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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO APPEARS LIVE ON FOX NEWS' THE STORY  
WITH MARTHA MACCALLUM**

**Governor Andrew Cuomo:** *The anticipated need now for the height of the curve is 140,000 hospital beds and approximately 40,000 intensive care unit beds. Those are troubling and astronomical numbers and as I mentioned, are higher numbers than had been previously projected.*

**Martha MacCallum:** New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, outlining and astronomical need for hospital beds, medical staff, and equipment as New York State faces a doubling of COVID-19 cases every three days. He described the spread as a bullet train moving across the country as cases approached 26,000 in New York City accounting for 50 percent of all of the cases in the United States. Here's what President Trump says he will do to help New York, watch this –

**President Donald Trump:** *And more than 4,000 ventilators to the areas of greatest need have already been sent and we have 4,000 being delivered to New York. The Army Corps of Engineers and the National Guard are building four hospital facilities. In addition to that, building four separate medical facilities in different parts of the state.*

**MacCallum:** Joining me now is New York City Mayor, Bill de Blasio. Mayor de Blasio, thank you for being with us tonight. Obviously, New York is in a very difficult situation. Tell us a little bit about what, why you think that it has escalated so dramatically in New York? We all across the country, we're trying to flatten the curve and is that just not possible in a city of 8.6 million people where everybody lives so close together and work so close together?

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** Yeah, Martha, I think actually the truth may be a little more sobering even than that. I think we're dealing with an extraordinary foe in the coronavirus. We've seen it all over the world. I think New York City and New York State, obviously, a couple of other States, are really just the lead of this much larger situation. I think it's – we know it's in all 50 States and I think we see in a number of States it's starting to be much more of a problem. I believe very sadly, Martha, this will be an American problem across the board. It will just take more time to reach fuller strength in some places.

I think we have to come to grips with this as a nation and I don't say it with any joy. We're going to see this define this moment in our history. And the truth is this is going to be with us for many, many months. And the only way we can address it is with maximum social distancing with really intense efforts to flatten that curve, but that just means slowing down the ultimate number of cases. You're still going to get to those cases one way or another, most likely, but it

gives you time to prepare, it gives you time for your hospital system to handle at least some of the load.

But Martha truth is this is going to be a problem that hits all 50 States and the only way to truly mobilize to address such a problem like we haven't seen since the Great Depression, honestly, is full use of the Defense Production Act and the mobilization of the United States military. That's the only way we have a chance of staying ahead of this and getting supplies from state to state as they're needed, as this kind of rolls in waves around the country. I think that's, what's the honest truth.

**MacCallum:** Well, you know, when you, obviously, New York City is an enormous city, the biggest city in the United States, 8.6 million people I think is the number. How – you're saying that the city will be, do you envision a shutdown of everything for months and months? Explain to me what you see when you say that it's going to take months and months. Does that mean restaurants closed? Schools closed? Everything closed for months and months and months?

**Mayor de Blasio:** Martha, right now, I mean, as of Sunday night, all non-essential businesses shut down. So, right now, in this city –

**MacCallum:** What, I'm aware of that –

**Mayor:** Yeah, no, I'm saying, but I think for all your viewers to understand that we've got hospitals open, you know, we've got first responders going to work. We have food still available. Those basics for sure. I'm not saying we're necessarily going to shut down everything else. What I'm saying is we believe, I believe fundamentally the month of April is going to be a lot tougher than what we're going through now. I think the month of May is going to be tougher than April. That's how severe it is. So I think with New York City, we've got at least two really tough months ahead and then probably several months of trying to get somewhat back to normal. I don't think we'll see anything like normal until we get through the summer.

But my point is it's going to jump ahead. We see it in Louisiana, Georgia, Florida – you know, they're not feeling what we're feeling, but give this, unfortunately, another month or two for them, they're going to be up at the kind of levels we're talking about, and we all have to be ready for it. We can't be in denial. We have to get the resources ready, get the military ready to kind of hopscotch around the country ahead of this [inaudible] –

**MacCallum:** I understand. But you know, when you talk about – I'm sorry, I have a little bit of a delay on the audio, so I don't mean to step on you, but you know, when you hear what the president says, right, and he wants to balance the needs of taking care of people and treating the sick with getting the economy up and running and talking about a way to do that, that sort of allows for quarantining people who are at the greatest risk and opening up certain areas as that becomes available with younger people, with people who've already had the disease, things along those lines. What do you envision for New York City? And obviously those decisions come primarily from the Governor, but what do you envision in terms of that over the next several months?

