

CALIFORNIA

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AL SEIB Los Angeles Times

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER Anniesatu Newland swabs Alfredo Contreras' mouth during walk-in coronavirus testing this week at St. John's Well Child & Family Center in South Los Angeles.

L.A. County's next goal is Fourth of July

Any comprehensive reopening to aid the struggling economy will depend on reduced cases of virus.

BY COLLEEN SHALBY, RONG-GONG LIN II AND SARAH PARVINI

Los Angeles County officials' newest goal is to more fully reopen the economy by July 4, officials said Tuesday. The mission is to safely reopen retail businesses, restaurants and malls. But getting there will be slow going.

"We have to do a lot of things right so we can actually get to that date," L.A. County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said. "I think the reality is that we are going to really aim together to get there as quickly as possible, but we're going to pay attention to the data and science."

The goal was announced during a Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday, as business leaders lamented the toll the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on the economy, saddling business owners and employees with

lost work and pay. Also Tuesday, Sacramento County announced it has been given the go-ahead by the state to reopen dine-in restaurants. County officials said their reopening plan differs slightly from the state's road map: religious services and ceremonies such as graduations can be held only via drive-through, and outdoor gatherings — such as weddings, funerals and family gatherings — can have a maximum of 10 people with strict social distancing.

Citing county officials, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg tweeted that the county would be able to "reopen some offices, small shops and restaurants" by Friday. "It's not just about allowing the businesses to open; it's also about the customers," he said in a media briefing. "People on the one hand are going to be understandably cautious, as they should be. But I know that I'm going to try to lead the way. I will go out to eat. I'll eat al fresco."

But in Los Angeles County — the center of coronavirus cases in California, with more than 1,900 deaths — officials have long said reopening the economy will be more difficult than in other parts of the state less

[See Reopen, B5]

I got tested. Should you?

L.A. County has made free coronavirus testing available to anyone who wants it — symptoms or not. But is that good public policy?

STEVE LOPEZ

The last time I traveled along Stadium Way I was headed to a Dodger game, but on Monday afternoon I drove to the fire training center near the ballpark for a much less enjoyable experience.



A COVID-19 test.

No beer, no Dodger dogs. Just a cotton swab and a five-minute drive-through, with results to follow in a few days.

I was conflicted about being tested, for two reasons.

First, while we definitely needed to ramp up testing back at the beginning of this crisis, I'm wondering if the county has now gone overboard

in offering free testing to all residents, whether or not they have symptoms.

Second, I'm pretty sure that my minor allergy-like symptoms are just that: allergies. But as someone who is almost 67, with a couple of minor health issues, I thought I should make sure. Not just for the benefit of loved ones, but because I'm in contact with other people while out and about on interviews.

As of Tuesday, about 350,000 people in L.A. County had been tested and roughly 33,000 of them, or 9%, were positive.

"So long as COVID-19 spreads, we have to scale up our response — and because this disease can be a silent killer, we have carefully built the capacity to get more people tested," Mayor Eric Garcetti said in announcing the testing partnership

with L.A. County. "No one should have to wait, wonder, or risk infecting others. Don't leave it to chance. Schedule a test."

The theory is that such testing could prevent asymptomatic super-spreaders from infecting others. And it could help identify trend lines and give us a better picture of what percentage of the public is sick, and when we can safely begin returning to school and to work.

But not everyone believes that it's practical or even desirable to test people who have no symptoms.

Dr. Clayton Kazan, medical director of the L.A. County Fire Department and an emergency room physician, said he's all for routine testing of people in high-risk situations, such as staffers at elder-care facilities. He also supports the testing of

[See Lopez, B5]

UC divests from fossil fuels

BY TERESA WATANABE

The University of California announced Tuesday that it has fully divested from all fossil fuels, the nation's largest educational institution to do so as campaigns to fight climate change through investment strategies proliferate at campuses across the country.

