

## Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

March 23, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

As you know, at 3:00 this afternoon, Mayor Tory declared an emergency in the City of Toronto.

The formal declaration of a Municipal emergency enables the City of Toronto to remain nimble, and able to address emerging or evolving issues as they arise, in an efficient manner and without any unnecessary delay.

The emergency declaration enables the Mayor to take further actions, including the issuance of orders as he considers necessary; to implement the City's Emergency Plan; or to protect property, and the health, safety, and welfare of individuals within the City of Toronto.

As you know, the Emergency Operations Centre is already fully activated. Today's declaration of emergency does not impact nor change the operations within the EOC.

While the declaration doesn't change the Level 3 status of the City's Emergency Operations Centre, it does provide City staff with the necessary flexibility to access resources, in a more timely way, so it can continue to keep the city functioning and safe.

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.

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 we will continue to work non-stop to achieve that goal.

I want to reassure everyone that our essential services 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.

The list of our team members who are supporting and enabling the uninterrupted delivery of essential services is long and includes critical roles like our:

- Corporate Real Estate Management professionals who are keeping our facilities open, clean and safe
- Technology services who ensure that all our systems remain reliable;
- Procurement, materials management and finance staff who ensure that we are able to order, receive and pay for the PPE and other supplies we need;
- Our mechanics, who ensure that the City's fleet is able to stay on the road;
- Our administrative professionals, lawyers and experts who ensure that the City is able to efficiently and effectively respond to the ever changing landscape that is emerging;
- And so many more.

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 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.

Please do you part to help.

In closing, 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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