

## Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

October 14, 2020 at 2 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

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

We have had to make difficult, and often unpopular decisions.

But in doing so, thousands of lives have been saved, as a direct result of the sacrifices made by each and every resident and each and every business owner in our city.

As you know, in response to both the provincial changes announced on October 9<sup>th</sup> and the recommendations from our Medical Officer of Health, we have had to adjust a number of recreation programs, to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Our Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff have been working with Toronto Public Health to review the City's current recreation programs, and specifically those programs that are deemed high-risk for COVID-19 transmission.

This includes programs being held indoors, where the physical nature of the activity results in close contact and where masks cannot be worn.

Effective the morning of Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>, a number of our recreation programs and services have been suspended, including registered and instructional programs.

These include:

- learn to skate and swim programs;
- dance, group fitness and wellness programs;
- team sports with gameplay or scrimmages, and
- indoor permits for social gatherings.

Fitness centres and drop-in sports programs are also suspended.

Permits for indoor and outdoor sports have been adjusted to allow for training only, with capacity restrictions.

Over the course of the weekend, our Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff have been working tirelessly to contact affected registered participants and permit holders, and will continue to contact registered clients ahead of their next program date.

Refunds will be issued automatically over the next few weeks. Residents do not need to request refunds – it will happen automatically.

Questions can be directed to [pfrcustomerservice@toronto.ca](mailto:pfrcustomerservice@toronto.ca) or by calling 416-396-7378.

The City will continue to operate the following programs, with capacity restrictions and other health measures in place, including:

- leisure swim and skate;
- lane swimming;
- arts and general interest instruction;
- After-school Recreation Care;
- December camps for children;
- drop-in youth programs that do not include sports; and
- both indoor and outdoor permits for training, with no gameplay or spectators.

In response to the challenges associated with COVID-19, we continue to evolve our program delivery to ensure they are in line with public health advice.

With regards to recreation programs, City staff are working to adapt recreational activities that could be offered outdoors where possible, and to ensure that residents across the city are aware of existing outdoor opportunities.

The majority of City services continue for residents and business in Toronto.

All the City's outdoor amenities in parks and green spaces, such as sports fields, skate parks, trails, BMX parks, tennis courts, basketball courts, outdoor fitness equipment, picnic shelters and playgrounds, remain open.

We have worked hard to ensure that our city-services are well positioned to continue during this period of COVID-19 resurgence.

I want to thank everyone who continues to do their part to help us stop the spread of COVID-19.

As always, I 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 including an overview of recent recreation service impacts.

Thank you.