



HERB J. WESSON, JR.
COUNCILMEMBER, 10TH DISTRICT
PRESIDENT, LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

April 6, 2020

Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Chair, LA County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple Street, Room 869
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Barger:

The COVID-19 pandemic is presenting many compelling challenges. An important challenge is transparency in the reporting of data as to how this pandemic is impacting communities and ethnic groups in Los Angeles County.


It is vital that while our emergency public health mobilization gathers momentum that we have the needed data that is key to understanding the impact and the response that is aimed at addressing the crisis.

This data is critical to the effective deployment of needed resources, and the shaping of public education and communications, particularly in communities of color. It is also vital for the purpose of accountability.

More specifically, I am requesting data including, but not limited to, a break-down by ethnic groups related to rates of death, the number of tests, the results of those tests, the number of those in quarantine, and data on individuals who have tested positive and have recovered. I am also requesting that this information be included with the Public Health Department's regular updates.

The battle against COVID-19 has been likened to a war. It has been said that the first casualty of war is the truth. We cannot allow that to happen in the battle against COVID-19.

Sincerely,


HERB J. WESSON, Jr.
Councilmember, 10th Council District
Council President Emeritus

C: Members, Board of Supervisors
Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health