The UC milestone capped a five-year effort to move the public research university system's \$126-billion portfolio into more environmentally sustainable investments, such as wind and solar energy. UC officials say their strategy is grounded in concerns about the planet's future and in what makes financial sense.

"As long-term investors, we believe the university and its stakeholders are much better served by investing in promising opportunities in the alternative energy field rather than gambling on oil and gas," Richard Sherman, chair of the UC Board of Regents' investments committee, said in a statement.

The movement against fossil fuels has mushroomed to encompass more than 1,100 faith, educational, gov-

[See Fossil fuels, B2]



GINA FERRAZZI Los Angeles Times

RESTRICTIONS on in-person religious services led to "unequal treatment of faith communities" the Justice Department wrote. Above, protesters in Riverside.

Feds warn of religious bias

Justice Department says state's closure rules are 'unequal.'

BY MATTHEW ORMSETH AND ALEX WIGGLESWORTH

The measures Gov. Gavin Newsom enacted to slow the spread of the coronavirus and his plans to unwind them may discriminate against religious groups and violate their constitutional rights, the U.S. Justice Department warned in a letter Tuesday.

In a three-page letter to the governor, Eric S. Dreiband, an assistant attorney general and the head of the Justice Department's civil rights division, said Newsom had shown "unequal treatment of faith communities"

in restricting their abilities to gather and ultimately reopen.

"Simply put, there is no pandemic exception to the U.S. Constitution and its Bill of Rights," Dreiband wrote.

Newsom's office had no comment beyond confirming that it had received the letter.

Dreiband raised issues both with California's stay-at-home order and Newsom's plan to roll it back. While worshippers cannot gather in person, even while following social distancing protocols, California has deemed employees in the entertainment and e-commerce industries essential and allowed them to continue working in person, "regardless of whether the product they are selling and shipping are life-preserving products or not," Dreiband said.

"This facially discriminates against religious exercise," he said.

Moreover, Dreiband wrote, the governor has permitted restaurants, shopping malls and offices to resume operations in the second phase of his plan to reopen California's economy, but houses of worship cannot hold in-person services until its third, later phase.

"The Constitution calls for California to do more to accommodate religious worship, including in stage 2 of the reopening plan," Dreiband said.

In April, the Justice Department intervened in a dispute between a Mississippi church and the city of Greenville, whose police officers had broken up a service held in the church's parking lot. At the time, Atty. Gen. William Barr said religious

[See Warning, B2]



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

A WORKER cleans tables at the Original Farmers Market, where a variety of stores have been open.

Former City Hall official embroiled in federal probe

BY EMILY ALPERT REYES AND JOEL RUBIN

Raymond Chan earned praise at City Hall for his eagerness to smooth out city bureaucracy for developers, both as the head of Los Angeles' building department and later as a deputy mayor focused on economic development.

When Chan stepped down from city service, Mayor Eric Garcetti credited him with helping to usher in L.A.'s development boom and lauded him as a "true public servant."

Now court records in an ongoing federal probe into corruption at City Hall tell a different story. Prosecutors have alleged that a deputy mayor was paid by a real estate consultant to help shepherd a major project through City Hall — and leveraged his power as a city official to aid the development.

Although federal investigators did not name the former deputy mayor in court papers, details about his employment history make clear it is Chan, including the dates that he headed the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety and when he was appointed deputy mayor for economic development. He has not been charged with a crime.

Chan has long been known to be under scrutiny by investigators: He was previously named in a federal warrant seeking evidence of possible crimes involving more than a dozen people, which surfaced more than a year ago. The warrant, served on Google, sought records from his email account.

But the latest filing spells out much more about what investigators are probing about the former deputy mayor and building chief, whose enthusiasm for fos-

[See Chan, B4]

Reopening's risk magnets

Large workplaces pose particular concerns for health officials as restrictions ease. **B2**

He took own life in ICE custody

Immigrant, 74, had sought release over coronavirus risk. **B3**

Lottery **B2**

L.A. County to let data decide the timetable

[Reopen, from B1] hard hit. The idea is to avoid a reopening that occurs too quickly and causes more outbreaks.

