

## Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

March 30, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

We are continuing to respond to concerns about people using parks amenities and gathering in parks.

The set fine for this offence is \$750, with a maximum fine of \$5,000. Education continues to be the first line of enforcement.

Any member of the public, who has concerns about inappropriate park usage, should call 311 with their concerns.

Please do not call 911 for these issues.

Police are working with Parks staff, right now, conducting proactive enforcement and continuing to support the City, as requested.

Charges have been laid and will continue to be laid if this behaviour continues.

Parks Ambassadors have also begun a downtown hot spot patrol and education blitz.

We are continuing to re-install removed signage, locks and caution tape.

Parks and Transportation staff are installing barriers at hot spot parking lot locations that do not have existing gates

Staff are deploying electronic portable signs near busier parks to advise of closed parking lots and parks amenities.

Since March 24, MLS has received 385 complaints related to physical distancing in City parks.

The City is serious about this issue and I am asking those who are ignoring this very clear public health advice to understand why we have implemented these restrictions:

This is only being done in an effort to protect public health and safety by doing all we can to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus while we still can.

With respect to the enforcement of the provincial order, since March 24, Municipal Licensing and Standards has responded to 197 complaints, and issued 19 notices for failure to comply.

And Toronto Public Health has attended 232 Bars and Restaurants that were identified as non-compliant last week, 73 of which were closed, and 10 warning letters were issued for premises non-complaint with the dine in prohibition.

Our emergency operations centre is working hard to manage the use of Personal Protective Equipment in response to continuing Global Supply Chain issues.

While there has been no change to the levels of emergency response that our public receive, protocols are in place whereby the numbers of first responders making contact with a patient, who may have COVID-19, are being controlled.

Of course, the number of responders required to manage the medical emergency will be used as required, but automatic entry by second arriving crews is now being controlled.

In response to a number of questions, I also want to clarify that the City of Toronto is not responsible for, nor are we managing the supply and use of PPE in Hospitals and other provincially operated healthcare facilities.

The Province of Ontario manages and supplies these facilities directly.

The City of Toronto is managing the supply, distribution and use of Personal Protective Equipment by City of Toronto employees and in City of Toronto operated facilities.

We are all hearing reports of COVID-19 infections affecting a number of our City staff, including our first responders.

The COVID-19 virus does not discriminate as to who it infects, and as rates of community transmission increase, our first responders and frontline staff are being infected too.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to each and every person who is fighting this terrible virus. We wish them all a full and speedy recovery.

I want to reassure everyone that all the recommended precautions are being taken to ensure that our essential and critical services remain uninterrupted and that our staff are being provided with the equipment they require to work safely.

Our fire, paramedic and police stations remain open and our emergency response service levels remain intact.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to thank the City's Occupational Health and Safety staff who have helped us tremendously throughout this pandemic and continue to ensure that our City staff are safe and remain properly equipped.

As I've said many times, this is a well-coordinated effort requiring the skills of many professionals within the Toronto Public Service.

Thank you.