

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

April 03, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

I will be brief today, reminding everyone of the plan to both educate the public and to enforce compliance with the Orders and by-laws relating to social and physical distancing.

Our police and bylaw officers are engaged and are looking ahead to the upcoming weekend and beyond. As you know, Mayor Tory announced a bylaw yesterday that prohibits anyone, who is not from the same household, from being within two metres of one another in a park or public square.

The Toronto Police Service and the City are partnered on the enforcement of the City bylaws and all orders, with 160 Toronto Police officers and other personnel assigned to the COVID-19 Enforcement Team, in addition to 200 Toronto Bylaw Enforcement Officers.

The aim is to educate first about the seriousness of COVID-19 and about why these extraordinary measures are in place. However, if we don't see compliance, then fines can and will be issued, some of which carry very significant penalties.

To date, almost 1,000 complaints have been made regarding parks amenities use and concerns from the public about inappropriate physical distancing. This figure is down slightly from yesterday, where numbers included complaints about open non-essential businesses as well.

For increased accuracy in reporting, we will separate these two items moving forward and will share the data with respect to complaints about physical distancing concerns separately here. Toronto police have issued 21 tickets to individuals to date.

In case it is not already abundantly clear, we each have a personal responsibility to stay home, so we can end the spread of COVID-19 as quickly as possible. The City is serious about this – lives literally depend on people understanding that they need to stay home to protect themselves and others.

My responsibility is to ensure the City is able to continue to operate essential and critical services for the people of Toronto, and that the public servants charged with keeping the city safe have the tools they need to carry out their jobs, including having

appropriate personal protective equipment. To that end, the City continues to deliver essential services, including emergency services by Police, Fire and Paramedic Services.

With respect to PPE, I would like to draw your attention to an error that I made in my remarks yesterday, with respect to Personal Protective Equipment.

In an attempt to be responsive to questions relating to the City of Toronto's PPE order that has been placed with the Government of Canada, via the Province of Ontario, I made an error in reporting the quantities that have been ordered in my formal remarks yesterday.

In reporting the details of the various items that have been ordered, I incorrectly extrapolated "box counts" into "individual item" counts. This is an error on my part and I apologize for this error. I will provide you with the correct quantities early next week.

To be clear, the order that we have placed with the Government of Canada, via the Province of Ontario, is both accurate and correct.

My apologies for this error.

Finally, please continue to access toronto.ca/COVID-19 for information on COVID-19 and information on the response to the pandemic.

Thank you.