

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

September 14, 2020 at 2 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

More than nine months ago, we began working with Dr. de Villa, in preparation for the impending arrival of the "Coronavirus".

The evaluation and proactive planning, for what would soon be known as COVID-19, was underway long before the first case was reported in Canada – let alone in Toronto.

Since the arrival of the first case in Toronto, we have managed through the period of shut-down and into the phased reopening of many aspects of city.

Together, our City has built and continues to operate the largest incident management system in Toronto's history.

Our emergency operations centre has operated continuously now for 188 days, in response to COVID-19.

Throughout our response to COVID-19, we have never wavered from our overarching goals of saving lives and preventing our healthcare system from becoming overwhelmed.

From the outset, we have built and operated robust and scalable systems that have enabled our City to respond to the ever-changing realities of this pandemic.

Since the beginning of this emergency in Toronto, the City's Corporate Leadership Team has been hard at work, ensuring that we are able to deliver the services that our residents need and rely on each day.

Over the past number of months, under the leadership of Deputy City Manager Tracey Cook, our teams have been hard at work bringing city services back online, while also continuing to prepare for a potential resurgence of COVID-19 as we head into the fall and winter months.

Today, I am very proud of the fact that 94% of city services are operational, with 67% of those services operating remotely through enhanced technology.

All essential and critical services have remained operational throughout the pandemic, without interruption, and the handful of services that have not been restarted are those that would require in-person attendance and would necessitate opening our Civic Facilities to the public.

More than 180 city services have moved through the "Consolidated City Service Restart Roadmap" process that we developed and implemented in May.

Perhaps most importantly, the vast majority of our city services are now being operated in a manner that enables enhanced continuity of service in the event of a continued resurgence of COVID-19.

It is with this mandate and focus in mind, that I have now been asked to return to the position of COVID-19 Incident Commander.

My focus will include continuing the proactive planning and preparation that has been underway throughout COVID-19.

Our consolidated COVID-19 Resurgence Plans will guide the City's response moving forward.

We will continue to manage the challenges that COVID-19 brings, including those relating to the global supply chain of personal protective equipment.

As the resurgence situation develops, we will continue to take the actions necessary to save lives, and to prevent the healthcare system from becoming overwhelmed.

I would like to extend my thanks to Mayor Tory, Dr. de Villa and the City's Senior Leadership Team, for their continued trust and confidence in my ability to take on this important work, once again.

I would also like to acknowledge each and every resident and business owner, who has accepted and abided by our advice and direction, as we have worked together to beat COVID-19.

I encourage everyone to continue to follow the advice of Toronto Public Health, as we do all we can to minimize the resurgence of COVID-19 in our city.

And finally, I would be remiss if I did not remind everyone that toronto.ca/COVID19 is the best source for reliable and timely information on COVID-19 in Toronto.

Thank you.