**Mayor:** So, Martha, it's a great question. I just want to say there's no harder working people on earth than New Yorkers. I mean, this is a place filled with people who work nonstop. And so there's – everyone wants to get back to work. Everyone's kind of in shock having hundreds of thousands of people suddenly out of work. But here's what I think the truth is, we don't have a cure. We don't have a vaccine. We do not know for sure – science tells us we do not know if people can get it again after they've had it. These are just unknowns at this point. What we do know is the social distancing and really limiting activity is the best way to flatten that curve and have a chance of keeping your health system going. Here's what I think is being underestimated, Martha –

**MacCallum:** I understand that –

**Mayor:** – That the health system – if the health system starts to collapse around the country, you can't have a healthy economy, you can't have normalcy if your health system collapses. So what I think I would say is you have to – it's not about can we segment the sick from the healthy and strong, I don't think that's realistic. It's we've got to protect the basic functioning of society and the health care system to get to the day where we can actually have a larger economic recovery. That's not going to take weeks. That's going to take many months.

**MacCallum:** Okay. What do you say to those who – those New Yorkers who listen to you and say, look, you know, what we're seeing is that the fatality rate is actually getting lower all the time based on the number of people and testing that we're doing. So, we're seeing that that number is coming down. We're seeing that there are treatments that are getting some positive outcomes, that the vaccine is accelerating at a rate that people did not anticipate initially, and who would love to hear the Mayor of New York City give them a little bit of hope and something that is a little bit more optimistic than we're heading for a Great Depression and we're about to get bulldozed in a way that we never anticipated, so you're just going to have to be socially distant and wait out.

**Mayor:** Martha, as a leader, I think all the time about how to give people the truth but also give them hope and the Lord knows I don't want to see panic, I want to see people believe that we can get there. What do I believe? I believe in New Yorkers. I believe in our first responders. I believe in our health care personnel. I believe in our military. I believe our federal government can help us through this. But, Martha, it's not right for me to lie to people about what the facts are showing me. The number of cases keeps escalating. There is some good news from day to day. We've seen a little bit of a drop in the percentage of hospitalizations, but against the backdrop of a massive base number of cases that keeps growing. So, Martha, my job is not to sugar coat it. New Yorkers would really be upset if I gave them anything but the truth –

**MacCallum:** I'm not saying you should. No, but I think just in general, when you look across history, you know, when people think about the – what they need in terms of that positive leadership, they want to know that there will be light at the end of the tunnel. And they look for that in their leaders, not an unrealistic approach, but one that ensures them that, you know, New York – New Yorkers are the toughest people in the country and that they will survive and they will thrive eventually and they need to pull together to get through this.

**Mayor:** Martha, I appreciate that. And every day in this crisis – I held my first press conference about coronavirus on January 24th. I've been warning New Yorkers, preparing them, and also telling them we will get through it. I don't have a doubt in my mind we'll get through it. Thank God we know about this disease, that 80 percent of those affected come out of it pretty good –

**MacCallum:** Exactly –

**Mayor:** – But the fact is it's going to have a massive impact and I think honestly bracing people for what's really going to happen so they can get their minds around it – I'm reminding people how great we are as a city, as a nation, but I also think people would be, their morale would be improved if they saw that full-scale national effort starting here and then it's going to have to go every place else. I think their morale will be improved if they saw a lot of our men and women in uniform from the military here to help. I think New Yorkers are strong and we're going to get through it, but we also have to be honest that we need help to make sure we get through it as quickly as possible.

**MacCallum:** Alright. I ran over my time, but I'm glad you're here. Thank you very much for being with us. And we love New York and we know that the city will survive and it will thrive in the end. And Mayor de Blasio, thank you. Good to see you tonight.

**Mayor:** Thank you, Martha.

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