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Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia's May 4 update on coronavirus outbreak

The capacity to safely provide childcare is critical to restarting Long Beach's economy.



Mayor Robert Garcia (Photo by Scott Varley, Daily Breeze/SCNG)

By **CONTRIBUTED CONTENT** |

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Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia released this message on Monday, May 4, an update on the city's status amid the novel coronavirus outbreak.

As we continue to plan for our gradual reopening the capacity to safely provide childcare is critical to restarting the economy.

Early childhood education facilities have been deemed an essential service and the Mayor's Fund for Education, in partnership with the Health Department's Early Childhood Education Program, is staying connected with early childcare and education centers currently open and providing service for essential workers and at-risk children. I want to thank those community partners, including the Long Beach Day Nursery, YMCA of Greater Long Beach, Child Lane, Children Today, Young Horizons, Giant Steps, and Un Mundo de Amigos—as well as the hundreds of smaller and in-home providers offering care for the families of essential workers.

The ability for businesses, schools, and childcare facilities to support physical distancing is one of the Gov. Gavin Newsom's six indicators for modifying the statewide Stay at Home order and childcare is a priority for Los Angeles County and Long Beach. I'm glad to report we are ahead of the curve in working with our childcare providers to meet the safety standards required.

When other agencies were struggling with capacity and Long Beach was at risk of not receiving critically needed supplies for childcare providers and families, the Mayor's Fund for Education, City Health Department's Early Childhood Education Program, and Long Beach Early Childhood Education Committee quickly responded to help ensure local needs were met. Supplies are now being secured and coordinated by the Mayor's Fund and the City Health Department's Early Childhood Education Program and being distributed through the Long Beach Early Childhood Education Committee.

Early care/education providers will get supplies first, then local families who are accessing Long Beach Unified School District's meal program will also be eligible for supplies. We are working with LBUSD to identify those families with the greatest need. I want to thank the Child Care Alliance of LA for their contributions.

Thanks to these efforts, thousands of diapers, face coverings and bottles of hand sanitizer, as well as early childhood education materials, have found their way to childcare providers in Long Beach. Our thanks to Senator Holly Mitchell and the County of Los Angeles, as well as Baby 2 Baby, Ikea, and a significant anonymous contribution from a generous Long Beach community member, for providing supplies.

Efforts to acquire baby formula, cleaning products, gloves and additional educational supplies are ongoing.

As we move toward a safe, gradual reopening, our efforts to support essential workers and protect the most vulnerable will be critical. I'm proud of the progress we've made providing childcare and assisting childcare providers efforts.

To learn more or to donate, please visit the Mayor's Fund for Education, <http://mayorsfundforded.org>.

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