During a media briefing, L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti said pet grooming and training services, as well as car washes, would be allowed to open immediately.

Customers may drop off and pick up their pets outside the store, but like other retail, only employees will be allowed to enter the building, Garcetti said. Mobile pet grooming services must follow physical distancing protocols, he added.

The mayor reiterated the importance of staying home, practicing social distancing, hand washing and wearing face coverings.

"The more that you keep your physical distance, the quicker we'll be able to return to even more spaces," he said, adding that studies indicate that the virus' spread could be slowed just from people covering their faces in public.

On average, over the last seven days, "we have seen about 940 new cases diagnosed each day," Garcetti said.

Other measurements — such as hospitalizations — have been trending downward.

Officials have also been aware of the devastating economic toll the stay-at-home orders are taking.

According to Bill Allen, president of the L.A. County Economic Development Corporation, more than 1 million unemployment claims have been filed in the county, with restaurants and retail industries hit the hardest.

The continued easing of restrictions does not mean life has returned to normal, county leaders cautioned. Parties and gatherings are still not permitted, and social distancing practices are still mandated.

"I have a great deal of concern that people are not listening to that message," Supervisor Hilda Solis said.

The reopening news coincides with the announcement by county health officials of another milestone in the pandemic: an additional 76 deaths and 1,183 new confirmed cases.

The daily increases come a day after a study suggested that substantially more people have been infected by the coronavirus than what Los Angeles County's confirmed case count shows, backing previous findings from preliminary serology findings reported last month.

The study tested 865 people for the coronavirus antibodies during the second week of April, when roughly 8,430 cases of the virus had been confirmed in L.A. County.

The findings suggest that the prevalence of antibodies among residents was 4.65%, an estimate that implies about 367,000 adults had been infected by the virus at the time.

The preliminary findings reported last month estimated that 4.1% of county residents had contracted the virus.

The ongoing study from USC and L.A. County's Public Health Department was published Monday in the Journal of the American Medical Assn.

The study indicates that the county has a long way to go before herd immunity is established. Neeraj Sood, the study's lead author, said the findings also suggest that contact tracing methods to track and limit the spread of the virus could be challenging.

Contact tracing — the process of identifying individuals who may have come into contact with an infected patient — is one of the state's

requirements before counties can expand their reopenings.

Samples were taken from a random group of people in a 15-mile radius of eligible testing sites. Two tests were inconclusive because of faulty kits. Of those whose tests were used, 60% were women, 55% were ages 35-54, 58% were white and 43% had yearly household incomes greater than \$100,000.

More than 39,500 L.A. County residents have tested positive for the virus — a number that accounts for the bulk of the state's total of nearly 82,000 infections. But officials have long warned that confirmed cases do not represent the true totality of the virus' spread.

As testing capacity has increased, so has the number of confirmed cases. But to date, only roughly 358,000 of the county's 10 million residents have been checked. Of those, 9% have tested positive.

The county continues to ease certain restrictions to restore the economy, while stressing the need for residents to maintain social-distancing practices.

Currently, most retail stores and restaurants allow curbside pickup, trails and parks have reopened, and active recreation is allowed at the beaches. Face coverings are still required, while gatherings are not permitted in the county.

Although several counties have been given permission for dine-in service and in-store shopping — and more counties are making cases for further reopening — the grip the coronavirus has on L.A. County is holding fast.

"We're many parts, and every part of the state of California is unique and distinctive," Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday when asked about the state's patchwork of modifications.

The governor noted that urban areas such as L.A. County and the Bay Area may not be ready to move as quickly as other communities.

But there have also been positive signs.

As L.A. County found itself in a coronavirus crisis in March, it became clear the highly infectious disease was surging out of control, with every one person testing positive for the virus infecting an average of 3.5 other people.

Last week, L.A. County officials released data showing remarkable progress: The infection rate has fallen.

