Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

May 20, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.
Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W

Good afternoon.

All aspects of EOC operations are continuing and our teams are doing an extraordinary job of ensuring that critical and essential city services are being provided without interruption.

Our PPE inventories remain stable this week and our PPE management and conservation efforts are ongoing.

I am pleased to advise that we are continuing to expand the ActiveTO program. Overall, the feedback we’ve received about the ActiveTO program, and the associated closures, has been very positive to date.

Please note that this upcoming weekend, there will be a number of major road closures that will be in effect from Saturday, May 23 at 6 a.m. until Sunday, May 24 at 11 p.m.

The major road closures are as follows:

The eastbound lanes of Lake Shore Boulevard will be closed to vehicular traffic from Windermere Avenue to Stadium Road.

The eastbound Gardiner Expressway off ramp to Lake Shore Boulevard, which is exit #146, will also be closed.

The eastbound lanes of Lake Shore Boulevard will be closed to vehicular traffic from Coxwell Avenue to Kew Beach Avenue, which is just south of Woodbine Avenue.

Bayview Avenue will be closed to vehicular traffic from Mill Street to Rosedale Valley Road, and

River Street will also be closed to vehicular traffic from Gerrard Street East to Bayview Avenue.

The City will actively manage traffic during these major closures, through signal timing adjustments on adjacent routes, as well as by deploying additional roadway signage to alert drivers.
Motorists who would normally travel these roads on weekends should plan alternate routes. Those residents who plan to access these closed roads for cycling or walking should access these areas by bike or as a pedestrian since nearby parking is limited and no on-site parking is provided.

When finalizing ActiveTO major road closures, special consideration is given to mitigating the impacts of planned construction on traffic flow.

In addition to major road closures, ActiveTO is also working on the Quiet Streets initiative. Quiet Streets are identified neighbourhood roads, in numerous areas around the city, where the roadways are configured for both for pedestrian and local vehicle traffic use.

City staff continue to work with local councillors and communities to install and plan for suitable Quiet Street installations.

The Quiet Streets initiative makes it easier for local residents to be outside, to get exercise and to move about the neighbourhood while maintaining increased physical distancing. Yesterday, retail stores that have a separate street-front entrance, were permitted to reopen or to expand their curbside pickup service delivery model.

The re-opening of these businesses is an important part of Toronto’s phased restart.

Our EOC and Office of Rebuild and Recovery teams, along with each of our divisions, agencies and partners, continue to work proactively to support the re-opening and expansion of services.

Each of our restart plans focuses on complying with the advice, guidance and direction of our Public Health Professionals in all that we do.

These initiatives include the continued roll out of additional CurbTO pedestrian and curbside pickup zones, in a number of areas around the city. The CurbTO program helps business owners and operators manage physical distancing outside their location, while supporting the increased demand for curbside pickup services.

In closing, I remind everyone that Toronto.ca/COVID-19 is the best source for up-to-date information on COVID-19 in Toronto.

For more information on ActiveTO initiatives, including a detailed listing of upcoming road closures, we encourage you to visit Toronto.ca/ActiveTO.

Thank you.