

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

May 08, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

As I have explained in the past, the incident management processes in Toronto are both nimble and scalable. This is especially important as we continue to lead through challenging issues such as PPE inventory management.

To date, and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the City has been providing PPE directly to respite centres, 24-hour drop-in centres and each of the shelters in Toronto, as a part of our overall shelter system operations.

Initially, daytime drop-in centres and drop-in meal programs were provided with grant funding, provided through our Shelter, Support and Housing Administration team, such that they were able to source their required PPE directly along with the other supplies they require.

Further, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, shelters that are not directly operated by the City of Toronto have continued to rely solely on the City for the supply and delivery of PPE, in order for them to operate safely and effectively.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, the City is receiving numerous requests for PPE from a number of our community agency partners, who are providing important services to those experiencing homelessness.

These services are vitally important in keeping our most vulnerable residents both safe and supported throughout this pandemic, which continues to be a top priority for us.

In response to these important needs, I am pleased to advise that we will be providing PPE directly to our partner daytime drop-in centres as well as our partner drop-in meal programs in collaboration with the Toronto Drop-In Network. Furthermore, effective immediately, the City of Toronto will be increasing the amount of PPE provided directly to the shelter providers; most notably by providing significantly increased quantities of surgical masks in response to their request.

Our PPE task force, which is an important component of our emergency operations centre, will be administering the supply of this PPE to our various partner agencies, in collaboration with Shelter Support and Housing Administration and Social Development, Finance and Administration.

These important enhancements are possible as a direct result of the hard work and dedication of our PPE Task Force and the diligent and proactive leadership they are providing on all aspects of PPE management.

The acquisition and management of high-quality PPE has been and continues to be a challenge throughout COVID-19, and I am very proud of the tireless work and expertise that our EOC, PPE task force and our Purchasing and Materials Management teams are bringing to this critical issue.

Our present PPE inventory levels are as follows:

- 19 day supply of N-95 respirators;
- 619 day supply of surgical masks;
- 262 day supply of isolation gowns; and
- 25 day supply of face shields

We have now taken delivery of an additional 2.6 million surgical masks, 500 isolation gowns and 890 face shields, which are all in the process of being evaluated and verified. Once they have been confirmed to meet our standards, these items will be added into active inventory.

As we continue the transition from response to recovery, our PPE inventory management processes are evolving in order to ensure that we are continuing to identify and prepare for our future PPE needs moving forward.

These are complex advance planning exercises that are enabled by the predictive analytics capabilities of our PPE management system, which was developed in house by our City of Toronto Technology Team.

To that end, I would like to update you on the quantities of PPE that we presently have on order:

- More than 500,000 N95 respirators;
- More than 30 million Surgical Masks;
- Approximately 6,300 Isolation Gowns; and
- More than 450,000 Face Shields.

Deliveries of these items are expected to begin next week and continuing through the end of June. While we have been provided with these estimated shipment dates by our vendors, we continue to experience variability in actual shipment dates due to continuing pressure within the global PPE supply chain.

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.

Our top priority has been, and continues to be to save lives and stop the spread of COVID-19 in our City.

Our never-ending commitment to PPE management, on the part of our EOC, is an important aspect of achieving that goal.

This has, and continues to be an important priority for our Strategic Command Team, and one that is reviewed daily.

In closing, I remind you to continue to make [Toronto.ca/COVID-19](https://toronto.ca/COVID-19) your first source of information relating to city services and all COVID-19 related information.

Thank you.