

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

May 12, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

The response to COVID-19 in Toronto continues to be both a sprint, and a marathon, for our team.

As a city, we continue to provide the essential and critical services that our residents both need and rely on each and every day in Toronto.

All aspects of EOC operations continue to operate seven days per week, with over 60 days of continuous activation.

We have continuously focused our efforts on creating innovative solutions throughout the pandemic.

These solutions have enabled our team to respond immediately to issues as they arise and to effectively prepare for potential future challenges.

For example, on May 10, the Province of Ontario released a guidance document with respect to optimizing the supply of PPE during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am pleased to advise that our PPE task force, which forms an integral aspect of our EOC operations, has proactively developed and launched many of the measures that have now been recommended by the Province.

Our team developed and implemented several PPE conservation initiatives which have assisted us in ensuring that a stable PPE inventory is maintained in Toronto, despite the ongoing global supply challenges.

Since early April, work has been ongoing to:

- Source and purchase reusable cloth isolation gowns;
- Develop plans for the inspection, Fit Testing and potential use of the Pandemic stockpile of N 95 respirators, in the event that current inventory can't be maintained, which has not become necessary thus far in Toronto;
- And, we have developed a system to be able to collect, store and decontaminate used N-95 respirators, including
 - Acquiring the decontamination machines;

- The development of processes to facilitate the refrigerated storage of the used N-95 respirators; and
- The development of internal processes whereby City Divisions collect used N-95 Respirators for future potential decontamination.

While the decontamination of N-95 respirators has not yet been necessary, we are well prepared to proceed should that change.

These developments are but a few examples of the innovative and proactive solutions that have been developed by our teams, as we work to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in Toronto.

As you know, many of our retailers have started to re-open this week, in accordance with recently amended Provincial Regulations and orders.

I am pleased to report that we have not received any complaints as of end of day yesterday.

Our business leaders are responding effectively to the changed landscape and are putting effective measures in place that enable them to deliver services, while complying with Provincial orders.

We appreciate the efforts of every resident, business owner and everyone in our city who is following these very important public health guidelines.

In closing, I remind everyone that [Toronto.ca/COVID-19](https://toronto.ca/COVID-19) is the best source for reliable and timely information on COVID-19 in Toronto.

This is where you can find the updated guidelines for retailers, among other important updates pertaining to the City's COVID-19 response.

Thank you.