

## Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

June 8, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

Throughout the COVID-19 emergency, our teams have worked non-stop to ensure that Toronto responded in a timely, coordinated and effective manner.

Our strategic priorities have guided each of our decisions and have never changed throughout.

The Emergency Operations Centre has worked nonstop, for the past 90 days, to translate the advice and guidance of Dr. de Villa and Toronto Public Health, into actions that achieve our strategic priorities.

As Mayor Tory explained earlier, our priorities are – preventing the loss of life, protecting the healthcare system and protecting the economic and social fabric of Toronto.

As we continue to transition from emergency response to City restart, I am pleased to report that we have developed a responsive and robust city restart methodology.

This is enabling city divisions, agencies, boards and commissions to restart their respective services in an effective and efficient manner.

These processes, which we refer to as the City of Toronto consolidated restart roadmap, assists each service area lead in ensuring that each of the required assessments and plans are completed, as well as being reviewed and approved by the Strategic Command Team.

Once approved for restart by the Province, our teams are able to proceed with various service level restarts in a timely and coordinated manner.

This is as a result of the bulk of the preparatory work having been completed proactively and in advance of the anticipated restart approval.

Of course, our processes have been scaled to match the demands and timing associated with this global pandemic.

Once the required assessments and plans have been completed, the appropriate Division or Agency head is scheduled to present their respective service restart plan to our Strategic Command Team for review and approval.

We are maintaining live-time tracking and management of each service level restart, across the entire City of Toronto.

Of course, while the City of Toronto consolidated restart roadmap processes are underway, our EOC continues to respond to issues as they arise, and continues to operate key functions including our PPE task force.

It is important to note that Environment and Climate Change Canada has issued a heat warning for both June 9 and 10.

Many facilities that were part of the City's 2019 Heat Relief Network of cool spaces across Toronto are presently closed due to COVID-19.

For this reason, the City's heat emergency plans have been modified this year.

This plan includes 14 Emergency Cooling Centres that will open across Toronto during Heat Warnings.

The 14 Emergency Cooling Centres will offer an indoor, air-conditioned place to rest and receive a cool drink.

Staff who are trained to assist residents affected by the extreme heat will be available and, of course, infection prevention and control measures will be in place.

The 14 Emergency Cooling Centres are available to residents who do not have access to a cool space and who are unable to keep cool in their home or outdoors.

All the Emergency Cooling Centres will operate during active Heat Warnings, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., except Metro Hall, which will run 24 hours during Heat Warnings. An interactive map is available to help those looking to cool off and locate an Emergency Cooling Centre location near them.

These tools are available online at [www.toronto.ca/keepcool](http://www.toronto.ca/keepcool)

I would like to thank the many people who are working tirelessly to ensure that these processes take place as quickly, safely and efficiently as possible.

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

In closing, I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank my colleague and friend, Police Chief Mark Saunders, who announced his upcoming retirement earlier today.

Mark is someone who is not only a colleague, but also a friend.

There has been many a long day and many a late night, where I have been connected with, if not standing beside Mark, as we have managed difficult and significant incidents across Toronto.

He is a consummate professional who never stops caring for both his Officers and staff as well as for every resident of our city.

It has been my sincere honour to serve alongside Chief Saunders and wish him all the very best in his more than well-deserved upcoming retirement.

Thank you.