

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

April 06, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

This afternoon, I will provide an update on the enforcement activities from this past weekend.

On both April 4 and 5, our COVID-19 enforcement team, comprised of City of Toronto, Toronto Public Health and Toronto Police Services personnel, conducted a number of coordinated enforcement activities. Approximately 300 parks and public spaces across the city were patrolled each day for non-compliance with Provincial Orders and City by-laws.

Generally speaking, our enforcement team found that there was a good understanding of the requirements by those out in the parks and squares. For those who are complying with the Orders and By-laws relating to social distancing, thank you. You are making a difference in controlling the spread of COVID-19.

Where there were compliance issues observed, the enforcement team initiated proactive conversations with those people who were not social distancing, those who were in zones that were prohibited, and those who were using park amenities that are not permitted under by-law or Provincial Order. This included groups of people using skateboard parks, families using a closed playground structure, and a number of groups of people gathered at outdoor shopping plazas and other areas across the City.

As a result of the weekend enforcement blitz, the Toronto Police Service issued 26 tickets and 976 people were cautioned. Toronto Police Parking enforcement officers issued 55 parking tags and two cars were towed. Our City Municipal Licensing and Standards officers responded to 346 Parks complaints: 141 on Saturday and 206 on Sunday, three tickets and three written cautions were issued. Additionally, 196 verbal cautions were issued: 61 on Saturday and 135 on Sunday.

Approximately 2,480 people were spoken to over the weekend, and were educated regarding the closure of parks amenities and physical distancing, including 780 on Saturday and 1,700 on Sunday.

The 14 parks with the highest number of complaints included:

- Bluffers Park (Scarborough Bluffs)
- Canoe Landing (Fort York and Dan Leckie Way)
- Christie Pits (Bloor West and Christie)
- High Park (Bloor Street West)
- Humber Bay Park East (Etobicoke)
- Sunnyside Park (Lakeshore and Windermere)
- Trinity Bellwoods Park (Queen West and Strachan)
- Van Horne Park (404 and Finch area)
- Woodbine Park (Lakeshore and Coxwell)
- Sherwood Park (Mt Pleasant and Eglinton Area)
- Marie Curtis Park (Lakeshore and Brown's line) – dogs off leash area being used, locks broken multiple times
- Colonel Samuel Smith Park (Kipling and Lakeshore) – large crowds, no social distancing
- Kate Gardiner Beltline Trail – crowded, amenities being used
- Moss Park (Sherbourne and Queen) – high usage, amenities being used

Over the course of the weekend, our enforcement team turned away over 800 vehicles from Bluffers Park and over 140 from High Park. We continued to address a number of issues relating to people accessing and parking on the grass and in the fire routes at parks across the city, including at Woodbine Park.

Since March 24, Toronto Public Health has attended 509 Bars and Restaurants that were identified as being non-compliant: 173 of these have been closed, and 21 warning letters were issued for premises found to be non-compliant with the dine-in prohibition. Toronto Public Health has also attended 124 Personal Service Settings (nail salons, hair dressers etc.) 120 were closed and four warning letters have been issued.

I would like to thank everyone who is engaged in the COVID-19 enforcement team for their hard work under difficult circumstances. I would also like to thank Torontonians that are respecting the social distancing requirements. By respecting the by-laws and Orders, you are helping reduce the spread of COVID-19.

In closing, I would also like to remind our residents that yard waste collection resumes this week. Please place your yard waste at the curb on your normally scheduled day for pick up.

As always, I encourage everyone to make toronto.ca/COVID-19 your first point of contact for information relating to COVID-19 in Toronto.

Thank you.