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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO APPEARS LIVE ON MSNBC'S
POLITICSNATION WITH AL SHARPTON**

Reverend Al Sharpton: Let me bring in the Mayor of New York City, Bill de Blasio. Mr. Mayor, thank you for being with us. Let me start by asking about when the President of the United States floated the idea of a quarantine of New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey, something that is even legally questionable whether he could do it, but what was your reaction? Because you were out way ahead of everyone saying that we need to do a shelter in place, which eventually is about what has happened, but how did you respond to the President trying to go one step further – I assume it would be further – with a quarantine that he has withdrawn and we don't even know if he had the legal basis of doing it in the first place?

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Yeah, Rev, I think it was misguided, obviously, because, let's face it, the coronavirus is now in all 50 States. And, in fact, a quarantine is not the way to fight it. Shelter in place is the way to fight it. And we need every state to recognize, even if they haven't felt the brunt yet, they will eventually and the more they shelter in place, the better off they'll be. The more they can do the preparations that we've had to do – if they get to do them now, that's the way to go forward. And also, the point that families should not be separated. We need to give families a chance to get back home, wherever home is, including people who want to come back here if this is their home. So, it was really ill advised. But I spoke to the President this morning, Rev, and, you know, I told him – I didn't want to talk about that whole quarantine issue or travel advisory or anything, I just wanted to talk about ventilators and medical personnel because in New York City, right now, we need 400 ventilators by Wednesday just to ensure we're going to get through the week and we need a whole lot by Sunday to ensure we're going to get through next week – ventilators, doctors, nurses. I've talked to the Defense Secretary, I've talked to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff about military medical personnel that could be freed up. We're at a point now, we have to understand, for New York, that this is a growing crisis that we only have days to prepare for. So, anything but saving lives and, right now, getting help to New York City, to me, that's not the topic that should be –

Reverend Sharpton: What did the President say when you laid out the need for these items? And did he give a timetable, if he committed to helping to expedite getting them here to New York?

Mayor: Well, Rev, I heard what you said in the previous segment. I think you and I are in the same situation – we've had long historic disagreements with Donald Trump. But, in this moment, we all have to do our best to work together.

Reverend Sharpton: But the fact that he would return both of our calls shows the seriousness of the time.

Mayor: Yeah, it's definitely a new reality. But the fact is, I judge the President now on whether he answers the call of New York City. This is his homeland – this is his home town and we're in desperate need. He did – his team did work on the issue of ventilators in the last week. We've seen much more progress on ventilators for New York City and New York State – that's progress. But I've been very, very clear with him about what we're going to need, going forward, including just to get to Sunday – and for Sunday, April 5th to be this, kind of, D-Day where we have to get prepared for everything thereafter. I've been going through real detail with him and his whole team on a number of medical personnel we need to get in. I won't go into the private conversation. I will say, he has been responsive and I've given him clear numbers, clear timelines. He has said that they want to help and they understand the specific needs. We'll judge by the results. But my hope is that their sense of urgency in the White House is finally growing, because, if we don't have this stuff in place – I want to be clear Rev, if we don't have the ventilators where we need them, people will die who didn't need to die. If we don't have enough doctors and nurses, our current team of doctors and nurses and hotel workers – excuse me, hospital workers – the hospital workers, health care workers, you know this community very well, Rev. They are stretched to the limit, they need relief, and it's got to come in from other parts of the country in large measure. So, I want to see the President produce and protect people just the way we're all trying to do it.

Reverend Sharpton: And if he does, we will deal with that – I think that we are beyond taking shots at each other when we are seeing people literally losing their lives and health workers working under very risky conditions. And I think that we should judge all of us, whatever public platform we are in, by whether or not we can handle this in a responsible way or whether we just going to use it to get in our corner and take shots at each other. Let me ask you, you announced new steps does afternoon, can you share that without national audience?

Mayor: Yeah, Rev on your previous point, just want to amen it. We all have to work with each other regardless of politics, party, anything at this point. It's about saving lives. What we announced today, we're going to do a series of measures, additional enforcement measures all over the city to keep this social distancing working. You know, we have the 3-1-1 system here – I'm telling all New Yorkers, if you ever see any instance of a crowded grocery store or pharmacy or a line that's not spaced six-feet apart, call 3-1-1, we'll get police and other help right away to open that up, break it up. We've announced fines that could be applied if people are not social distancing in our parks, for example. You know, we constantly are working on trying to get more help in for New York City. I spoke to Secretary Mnuchin this morning about maximizing and speeding the help from the recent stimulus, but also about the next stimulus, because we're going to need a fourth stimulus. We're going to need direct support for cities and states that have hemorrhaged billions of dollars, like New York City and New York State. This time, it can't just be some generic stimulus where everybody gets a little bit. It has to be targeted to the places that have been hit the most, replacing those lost revenues, giving us the money to make up for the vast expenses that we've had, keeping everything going – police, fire, hospitals, everything's at full bore. It costs a huge amount of money and we're all going to have massive deficits unless

that stimulus comes into play really strong in April. So, those are a number of the things that we're working on here and just trying to help our health care workers and trying to support them.

Reverend Sharpton: Absolutely. Mayor Bill de Blasio, thank you for being with us.

Mayor: Thank you, Rev.

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