

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

April 09, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon

It's been four weeks since the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic in response to COVID-19. In collaboration with Toronto Public Health, we have been planning for this public health emergency since January. This emergency, as we all know, escalated quickly.

On March 13, the City first announced the closure of facilities and the cancellation of many City programs and services. The Province of Ontario declared an emergency on March 17 and Mayor Tory declared a formal emergency in Toronto on March 23.

Since that time, many additional measures have been implemented to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in our city. Many City essential and critical services however, must and do continue. These include:

- Garbage, recycling and organics collection
- Safe supply of drinking water
- Police, fire and paramedic services
- Employment and social service support
- TTC service
- Critical infrastructure maintenance
- Technology services
- 311 availability
- Facility cleaning and security
- Purchasing and Materials Management
- Legal Services
- Child care service for essential workers
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Shelter services
- Senior Services and Long-Term Care
- People and equity services
- And many more

The Emergency Operations Centre continues to coordinate the City's response to COVID-19, in accordance with advice and guidance from Dr. de Villa and her team.

This includes ensuring each of our frontline workers, including our first responders, long-term care and shelter staff are properly equipped and trained to protect both themselves and the public they serve.

We continue to work closely with our union and Association partners to ensure that we are connected on all that the City is doing in response to COVID-19. This partnership is critical in continuing the delivery of the exceptional services Toronto residents rely on.

Both Mayor Tory and Councillor Cressy, working alongside each of our City Councillors, have been incredibly supportive and responsive in helping to guide the COVID-19 strategic command team. This team operates seven days a week, responding without delay as the situation evolves, as new issues emerge and when decisions need to be made in very short notice.

I want to thank the entire Toronto Public Service for what they are doing under very trying circumstances to support their city and its residents.

I also want to acknowledge and thank every resident, business owner and everyone affected as we do our very best to stop the spread of COVID-19. We are truly all in this together. These are tough times for us all and I continue to be inspired by the strength, resilience and commitment of our city.

The City's website continues to be updated hourly with new or revised information and I encourage you to check back regularly at [Toronto.ca/covid19](https://toronto.ca/covid19)

Thank you.

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