

Assessing the County’s Preparedness and Resources Against the Coronavirus

Protecting the public health and well-being of our residents is a top priority for Los Angeles County (County). While there still remains only one confirmed case of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the County, in a non-resident traveler from Wuhan City, who has since been fully cleared, we must assess the current available resources and equipment in order to fully prepare for a potential escalation of this public health threat.

Measures to contain the virus in the U.S. so far have involved restricting travel to and from China as well as health screenings and monitoring of individuals per federal guidelines. Given recent information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on COVID-19 and their anticipation that it will spread in the U.S, it is imperative that the County be proactive and also look into the protocols and preparedness we have for dealing with COVID-19 should the threat to our residents escalate.

Other jurisdictions such as San Diego and San Francisco have already declared an emergency within their Counties, despite San Francisco having no confirmed COVID-19 cases. An inventory of our current capacity will allow us to better understand

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the funding needs and resources in our County. Numerous requests for emergency funding have already been made both by the White House and Congress. However, one issue that officials are confronting is in determining exactly how much funding is needed for the government's efforts against coronavirus. It is imperative that we not be reactive and first take the necessary steps to prepare and explore our options.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Director of Public Health, in collaboration with the Departments of Health Services and Mental Health, the CEO Office of Emergency Management, and other relevant Departments or Stakeholders, including our labor partners, to provide the Board with preliminary data and information in 15 days and a full report back in 30 days on the following;

1. An assessment and inventory of our current medical equipment and resources in place, including surgical masks and respirators for our emergency and medical personnel in County-operated hospitals; and
2. A further analysis of the resources we might need and recommendations on obtaining the necessary equipment and resources should the threat to our residents escalate; and
3. Current protocols for schools, hospitals, and residents in the event of an emergency declaration and recommendations on what other elements should be included in the protocols; and
4. An assessment of the criteria that would result in the need to declare an emergency in the County, including information on the potential impact of such a declaration and a listing of potential sites where people may be quarantined, if necessary.

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