

## Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

**April 07, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.**

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

Good afternoon.

I will provide an update on personal protective equipment, an update on yesterday's enforcement activities, and finally, an update with respect to additional supports being provided to our most vulnerable residents.

As you know, the issue of personal protective equipment continues to be one of the challenges being managed both within our emergency operations centre, and around the world, in response to COVID-19.

Late yesterday afternoon, the City of Toronto discovered that we had purchased more than \$200,000 worth of surgical masks that do not meet the specifications the City requires for such masks. Immediately, upon becoming aware of this situation, we took action and recalled these masks.

Four-thousand boxes, containing 50 masks per box, were received on March 27 and placed into inventory. On March 28, 1,252 boxes, totalling 62,600 masks, were distributed to the City's long-term care homes as part of the City's normal PPE inventory and supply process. After receiving reports of these masks ripping and tearing, a further inspection of the masks determined that the masks ordered did not meet the City's standard and specifications.

The City's occupational health and safety staff are engaged and we are conducting an investigation to determine how many employees may have used these masks and if there was possible exposure to COVID-19 as a result. The masks are being returned, and the vendor has committed to a full refund.

The City is now relying on its remaining stock of surgical masks while replacement masks can be purchased. The acquisition of replacement masks will happen on a priority basis. The Province of Ontario has been made aware and have been asked to help us expedite this order.

The City has also undertaken an additional quality control review of its supply chain process, and all future orders of personal protective equipment will now undergo additional scrutiny and verification to ensure the products it receives meet the specifications ordered.

The supply of quality Personal Protective Equipment in a timely manner is a known concern around the world. All efforts are being made, by all levels of government, to ensure the products being shipped and received, meet established standards.

With respect to enforcement, our COVID-19 enforcement team, comprised of City of Toronto, Toronto Public Health and Toronto Police Services personnel, continues to conduct a number of coordinated enforcement activities.

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.

Yesterday, we received 55 Complaints regarding non-essential businesses that remain open. We have deployed teams to respond to these complaints. Since March 24th we've issued 34 Notices under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

Yesterday, we received 385 complaints about people using closed parks amenities and about a lack of physical distancing in parks. In response to these complaints, we issued 12 tickets yesterday, bringing the total to 26 since April 4. We educated 848 people yesterday, regarding the use of parks amenities and maintaining appropriate physical distancing. We continue to focus on the parks with the highest number of complaints, which is the same list that I provided yesterday.

Generally speaking, our parks were quieter yesterday than on the weekend, however we continue to see people participating in prohibited activities in our parks

Example of these activities include:

- Many residents gathering in off-leash dog parks. Please note that all off-leash dog parks are closed and all dogs must be kept on leash while being exercised.
- People playing ball hockey, soccer, basketball and other sports in Town parks and squares. These activities do not comply with physical distancing and are prohibited.
- Playgrounds being used by children. All playgrounds and parks amenities are closed and may not be used.
- And groups of people continuing to use skateboard parks, which are also closed.

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.

Finally, as you know, the City of Toronto has been taking a number of swift and significant steps to help our most vulnerable:

- To date, we have secured 1,200 hotel rooms in 12 hotels.
- 313 people have been moved into hotels to date.
- An additional 15 locations are being considered.
- 17 people were rehoused last week as part of the Toronto Community Housing rapid rehousing program.
- An additional 54 units have been client matched. And, another 35 units are in the process of being matched.
- 20 people are being housed in the City-operated COVID-19 isolation site while they await testing results.
- Our additional 200 bed isolation site, in partnership with the Province of Ontario and our community health partners, is opening tonight.

In closing, as always, I encourage everyone to make [Toronto.ca/COVID-19](https://toronto.ca/COVID-19) your first point of contact for information relating to COVID-19 in Toronto.

Thank you.  
END