Instead of every patient infecting an average of more than three other people, every infected person in L.A. County now infects just one other person.

Among L.A. County public health experts, this number is called "R," which stands for the effective transmission number of the disease. This number can change when the public takes steps to change behaviors, such as adhering to a stay-at-home order.

The fact that the disease was spreading from one infected person to more than three others represented "a high rate of spread, much faster than what is seen, for example, with seasonal influenza," Dr. Christina Ghaly, director of health services for L.A. County, said at the time.

Officials believe the drop is tied to stay-at-home orders imposed in late March.

"This represents tremendous progress, and we should all be very proud. It is also what allows us to start easing health officer orders and the restrictions that we've all been living with for the past several weeks. Safer at Home bought us time," Ghaly said.

Is widespread testing wise?

[Lopez, from B1] first responders, and his firefighters are participating in a long-term UCLA study that will monitor the health of front-line workers.

But Kazan thinks "massive testing of asymptomatic people, without consideration of what their risk is, is of low value by definition." And there's the possibility, he added, of inaccurate test results as well as the possibility that people will test negative one day and contract the virus the next.

"The false negative rate is between 10% and 30%, and we know the cost for doing the tests at public sites is about \$125 per test," Kazan said. "If I test a thousand asymptomatic people and find one or two out of a thousand [who are positive], or three out of a thousand, that's a high cost ... so I definitely question the value."

Dr. Michael Hochman, a Keck Medical Center physician and director of the USC Gehr Family Center for Health Systems Science and Innovation, said some experts have called for repeated testing of the entire population, which would be highly impractical and wouldn't necessarily be all that useful.

"While mass Covid-19 testing might seem intuitive, its benefits are unlikely to meet the high expectations for it," Hochman wrote in a piece published last week by the health news website STAT.

People who have COVID-19 symptoms should be tested, Hochman said. For those who don't, testing might have some value in advancing our understanding of the virus, but for it to be really useful would require millions and millions of tests and close analysis of the data produced.

"I just don't think the juice is worth the squeeze,



MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

L.A. FIREFIGHTERS in protective gear hand out coronavirus testing kits to people waiting near Dodger Stadium. Experts disagree on who should get tested.

especially since it's the simple things that are going to get us out of this epidemic," Hochman said, speaking of the time between now and the development of a vaccine.

What kind of simple things?

There are four of them, Hochman said. And you've heard them before.

Wash your hands frequently and meticulously. Repeatedly clean all surfaces with virus-killing solutions. Social-distance yourself from others as much as possible. And wear a mask if you're in the company of others.

I'm still getting push-back for my Sunday column about the benefits of wearing masks. Hochman said he used to doubt the efficacy of masks but has become a convert based on his reading of the scientific data. There's no use in wearing a mask outdoors if nobody is near you, he said. Other-

wise, cover your face.

"If we do these four things very consistently, the data is showing more and more that that's going to have a dramatic effect," Hochman said.

I asked Dr. Sharon Balter, director of communicable disease control for the L.A. County Department of Public Health, what she thought about the second-guessing of current testing policy. She said she and other public officials have been having those very discussions, and Balter expects COVID-19 response strategies to be refined in coming days.

"This is new, and we're learning, and we don't have all the answers," Balter said. "But widespread testing of asymptomatic people is not necessarily all that helpful, and it can give people a false sense of, 'I'm tested, so I'm safe.'"

One goal of making free testing available to everyone

was to make sure those without access to private healthcare could get tested, Balter said. But going forward, she said, testing may be targeted more at those with symptoms and the people they have come into contact with. Tests will also be conducted anywhere there's an outbreak or cluster of cases.

"I think people understand that the answer is not any one thing, and testing is just a piece of it," Balter said, echoing Hochman's prescription of distancing, sanitizing and face covering.

I've done all those things as much as possible, but there's always room for improvement.

Waiting for the results from the lab is like waiting for my report card. I hope the news is good, and that the next time I'm back in that neighborhood it's to see a Dodgers game.

