

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

May 06, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

As the Mayor explained, we recently learned of a number of forthcoming changes within Toronto. Immediately upon becoming aware of the most recent details, our teams, including our Emergency Operations Centre, responded.

As I have explained in the past, the incident management processes in Toronto are both nimble and scalable and we have been successful in establishing a number of proactive solutions in anticipation of changes like these.

This includes the establishment of our CURB-TO program that is already in place in 10 locations across Toronto with more than 80 other interventions under development.

We have convened a number of teams to assess the impacts associated with the forthcoming changes, and to build the response plans required to implement these changes in as safe a manner as possible. Each of the affected City divisions and agencies are fully connected and are working together on these important issues.

This includes each of our emergency services – Police, Fire and Paramedic Services, along with Transportation, the TTC, Economic Development, Municipal Licensing and Standards and of course, Public Health to name but a few.

Our team in the EOC is working in direct collaboration with Toronto Public Health, in order to understand the public health measures that will be required to protect our residents and staff.

Our PPE Task Force remains hard at work and we will continue to proactively manage all aspects of PPE in order to ensure that the needs of our frontline workers are met.

This, of course, includes comprehensive reviews by our employee health and safety teams who are also hard at work to determine any changes in process that may be required.

Our Transportation Services team, along with Police, Fire and Paramedics are determining how best to implement City-wide curb-side pick-up while maintaining both road and pedestrian safety, and ensuring that our first responders are able to respond to emergencies in a safe and efficient manner.

As this issue evolves, our Strategic Command Team continues to meet no less than daily, in order to ensure that the City of Toronto's response to COVID-19 remains timely, coordinated and effective. Both our Emergency Operations Centre and our COVID-19 Task Force are fully engaged, and will continue to respond to the ever-changing nature of COVID-19 in our City.

The response to COVID-19 is the most significant emergency that our EOC has ever had to manage and our operations continue on an uninterrupted basis.

Today is day 57 of continuous EOC operation.

Finally, as many have now likely seen, there is a family of foxes living at the Beach.

To protect both the foxes and the public, City staff have put up barricades to help protect the animals. We have also deployed city staff to this area to assist in educating people to stay away from the foxes. Please do not disturb wildlife in the city – either by handling or attempting to feed them.

The experts tell us that this can have negative consequences on the health of the animals and can be dangerous to do so.

In accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, wild animals are only relocated if they are injured and then in order to allow them to recover. As this is not the case, our family of foxes will not be relocated.

The foxes are doing well, and we wish to keep it that way.

In closing, I am extremely proud of each and every member of our City of Toronto team, who are working, often around the clock, in response to COVID-19. Now, more than ever, 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.

Thank you.

END