

## Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

March 25, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W

Good afternoon,

As the head of Toronto's Office of Emergency Management, I am in direct and regular contact with the Mayor, City Manager, Emergency Operations Centre and their respective teams and of course with the Medical Officer of Health.

We continue to receive expert, timely advice, guidance and direction from Dr. de Villa and her team, in response to the public health, COVID-19 pandemic emergency.

Today, Dr. Eileen de Villa, Toronto's Medical Officer of Health announced that all facilities and amenities, located within City-owned parks are being closed in an effort to enhance social distancing, and to slow the spread of COVID-19.

This is a difficult yet necessary decision that is being made in the best interest of public health and safety.

The closure of these facilities is effective immediately. Over the next few days, signage will be placed at all of the City's more than 1,500 parks, amenities, and playgrounds across Toronto to ensure the public is aware of these closures.

Where fencing or gates exists, they will be locked. Unfenced playground structures will be signed and taped off.

Effective today:

- All facilities in City-owned parks are closed.
- City owned playgrounds are closed
- Picnic sites & park shelters are closed
- Soccer, multi-use fields and baseball diamonds are closed
- Off-leash dog parks and trails are closed
- Basketball courts are closed.
- Parking lots associated to city-owned parks are closed.
- Skate parks and BMX parks are closed
- Frisbee golf locations and outdoor fitness equipment in city owned parks are closed

- Tennis and pickleball courts are closed, and
- City-owned outdoor allotment gardens and community gardens are closed

The advice of Toronto Public health is clear: physical distancing of at least two metres, or six feet, is critical in helping slow the spread of COVID-19.

Every one of us has a part to play in helping flatten the COVID-19 curve and to keep ourselves, our families, friends and each other healthy and safe.

City staff continue to monitor compliance with the orders that have been issued in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency.

While our preference is always to educate before we enforce, we have issued fines for non-compliance with orders and will continue to do so as required.

The City of Toronto will enforce the closure of these facilities in accordance with the Toronto Municipal Code.

Depending on the nature of the offence, the fines associated with accessing or using a closed City-owned facility or amenity can range from \$50 to as high as \$5000.

Yesterday, Toronto Public Health attended 59 Bars and Restaurants. 4 warning letters were issued for premises found to be non-compliant with prohibitions on dine-in service.

Also yesterday, City of Toronto Municipal Licensing and Standards staff investigated 38 complaints regarding locations that were open. Staff issued 2 Notices for failure to comply with the Orders made under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. Both of these businesses were gyms.

Staff are attend these properties again today in order to confirm compliance.

In the event of non-compliance, the City will engage Toronto Police to take the appropriate enforcement action.

The City is urging all residents who are not performing essential or critical services, to stay home whenever possible. By doing this you are protecting those providing essential and critical services during these unprecedented times.

There have been no changes to the essential and critical services that are provided by the City of Toronto, including emergency services, water, solid waste collection, shelters, respite sites, long-term care homes, roads, electricity, public transit, 3-1-1 and public health.

Further, the City staff who are supporting and enabling the uninterrupted delivery of essential services, continue to work diligently and effectively across all City divisions and agencies.

I would like to again thank each and every person who is working to ensure that essential and critical services continue in Toronto.

I encourage everyone to continue to make [Toronto.ca/covid-19](https://toronto.ca/covid-19) their first point of access for credible information about the public health response, but also City service impacts.

Each of us need to do our part to follow the recommendations and direction being provided by our Public Health professionals.

As Dr. de Villa explained yesterday, we still have the opportunity to change the trajectory and outcome of COVID-19 in Toronto. Our success in flattening the curve depends on each one of us.

I want to reassure everyone that we remain committed to leading our City through this pandemic.

We are a strong and resilient City and we will get through the COVID-19 pandemic emergency together.

Thank you.