

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

March 24, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

As you know, the City of Toronto is operating under a declared emergency.

I want to assure everyone that we are effectively managing this emergency, responding to evolving and changing conditions as they develop, and are ensuring that each of the City divisions, agencies and partners are in continuous connection and collaboration.

Our Emergency Operations Centre is fully activated and we have effective plans in place for sustained operations moving forward.

We are in the process of formally integrating the COVID-19 task force directly into the Incident Management System structure that is operating within the EOC.

This will, once again, enhance our ability to respond to the ever-changing situation that the COVID-19 pandemic presents on a daily basis.

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.

The City of Toronto's response to the COVID-19 emergency remains coordinated, balanced and effective.

Our first priority, as always, is to protect the health and safety of our residents and our staff and as you repeatedly here me say, we will continue to work non-stop to achieve that goal.

Today, I want to provide updates on two specific areas: the actions that the City of Toronto is taking with respect to the enforcement of orders that have been made under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, and ongoing planning with respect to Personal Protective Equipment.

Firstly, the City of Toronto is actively engaged in inspecting and taking appropriate enforcement relating to compliance with Provincial Orders.

The City of Toronto's Municipal Licensing and Standards team is working in direct collaboration with Toronto Public Health and Toronto Police Service.

As of 8:00 this morning, our team began conducting compliance audits across the City.

These audits will be running 7 days a week, both in the day and evening, until further notice.

Enforcement action will be taken against any non-essential business, as defined by the Province, found to be operating in contravention of the Orders made under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

Secondly, as you have heard me explain previously, our Emergency Operations Centre has been working proactively since the inception of the global COVID-19 issue, to ensure the continued supply of personal protective equipment that is required by our workers.

A comprehensive system has been put in place, within the EOC, whereby all aspects of PPE inventory, procurement, distribution and consumption tracking is being centrally managed.

We are working with both the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to ensure that the PPE supply chain remains open and to ensure that our PPE needs continue to be met.

The comprehensive coordination of city-wide PPE usage provides us with live-time inventory and consumption rate data, such that this important issue continues to be managed as a top priority.

Should any issues arise, we are able to respond proactively.

The essential and critical services that are provided by the City of Toronto continue without interruption.

Our Police, Paramedics and Fire Service professionals continue to deliver world-class emergency services.

We continue to enjoy clean, safe and reliable drinking water.

Our garbage, organics and recycling continue to be picked up and disposed of safely.

Our shelters and respite sites remain open and our city's most vulnerable continue to be protected.

Our long-term care homes continue to operate.

Our roads remain safe and open.

Our electricity networks remains reliable and safe;

Our public transit continues to operate safely and efficiently throughout the city;

Our 3-1-1 system continues to ensure that our residents can get in contact with us when they need us;

And of course, our amazing Public Health and Healthcare professionals continue to lead from the frontlines of this pandemic each day.

A number of 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.

The actions of every one of us make a direct difference in the outcome of this pandemic.

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.

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