

PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

The City and the State have been leading the way in taking extraordinary measures during the COVID-19 crisis to reduce exposures, save lives and otherwise “flatten the curve” to reduce the spread of the virus to more manageable levels.

However, even with a flattened curve, we now know we have had hundreds of thousands of exposures in the City and State to go with the still-growing number of deaths. Even with our current precautions, spread continues. The plans to reopen the City and State with heavy testing, tracing and quarantining is likely to be impractical at any point in the foreseeable future with so many cases of infection and spread. To implement any reopening plans, we need to dramatically reduce the curve first.

There remain a number of concerning exposure hotspots where improved protocols could reduce infection rates. Taken in the aggregate, this approach could provide the reduction we need not only to reduce the number of cases and deaths, but to allow for a path to reopening society and business in Los Angeles. If we can identify all the significant sources of spread and implement better protocols, we should begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Examples of possible hotspots and opportunities for spread could include our bus and rail system, nursing homes and other senior congregate housing, other group facilities like drug and alcohol treatment living, taxis and rideshares, pedestrians on sidewalks without masks and social distancing protocols, lengthy and time-intense lines like those for grocery stores, medical professionals at hospitals and other facilities, first responder public contact, cleaners, sex trade workers, particularly on the streets, jails and prisons, food processing plants, parks, and delivery drivers, among others.

Some facilities such as nursing homes should be considered a higher priority because the spread in those facilities lead to a much greater number of deaths because of age and infirmity. However, all are critical to the ultimate result, which is reducing the spread.

Before implementing the Mayor’s five-step plan for lifting the Safer at Home constraints and reopening the City, it is essential that the City identify and rapidly address lingering COVID-19 hotspots.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Emergency Management Department, in consultation with Los Angeles County Health Department, and, for enforcement options, the Los Angeles Police Department, the Department of Building and Safety, and the Los Angeles City Attorney, to report back as soon as possible on the following:

- a) Identified outbreak hotspots in or affecting the City;
- b) Options for mitigating the spread of the COVID-19 virus with improved protocols addressing each of these hotspots to reduce the spread caused by each;
- c) Mechanisms for first educating offenders and then ensuring compliance.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:

BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

APR 22 2020