

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

June 5, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

Both our COVID-19 response and city restart planning operations are continuing and our teams are ensuring that critical and essential city services are being provided without interruption.

Our personal protective equipment levels continue to remain stable and all aspects of PPE are being managed effectively.

Yesterday, the Province of Ontario announced that today, short-term rentals such as lodges, cabins, cottages, homes, condos and B&Bs are considered essential businesses, and therefore, are now allowed to resume operations in Ontario.

In Toronto, short-term rentals are regulated by the Licensing and Registration of Short-Term Rentals bylaw and resuming any operation must be in accordance with the City's bylaw.

Under the City's bylaw:

People can host short-term rentals in their principal residence only, and both homeowners and tenants may participate.

Short-term rentals, which is defined as any rental that is for a period of less than 28 consecutive days, are permitted across the city, in all housing types in residential zones and in the residential component of mixed-use zones.

People who live in secondary suites and laneway suites may also participate, as long as the secondary or laneway suite is their principal residence.

Short-term rental companies will be required to be licensed with the City of Toronto in order to carry on business.

Short-term rental operators, who are individuals renting their principal residences on a short-term basis, will also be required to register with the City of Toronto.

Before the declaration of the COVID-19 emergency in Toronto, City staff were moving forward with the phased implementation of the bylaw that came into effect in November 2019.

This phased implementation included developing online registration systems, along with licensing and enforcement systems for both short-term rental companies and operators.

Like many City services, our response to COVID-19 has impacted these implementation timelines.

As such, our staff are now working to revise these timelines.

The City will continue to respond to short-term rental issues on a complaint basis.

Once the COVID-19 emergency ends and the provincial orders are lifted, the City will resume the regular enforcement of City bylaws, including short-term rental, waste, noise, and zoning, on a complaint basis.

More information about short-term rentals can be found online at www.toronto.ca/shorttermrentals

I want to remind everyone, including both those who operate short-term rentals and those who might choose to rent them, that public health and safety remains of utmost importance right now.

So please, I urge you, there must be no parties, no gatherings of groups larger than five people anywhere – including in short-term rentals.

This is a difficult time for many people in our city, so please be respectful of neighbours and be mindful of the communities where you may be renting short-term, as these are people's homes.

Most importantly, remember that we are continuing to fight COVID-19 together.

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

Thank you.

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