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Los Angeles Times

AKITA, Margaret

Margaret passed away on May 6, 2020 at her home in Sierra Madre, CA. She was 89 and will be remembered for her generosity and caring heart.

Born in Los Angeles at the Japanese Hospital, Margaret is preceded in death by her parents, Chieko and Paul Sugano, and sister Helen Hori.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1953 from the University of Southern California and Huntington Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, where she was awarded Highest Achievement in Clinical Nursing. She was dedicated to her profession and was instrumental in creating a permanent display to commemorate the history of the Hospital's school and its students. Margaret cherished her "Class with class" colleagues, who she stayed in touch with for seven decades.

Above all, Margaret loved her family. She was always there to listen, share encouragement and support. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Kiyoshi, their son Mark, daughters Andrea (Walter Zisette), Diana Yoshie (James Marshall), and Lisa (Mel Senft), and grandchildren Maya, Sarah, Jana, Brent, Anna, and Claire.

In memory of her, please consider a donation to: Huntington Hospital-Nursing Education, 100 W California Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91105.



ATTEBERRY, Marlene Marie

June 16, 1941 - July 28, 2019
Born in Chicago, Illinois on June 16, 1941, Marlene Marie Atteberry (nee Wetherbee) passed away on July 28, 2019 in Artesia, California. Marlene was a dedicated, loving and beloved wife, mother, sister, aunt and cousin.

Marlene had an enthusiastic interest in genealogy, music, art, history, science, sports (especially football, tennis and horse racing), and a variety of other topics. She was a lover of animals, and took great and affectionate care of many pets during her lifetime, and in return, was rewarded by their affection and loyalty.

She was dedicated and conscientious in a variety of jobs, highly regarded by both employers and co-workers. She developed lifelong friendships with several people she worked with.

Marlene is survived by her loving husband, Ted; her children, Charlotte and Ted II; her son-in-law, Greg; her sisters, Joyce and Carolyn; and many cousins, nephews, nieces and friends. Marlene will be greatly missed, and lovingly remembered, by them all.

BAUER, Sigmund

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinainaparks.org

DE PERRY, Carl

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinainaparks.org

EVIDENTE, Amihan Aguirre

January 25, 1947 - May 6, 2020

AMIHAN AGUIRRE EVIDENTE passed away on May 6, 2020 in Tarzana, CA. She was

born on January 25, 1947 in Manila, Philippines. She was a successful CPA, realtor, and entrepreneur. A resident of Encino, CA, she is survived by her brother Managumpay Aguirre and four daughters, Pearl, Amy, Melissa and April. Amihan will be fondly remembered as a loving mother, true friend, and world traveler. She touched so many lives with her courage, generosity, and passion for life. Her burial will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 12 p.m.



GOODMAN, Alan Lee

December 7, 1932 - May 7, 2020

It is with great sadness we announce the death of Alan Goodman. He passed away in his home surrounded by loved ones and pets on May 7, 2020.

Alan enjoyed a successful career with senior positions at Sears Roebuck, Robinsons May, and A.G. Edwards/Raymond James. His two proudest accomplishments were teaching at UCLA for over 40 years and earning the prestigious title of Master Gardener.

Always active, you could find him in the gym, the garden, or the High Sierras with family. He will be remembered for his quick wit, kind heart, and generous spirit.

He is survived by his two sons, their spouses, and his four grandchildren. A small service was held on May 19th with a larger gathering to be scheduled on a later date.

KAPLAN, James

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Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinainaparks.org

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Los Angeles Times

KORT, Dorene

December 6, 1928 - May 18, 2020

On Monday May 18, Dorene Kort passed away at the age of 91. Dorene was born in London, England and immigrated to the United States in the late 1940s where she met the love of her life Shelly. Dorene and Shelly had a 61-year love affair where they grew a business, started a family, traveled the world and threw countless wonderful parties. Dorene was preceded in her death by her dear parents Isaac and Rose. Dorene is survived by her two sons Richard and Robert, and their wives Linda and Liliana; her grandchildren Lauren, Jennifer & Chris, Ryan, Aly & Rob, Rusty, Sami, Adrian, Mauricio and Alex; and was loved by the entire Kort/Geldin family including Michelle (dec.), Melissa (dec.), Joel, Stacy, Robin & Rhonda and their spouses, children and grandchildren.

