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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO APPEARS LIVE ON CNN'S ANDERSON
COOPER 360**

Anderson Cooper: New York's Governor Cuomo had some welcomed news that social distancing may be flattening the growth somewhat in the new cases of the virus. The state, and especially the City of New York, remain the focal point of the outbreak at this moment. Joining us right now is the Mayor of New York, Bill de Blasio. Mayor, how is New York City doing tonight in terms of medical supplies and case numbers? Last time we talked, you talked in alarming ways about the shortage.

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Anderson, when we last talked, we were just days away from some of our hospitals not having the basics to even be able to treat people. And, you know, I think it was important to tell that truth and I hope it helped to wake up Washington. Now, finally, we have gotten, especially those ventilators that we need the most and a lot of other supplies in, but only to get us through this week, into next week. That's the way – that's the time horizon we're dealing with right now. I can tell you I'm pretty confident about our hospital's ability to handle this crisis this week with already now – it's astounding – 18,000 cases confirmed as of earlier today. But going into next week we're going to feel more and more stress on our system. And, Anderson, it's not just about equipment, it's also about the people we need, the personnel. And I fear that if the military doesn't get involved quickly, because they have a lot of great medical personnel and they can help personnel get moved from one part of the country to another – if they don't get involved very rapidly we're going to have a problem up ahead as are other parts of the country if they don't have that kind of command and control the military brings to get people, get resources where they're needed most.

Cooper: Yeah. Because when people talk about, you know, the ICU beds – needing more ICU beds, it's not the physical bed, it's the care that goes with those beds. The nurses, the doctors. Same with the ventilators. You have to have enough people to operate the ventilators with all those ventilators. So, are we still seeing large numbers of medical personnel coming down with this virus?

Mayor: Yeah. Anderson, first of all, you're exactly right. It's actually a package. You know, the bed is the easy part. It's ventilators, it's surgical masks, and other supplies and it's a trained professional. You need the whole package to have an ICU bed. We are concerned about how many people are contracting the disease. I mean, I've been honest with New Yorkers – probably before this is over, half of all New Yorkers, if not more, will contract this disease. Thank God 80 percent of them will have a very mild experience. You know, even a lot of the folks we're talking about, the health care workers if they're younger, if they're healthy, they'll probably miss work

for a week, 10 days, and come back. But at any given point, a lot of them will be out. So that adds stress, which is why we must have some source of additional professionals soon coming in from other parts of the country. Again, there's no organization that's going to make that happen short of the military. But, as you know, Anderson, the military are essentially staying at their bases. I don't think they want to, I think they want to join the fight. But President Trump hasn't given that order.

Cooper: Governor Cuomo said today that the projected rate of hospitalizations is “slowing down”. The evidence, he said, suggests that the density control measures may be working. Does that line up with what you're seeing in the city?

Mayor: Yeah, it's a hopeful sign, Anderson. And look, there's more social distancing than we've ever experienced, obviously, in the history of the city because the schools are closed, a vast majority of workplaces that are non-essential, of course, are closed. People are only, you know, allowed to go out briefly to the grocery, the pharmacy, get a little bit of exercise – and basically overwhelmingly New Yorkers are staying indoors. So that's a whole lot of social distancing. But the truth is we've only had a few days of seeing that improvement. I want to be careful before we assume it's working deeply, but it is certainly a good sign. And, boy, let me tell you, I've heard from my Police Commissioner – I mean our officers are out all of our parks, all of our streets and what they're seeing generally is people have gotten the message and they're generally, if there's a group congregating, they're told to split up, they split up quickly, people are reminded, stay six feet apart. They're taking it seriously. So I think most New Yorkers really get it at this point.

Cooper: President Trump said tonight that he spoke to you about the amount of ventilators sent to New York. He said you were “very happy” and that it's “hard not to be happy with the job we're doing”. Do you agree?

Mayor: I would say it differently, to say the least, Anderson. Look, I spoke to the president a couple of times and I do appreciate those ventilators because for us, Anderson, it is literally going to be hand to mouth. We are going to get a ventilator in and it's going to go right to a hospital and I think you know about ventilators. If a patient needs one, you have only minutes to get it to them and get them to the ventilator. If a hospital is even missing a few that they need, they're going to lose lives who could have been saved. So, of course I'm happy when 400 came in earlier in the week, and 2,000 more coming, but I also told the president we're going to need a lot more of that and we're going to need the personnel and we're going to need to go through, not just weeks – I told New Yorkers, honestly, I think April will be worse than March, and I fear that May actually will be worse than April. I don't think this is just a few weeks. I don't think we're going to be okay by Easter. I think it's going to go substantially past that just by the numbers we're seeing alone.

Cooper: Yeah. Mayor de Blasio, I appreciate your time tonight. Thank you.

Mayor: Thank you, Anderson.

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