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Hi Rob,

Typhus has been in the news a lot lately. **And while your risk for exposure is extremely low, because typhus cannot be spread person-to-person, I am working very hard as your Mayor to protect the health and safety of your family, friends, employees, and neighbors.**

There have **only been 10** cases reported in the City of Los Angeles since the County initially declared an emergency last week — and I'm working to make sure it stays that way.

Once the emergency was declared, my office immediately convened the County Department of Public Health, L.A. Sanitation, and other relevant agencies to assess conditions on the ground and create an action plan for containing the threat. This new task force immediately began to take action wherever needed — specifically in what the County has designated as the “Typhus Zone,” an area of Downtown that is bounded by South Spring Street to the west; East 3rd Street to the north; South Alameda Street to the east; and East 7th Street to the south.

We are coordinating our response through my Homelessness Command Post. Here are just some of the strategies we are pursuing to make sure that this illness remains contained:

- In addition to existing cleanups in the Skid Row area through my Operation Healthy Streets program, I have put an extra \$300,000 toward expanding and intensifying cleanups in the affected area, and trash pickups in the area are being expanded to twice-daily.
- The Bureau of Street Services will increase the frequency of street sweepings in the Typhus Zone, and will coordinate with the Bureau of Sanitation to ensure the sweepings follow the comprehensive cleanups to maximize their impact.

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- The Bureau of Sanitation is escalating enforcement at businesses that do not pay for trash service, and may be involved in illegal dumping that attracts rodents.
- The Department of Animal Services has formed a partnership to make flea and tick treatment available for free to pet owners in the affected area, and the County is also conducting wellness clinics for animals.

The health, safety, and well-being of Angelenos will always be my top priority. That's why the City and County are working together to take swift, decisive, and comprehensive action that I am confident will resolve this issue soon. In the meantime, you can stay informed on the progress by visiting <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/VectorTyphus.htm>.

Thanks for reading,



Eric Garcetti

Your Mayor



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