

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

April 02, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

There are two key issues that I would like to update you on today. The first provides an update on actions being taken in our Long-Term Care homes.

As you know, we are experiencing significant increases in COVID-19 infections in our City-operated Long-Term care homes. The infections that we are seeing today are the result of either previous exposure to COVID-19 or community spread of COVID-19 that occurred up to 14 days ago.

Since March 14, by Provincial Order, all non-essential and day-to-day Long Term Care home visits have been suspended. We have implemented every available option in order to ensure that both our Long-Term Care resident care needs are being met and to ensure that our staff health and safety needs are also being met.

Our Seniors Services and Long Term Care team implemented each of the recommendations that have been provided by Toronto Public Health since before the first reported case COVID-19 in Canada. This includes fully implementing all Ministry of Health recommendations and directives.

I would like to summarize the actions that have been taken to date:

We have reassigned all non-essential Seniors and Long-Term Care divisional and management staff resources to meet the essential service needs in our Long-Term Care homes;

We are maximizing front line staff availability through proactive scheduling and staff planning;

We are bringing in as many people as possible, to work overtime shifts, in order to meet our staffing needs during the outbreaks;

We are in the process of hiring 40 nursing students to support and backfill Personal Support Worker positions;

We have already redeployed over 70 City staff into our Long Term Care homes and we have initiated the request for an additional 230 through the Emergency Operations Centre;

We are redeploying 22 additional counsellors to support front line operations in our homes;

Proactive health monitoring and screening are in place in each of our Long-Term Care homes and enhanced cleaning is being completed and will be maintained in each home;

All staff are wearing and are using the appropriate PPE, at all times, when inside any Long-Term Care home.

The second issue I would like to update you on today deals with Personal Protective Equipment, or PPE for short.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, the requirements for appropriate PPE are increasing.

As you know, the City of Toronto worked proactively to manage PPE and we have robust processes in place to manage this important issue.

The City of Toronto is fully connected with both the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada on this issue.

To be clear, in order to maximize buying and delivery power, the Government of Canada is coordinating the PPE supply chain directly, and they will provide the required PPE to the Provinces for local distribution, including to the City of Toronto.

Through our Emergency Operations Centre, we have formally requested the supply of the PPE that the City of Toronto will require.

This includes the PPE needs for each of our frontline workers and first responders along with our Shelters, Long-Term Care Homes and other such City-operated facilities.

In total, we have requested the delivery of more than 184 million articles of PPE. This includes approximately:

- 66 million N-95 respirators;
- 28.5 million surgical masks;
- 31.5 million protective gowns;
- 446 million disposable protective gloves;

- 4.5 million eye shields and other forms of eye protection.

These requirements have been validated by the Medical Officer of Health. Our PPE needs assessments, and corresponding supply chain requests are based upon the worst case, full pandemic scenario and assume a 7 month supply duration.

This is constantly being monitored and revised accordingly.

The supply and delivery of PPE is being further complicated by an increasing amount of fake and otherwise fraudulent PPE that is being introduced into the global PPE supply chain.

As a result, each level of Government is having to take additional precautions and additional quality assurance checks are completed before placing orders for, or accepting delivery of PPE.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that the best choice for accurate and timely information relating to COVID-19 in Toronto is [Toronto.ca/COVID-19](https://toronto.ca/COVID-19).

Thank you.

END