pay your bills, up for the length of this. So know, that we are working for you. We're working for workers and for people, to get them the help that they need, and I will continue to do that. Thank you for joining this call. One more time, our office number (310) 831-1799. Thank you to our speakers and to all who joined us. Stay safe.