

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

May 07, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

Our EOC continues to operate 7 days per week, ensuring that both critical and essential services are being provided without interruption.

Toronto's Children's Services' team is no exception.

They are currently hard at work, providing the childcare services that our essential service workers require for them to continue providing the many services that our residents rely on each and every day in Toronto.

Last week, the Province of Ontario requested that we begin expanding COVID-19 testing for child care workers, who are assigned to work in our emergency child care centres. We responded immediately and implemented this additional testing, which strengthens the already comprehensive health and safety procedures and policies that are in place.

All City of Toronto emergency child care workers, which includes approximately 300 staff, assigned to our 7 emergency child care centres, are in the process of being proactively tested for COVID-19. Toronto Public Health has been working with Toronto Children's Services, and with the Provincially-operated COVID-19 testing centres in order to do all that we can to expedite this process.

This includes making weekend and after-hours times available in order to get these essential service staff tested as quickly as possible.

Our staff at both the Jesse Ketchum and Falstaff Toronto Early and Child Care centres have already been sent for testing. The remainder of our emergency child care staff will complete their scheduled testing over the upcoming weekend and early next week.

As of this morning, the testing results are as follows:

In the Jesse Ketchum site, 13 staff have tested positive, 34 are negative, and 19 staff are awaiting the results of their testing.

Additionally, also in Jesse Ketchum, 7 children have tested positive, 20 are negative and approximately 30 children are awaiting the results of their testing.

On April 29, the Jesse Ketchum site was closed for a two week period and remains closed at this time. Service at this location will resume on a date to be determined in accordance with the recommendation and advice of Toronto Public Health.

In the Falstaff site: 1 staff member has tested positive, and 5 staff members are still awaiting results. There are no children showing any symptoms or signs of COVID-19 infection and as such, none are being tested at this point.

The Falstaff location continues to operate, although one room where the staff member who has tested positive, has been closed until further notice. Both the 6 staff members and the 6 children who had been based in this room are self-isolating at home for 14 days.

As we outlined yesterday, work is also ongoing to ensure that our City is prepared as additional retail stores begin to re-open. We have convened a number of teams, who are working to assist Toronto business owners and operators in implementing the public health guidelines and protocols, in order for our City's retail sector to operate in as safe a manner as possible.

Further, many proactive programs are continuing to scale up, including CurbTO.

The CurbTO team is implementing a number of street interventions that include Curb Lane Pedestrian Zones and Temporary Parking Pick-up Zones. These interventions are designed to facilitate effective social distancing on our sidewalks and streets. We have implemented 21 of these interventions thus far.

Our team in the EOC is working in direct collaboration with Toronto Public Health, in order to implement the public health measures that will be required to protect our residents and staff. Each of the relevant City divisions and agencies continue to be fully connected and are working together on these important issues. Our Strategic Command Team continues to ensure that the City of Toronto's response to COVID-19 remains timely, coordinated and effective.

I am extremely proud of our team that continues to go above and beyond in service to our City, in these unprecedented times.

In closing, I continue to 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.

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