

## Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

April 21, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

Since we began planning for the outbreak of COVID-19, which commenced before the first case had been reported in Canada, the issue of personal protective equipment has been at the forefront.

Our EOC Incident Management Structure includes a dedicated PPE Task Force. This task force is responsible for managing the City's PPE, projecting PPE needs, implementing PPE conservation strategies, as well as investigating alternative PPE options and procurement strategies. The women and men, whom we have tasked with securing and managing PPE for the City, embrace their critical role in ensuring our frontline essential and critical services workers have access to the PPE that they need to be able to safely do their jobs, while they work to keep our communities safe.

As Mayor Tory announced earlier today, we have now taken delivery of three million, Level 2 surgical masks. These masks have been fully evaluated and inspected, by our staff, who have confirmed that they meet specifications and are ready to be placed into inventory. Surgical masks are used extensively in the City's emergency shelters and in our long-term care facilities.

This new influx of PPE will ensure that our staff continue to have access to the PPE that they require as they help our most vulnerable residents in our shelters and long-term care facilities.

Our current PPE inventory levels are as follows:

- N-95 respirators: We have approximately 101 days of inventory at today's consumption rate and 31 days inventory under worst case scenario consumption rates;
- Surgical masks: With the latest order being received, we now have approximately 182 days of inventory at today's consumption rate and 87 days at worst case scenario;
- Isolation gowns: We have approximately 56 days of inventory at today's consumption rate and 20 days at worst case scenario consumption rates;
- Face shields: We have approximately 25 days of inventory at today's consumption rate and 7 days at worst case scenario.

The City is continuing to source and manage PPE in support of our continuing response to COVID-19.

Following unprecedented water levels in Lake Ontario in both 2017 and 2019, our Office of Emergency Management is working in collaboration with a number of partner divisions and agencies in advance of the 2020 flood season.

These partners include:

- The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority;
- The City's Parks, Forestry and Recreation team;
- Strategic Communications;
- Toronto Fire, Police, and Paramedic Services, and
- Toronto Water.

I am pleased to advise that the authorities are forecasting lower Lake Ontario water levels this year, than those experienced in both 2017 and 2019. Nevertheless, our OEM flood planning team continues to both monitor the situation and to proactively plan and prepare for any unexpected rises in Lake Ontario water levels, should that occur.

Lake Ontario water levels are continuously monitored by TRCA. As of this morning, the Lake Ontario water level was stable at 75.39 metres. By way of comparison, the water levels peaked at 75.93 metres in 2017 and 75.95 metres in 2019.

Formal Lake Ontario water level triggers have been established on a proactive basis and escalation plans are in place. Should water levels rise above the predetermined trigger level of 75.5 metres, our teams will be immediately convened in order to assess potential impacts and to implement flood mitigation plans as required, before water levels reach dangerous levels.

We are continuing work on a number of flood and erosion-hazard mitigation projects that will enhance the protection of both public safety and municipal infrastructure from floods. These projects include works on the Toronto Islands as well as at Bluffer's Park along the Lake Ontario shoreline. These proactive flood mitigation and response plans are examples of the important work that is being coordinated within our emergency operations centre, concurrently with the COVID-19 planning and response efforts. As a city, we continue to provide the essential and critical services that our residents both need and rely on each and every day in Toronto.

I am proud of every member of our City of Toronto team who continues to work hard in support of our residents each day.

Thank you.

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