

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 15, 2020, 7:00 AM  
**CONTACT:** [pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov), (212) 788-2958

**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO APPEARS LIVE ON CNN'S NEW DAY**

**John Berman:** Let's talk more about the now and the future. Joining us is the Mayor of New York City, Bill de Blasio. Mr. Mayor, thanks so much for joining us. We've been talking a little bit about what California Governor Gavin Newsom says will happen in that state as it begins to reopen parts. And it's interesting, right? You have restaurants with waiters wearing masks and gloves. You have everyone wearing masks in public, you have disposable menus, you have schools with staggered starting times. What do you think New York City will look like when it begins to reopen?

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** So, John, I think what Governor Newsom is saying is actually on the right track, but every place is going to be different according to our reality. Look, we need the testing, that's the bottom line, to get to any of these visions. Federal government still has not provided testing to this country. That's the central problem they have to fix. You know what we're doing now, John, we're creating our own tests here in New York City. We just couldn't wait any longer. And even though we thought it wasn't necessarily possible, we put together some of the great minds in the city and the tech companies, the universities, the research labs, and we said, what's it going to take to produce them right here? And now we're going to have 50,000 tests per week producing by the beginning of May and we're going to expand that. I think a lot of other places are going to have to do the same thing if the federal government doesn't get its act together.

**Berman:** Everyone agrees that testing is a crucial prerequisite to any kind of relaxing of the social distancing measures. But I guess my question is what do New York City residents have to be prepared for in terms of how they will live when some of these measures are relaxed and things begin to reopen?

**Mayor:** So, John, I think the first thing to be prepared for is the fact it is not, as Sanjay just said, an on-off switch. It will take time and we should get it right. John, my concern here is, you know, one false move – move too quick and open up too early and then see a resurgence of the disease and that would be the worst of all scenarios. What I'm saying to New Yorkers is let's get this right. We're giving New Yorkers a lot of information about what the health indicators are showing, to say to people, we're all in this together. What everyday people do is what's going to determine the future here. So, smart social distancing, smart shelter in place, sticking to it to really make sure we've turned a corner and if that takes more time to get it right, I would much rather we be sure that a reopening is careful and smart than God forbid as we've seen in some parts of Asia, kind of a boomerang effect where it was too early and then it really hurts the economy. I think if there's a smart stimulus plan by the Congress going forward, because we're clearly going to need more plus a smart, careful staged reopening, that's the best way forward.

**Berman:** Gavin Newsom, one of the things he said is, I'm not even thinking about, we're not even considering sporting events or things with audiences. Now the president said he's sick of watching sports that are 14 years old. I know you're a Red Sox fan –

**Mayor:** Yes –

**Berman:** But when can you envision people sitting in Yankee stadium?

**Mayor:** I think it's going to be a while. I think we all are missing sports. Everyone who is a fan is missing it deeply, but that's again, exactly the point. If we move too quick, we put 50,000 people in Yankee stadium and that's part of why you see a resurgence of the disease that would be the worst of all worlds. So, I think that's one of the things later in the trajectory. We have to first prove that we can contain this disease. To get to the next phase literally means getting to the point where we know each individual person who has contracted the coronavirus, we're tracing all of their contacts, we're doing isolation and quarantine for anyone who needs it. We're testing all the time. John, that's months away to begin with that we get all that right. You can't have sporting events and big crowds until you can prove that you've brought this disease down to something very limited and you're holding there because again, you know one false move – take our foot off the gas, we will regret it. We got one chance, John, we got one chance to actually contain this thing and then we can do a proper smart restart and if we do it too soon, I guarantee you, we will regret it.

**Berman:** Couple more questions. You mentioned the stimulus. How much federal money do you think that New York City needs to backfill everything you've lost over the last several weeks?

**Mayor:** If you're just talking about the money we've lost because our revenue is gone, our tax base is gone, our economy is gone, five to ten billion is the amount of money we've lost that we would normally use to be able to support our first responders, our basic services, everything that keeps the biggest city in America going, and we're one of the economic engines of the country. We're not going to be able to provide basic services and actually have a normal society if we don't get help from the federal government so we can restart, so we can actually have a livable working city again. If it doesn't come from the federal government, it's not going to happen. So Congress has got to get back and do a stimulus that helps cities, helps states, helps everyone get back on their feet and actually sustain a normal economy again,

**Berman:** Overnight, New York City started a new way of reporting deaths, not just the confirmed deaths in the city, but also the probable deaths in the city. If you add the probable deaths, that's another 3,700 people killed by coronavirus in this city alone. What do these numbers tell you?

**Mayor:** It's sad, what they tell you is we've all gone through hell here. And the fact is we have to be honest and always acknowledge the full impact, the human impact, the impact on families this disease has had. We think it is smart and really fair to those families and to everyone to say, look, a lot of these deaths, the folks who were with these people, the medical professionals at the time, they couldn't confirm it was COVID because there wasn't time to do a test or they didn't

have a test available, but they thought that's what it was. And we should be honest about the full extent of this and that bluntly should inspire us to really get it right. This disease is ferocious, John, and we should never take it lightly. So, we want it to be honest about the bigger picture we were seeing. And it's horrible for those families. But I hope it says to us, never underestimate this disease and get this right and lock it down once and for all.

**Berman:** Mayor Bill de Blasio, we appreciate your time this morning. Thanks very much for being with us.

**Mayor:** Thank you, John.

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