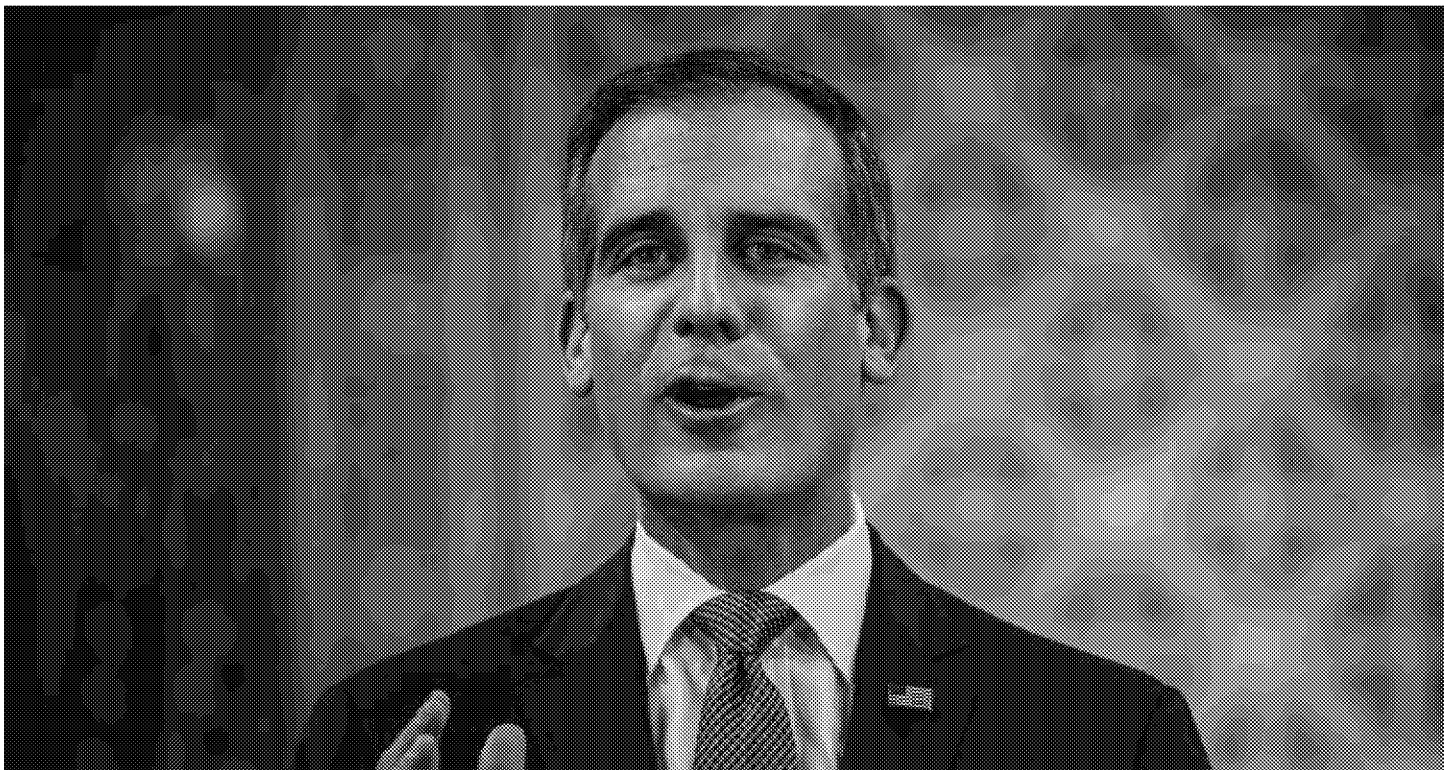


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Garcetti says economy reopened too quickly, warns of new stay-at-home order



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Mayor Eric Garcetti makes his annual State of the City address at L.A. City Hall on April 19. (Marcus Yam / Los Angeles Times)

By ALEX WIGGLESWORTH | STAFF WRITER

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Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti on Sunday said L.A. opened too quickly and again warned that the city was close to imposing some type of new stay-at-home order as [coronavirus cases continued to spike](#).

[Speaking on CNN](#), Garcetti was asked about a [Los Angeles Times editorial](#) that criticized the rapid reopening of California, which was followed by a major surge in both new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

“I think a lot of people don’t understand, mayors often have no control what opens up and doesn’t — that’s either at a state or county level,” Garcetti said. “And I do agree that those things happened too quickly.”

Despite his comments, local leaders like Garcetti are permitted to issue closure and stay-at-home restrictions that are stricter than those issued by the county or state, just not rules that are more lenient, officials have said.

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The mayor has previously suggested that he will be in charge of deciding when the city should reopen.

“Our timing on opening may vary from other parts of the state,” [Garcetti said](#) in early May. “I will reopen our city with careful consideration, guided by public health professionals.”



Garcetti also said Sunday that the city was “on the brink” of new restrictions but did not elaborate. The mayor has made the comment before over the last two weeks, saying the city would act if cases continued to rise — even after a series of restrictions imposed by the state this month that included a ban on indoor restaurant dining, and the closing of bars, malls and other retailers in L.A. County and many other counties.

The mayor urged patience, saying it will take up to three weeks to learn whether the closures have helped slow the spread of the coronavirus.

He also struck an optimistic note, saying L.A. remains in a good place when it comes to hospital capacity and the available supply of ventilators.


catching thankfully is those folks.”



Still, L.A. County reported a record-high number of [COVID-19 patients in its hospitals](#) this week, and the overall share of tests that have come back positive has risen from 8% to just under 10%, suggesting that there has also been an increase in community transmission.

State of the Union  
@CNNSotu

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says that they are on the “brink” of issuing another stay-at-home order as coronavirus cases increase in the city #CNNSOTU

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Garcetti, in addition to citing decisions made by county and state authorities, also took aim at the White House: “We have seen no national leadership,” he said.

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guidance and gathering with others outside their households.

“It’s not just what’s open and closed,” he said. “It’s also about what we do individually.”

Rather than have the city be subject to another broad closure, Garcetti suggested he’d prefer to take more targeted interventions aimed at helping those who were most vulnerable to suffering serious illness or death from contracting the coronavirus.

He said that outside of skilled nursing facilities, Black residents are no longer dying at a rate disproportionate to their share of the population, but officials are now seeing higher rates of deaths among Latino people and low-income workers.

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“So I want to be more surgical,” he said. “I want to go into those factories where we’re seeing spread. I want to go into those communities, especially our lower-income communities. ... I think we have to be surgical rather than a cleaver that would just shut everything down.”

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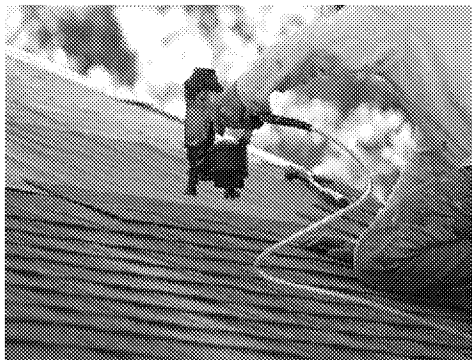
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