RICHARDS, Delphia Neely

March 17, 1925 - May 17, 2020

Preceded in death by:
Husband, Blenford Alva Richards, Daughter, Judith Cheryl Bolick, Grandson, Chase Dean Richards
Survived by:
Son, Robin Dean Richards
Granddaughters; Shannon, Lexi, Taylor and Cayla
Great Grandchildren, Claire Neely, Carson Ben, Griffin, Leven, Ellis and Archer

"Gaga" AKA "Nana" was devoted to her family always. She worked hard to show her support of her family. She was proud of every accomplishment of all of us. She loved to make everything beautiful. She was beautiful.



TREGUB, Burton George

October 10, 1934 - May 16, 2020

The world lost a man of courage, creativity, integrity, and boundless love on Saturday, the 16th of May, 2020. Burton George Tregub ("Burt"), born in Brooklyn, New York on October 10, 1934, died at his home in Encino, California, surrounded by his wife of 22 years, Sylvia Bernstein-Tregub and their members of his intergenerational family.

Burt was a graduate of Stuyvesant High School and earned a Bachelor's of Electrical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in June 1956, where he was also president of the Kappa Nu fraternity. This education allowed him to pursue a varied and interesting career in numerous well-known corporations, which eventually took him and his family to Los Angeles, California. He was a successful businessman, courageous entrepreneur, and intrepid inventor, and worked up until the last year of his life, successfully helping the company he worked with, Spyrus Solutions, Inc., as an inventor of several patents, including one issued on May 13, 2020.

He was known for his gregariousness and zest for life. He loved traveling and spending time with family and lifelong friends. He especially enjoyed the time spent with his fellow wine connoisseurs. He was a devoted Jew, and once observed that Judaism demands participation and he did participate enthusiastically in all aspects of life, both religious and secular, business and friendship alike.

Every life he touched was changed for the better. He will be remembered for his humor, his love, his compassion, his kindness, his dedication to the Valley Beth Shalom Synagogue community serving as an officer and member of the Board of Directors and to The Schulweis Institute where as a Vice-President he developed the website www.hmsi.info and published "From Prose To Poetry," a keepsake edition of over 200 poems and writings of Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis (21).

Burt thoroughly enjoyed the theatre, Broadway musicals, attending performances at The Music Academy of the West and concerts at the LAPHil and Hollywood Bowl.

The Tregub family is extremely grateful to the City of Hope, Dr. Samer Khaled, Assistant Professor, Department of Hematology, his caring and dedicated team, and Burt's many caregivers for enabling him to live his life to the very fullest.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Barbara Tregub, in 1996. He is survived by his wife Sylvia Bernstein-Tregub, his children David Tregub and Leslie Tedrow, Julie Tregub, and Susan Tregub, his sister-in-law and her husband and family, Ellen and Gordon Horwitz, and Samantha, Ryan, Benjamin and Abigail Sher, his stepchildren Howard Bernstein (Laurie), Linda Mendelsohn, Rachel Bernstein, his grandchildren, Holden, Joshua, Shoshana, Zachary (Nikki), Sarah (Ariel), Jeremy, Shira and Alana (Nick) and his great grandchildren Sonny, Kyros and Micha.

To honor Burt's memory, his family suggests your support of The Schulweis Institute 15739 Ventura Blvd. Encino, CA 91436 (<https://www.vbs.org/donate-harold-m-schulweis-institute>). All observations are being held in private.



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

TIM FLICK walks by sections of the Berlin Wall art installation that line a stretch of Wilshire Boulevard.

Share a memory

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latimes.com/guestbooks

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