



March 25, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

San Francisco, like cities across the country, is facing a pandemic of unprecedented proportions. Since January, the City has been aggressively preparing for and responding to the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) to do everything possible to protect the public's health. We have greatly appreciated your leadership during this extraordinary time, both in providing budgetary support and regulatory relief. But we must do more.

On March 5th, San Francisco reported its first two cases of COVID-19. Less than three weeks later, we have more than 150. Due to our limited testing abilities, we know the 150 diagnosed patients are only a small portion of people in our community who have COVID-19, and in the next two weeks – or less – we expect a surge in hospitalizations like every other community where the virus has taken hold. Our government and our hospital systems are stretched and approaching capacity, and we request your immediate assistance now before we hit our peak patient load.

Today, San Francisco hospitals have approximately 1,300 medical-surgical beds and 200 ICU beds. We have the staffing and supplies we need to care for the initial surge of patients with COVID-19, but as the Department of Public Health and San Francisco's hospitals have collectively prepared to care for a much larger number of patients, it has become clear: we cannot wait any longer for the equipment these additional patients will need. We need 1,500 more ventilators and 5,000 more beds than we have today, and ask that our state and federal partners work with us to quickly increase our supply and identify the staffing needed to help support these beds.

In addition, we continue to request support of our state and federal partners in providing:

- Additional Personal Protective Equipment (N-95 masks, face shields, gowns, and gloves);
- Testing kits and related materials;
- Health care staffing; and
- Accompanying regulatory changes to support our surge capability.

I am grateful for your partnership in these challenging times. Only by working together can we address this crisis head-on, and the level of resources, expertise, and operational support cannot come from San Francisco alone. We urgently need your assistance today and we respectfully request that your Administration and staff work directly with our Department of Public Health to develop, fund, and support our patient surge plan. There is no time to waste.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "London Breed".

London N. Breed
Mayor