

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

May 25, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

Today, I will focus my remarks on saying thanks to our Paramedics.

As Mayor Tory acknowledged, it is Paramedic Services Week in Canada, and it is my honour to thank and acknowledge Chief Gord McEachen and the amazing women and men of Toronto Paramedic Services.

Paramedic Services week is held annually to recognize the contributions of these vital public servants who help maintain safe and healthy cities across the country. As the largest municipal paramedic service in Canada, the staff of Toronto Paramedic Services, including both those on the frontlines and behind the scenes, ensure that when any member of the public calls 9-1-1 for medical assistance they receive superior and compassionate paramedic-based health care, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Paramedic Services Week is our time to recognize the Paramedics, Emergency Medical Dispatchers and Call Takers, Operational Support staff and Management staff. Each one of these employees is an integral part of our organization and contributes to maintaining the trust and confidence of the residents of the city of Toronto, especially during this pandemic.

Our Paramedic service is without a doubt one of the best. I'd like to take a few moments to share a few service highlights:

- Toronto's Central Ambulance Communications Centre is an internationally Accredited Centre of Excellence.
- The Community Paramedicine program is an innovative program, focused on health promotion and injury prevention, and actively works to connect vulnerable patients to the most appropriate health care options.
- Toronto Paramedic Services maintains an accredited Advanced Care Paramedic training program; and
- Toronto Paramedic Services also delivers Primary Care Paramedic training in partnership with Toronto Employment and Social Services.

As we all know, COVID-19 has presented Paramedic Services with many challenges. It is through the tireless hard work and dedication of staff that Toronto Paramedic Services will continue to support our communities through these difficult times. On a personal note, I have the privilege of witnessing first hand, the exceptional care and service that our Paramedics provide each day.

This, of course, includes leading-edge prehospital care for our residents, as well as providing critical care and support to our Police Officers and Firefighters every day, in the performance of their duties.

Our Paramedics are vital members of our HUSAR and Public Order teams and, as we have all witnessed, are on the very front lines in responding to COVID-19. On behalf of each of us, I extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to our Paramedics for all they do every day.

Finally, our EOC teams had a busy weekend, as we continue to both plan for and respond to issues as they arise.

Each of our essential city services continue to operate without interruption. Our PPE levels continue to remain stable and we continue to work hard to proactively manage both our PPE inventories and supply chain.

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

For more information on ActiveTO initiatives, we encourage you to visit toronto.ca/ActiveTO.

Thank you.