

## Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

March 26, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

Late yesterday afternoon, Public Health Ontario provided information and recommendations with respect to the use of personal protective equipment by first responders, in response to COVID-19.

I am confident that Public Health Ontario is committed to ensuring that our first responders continue to have the Personal Protective Equipment required to continue to deliver safe and effective emergency pre-hospital care.

As recommended, our first responders in Toronto will continue to complete patient care risk assessments for each and every emergency medical incident they respond to, as we always have in the past.

We fully support each of our first responders in completing their patient care risk assessments, and in selecting and using the levels of Personal Protective Equipment deemed necessary, based on the situation at hand.

Further, we both understand and respect that the assessment of risk by prehospital emergency care providers must also continue to consider other potential communicable diseases, including, but not necessarily limited to COVID-19.

I want to assure both our City staff, and the public, that we remain fully committed to delivering effective emergency services and ensuring that our first responders have the tools and equipment they need to deliver safe and effective emergency services.

At present, our Personal Protective Equipment inventory for emergency services remains stable and our first responders continue to be provided with the Personal Protective Equipment required to perform their essential work.

We fully understand that there are global Personal Protective Equipment supply chain challenges as a result of COVID-19.

To that end, the City of Toronto is working in direct collaboration with our colleagues at the Province of Ontario and with the Government of Canada to ensure that we continue to receive the Personal Protective Equipment required to sustain our delivery of essential and critical services over the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City, overall, continues to deliver the range of essential and critical services the public requires, including solid waste collection, safe drinking water and wastewater treatment, maintaining infrastructure and delivering critical services to our most vulnerable.

I want to especially thank the employees at Toronto Employment and Social Services for their hard work and dedication in supporting and serving their clients who rely on them day in and day out.

Finally, yesterday the City announced the closure of parks amenities to further strengthen the message – and action required – of the need to limit physical distancing. We need everyone's cooperation if we are to beat COVID-19 and keep our city healthy.

Enforcement of this, and the other provincial orders around the closure of non-essential businesses, is prioritized by the Emergency Operations Centre.

If the public has a concern that non-compliance is occurring with respect to closures, they are asked to call 311.

Do NOT call 911, unless there is an emergency that requires a response by police, fire or paramedics.

As of 11 am today, Municipal Licensing and Standards has responded to 70 complaints, and issued 7 notices for failure to comply with the provincial order to close non-essential business.

Through our audit we have issued an additional 6 notices and have re-inspected 8 locations that have now complied with the orders. We've also received 30 complaints related to social distancing in City Parks.

Since Tuesday, Toronto Public Health attended 73 Bars and Restaurants that were identified as non-compliant last week.

38 of these are now closed, and 5 warning letters were issued for premises that were non-compliant with the prohibition on dine-in operations.

Audits performed by Toronto Public Health indicate a 99% compliance rate.

I would like to thank all those who are complying with the social distancing and non-essential business closures.

As always, there is a wealth of COVID-19 information on the City's website. Please make [toronto.ca/covid19](https://toronto.ca/covid19) your first source of credible and up-to-date information.

Thank you.