

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

October 19, 2020 at 2 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

The City of Toronto has continued to deliver both essential and critical services without interruption, since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This holds true for the 10 long-term care homes that are operated directly by the City of Toronto.

Our Senior Services and Long-Term Care division have been leaders throughout the pandemic, by proactively implementing every possible measure to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our City-run, long-term care homes.

There are more than 2,600 residents and approximately 3,000 staff members across all of the 10 City-run homes.

There are approximately 80 long-term care, nursing and retirement homes in Toronto, although the City of Toronto only operates 10 of these.

At this time, our Senior Services and Long-Term Care division is managing an outbreak at Fudger House, located on Sherbourne Street, which is home to 250 residents.

There are 22 confirmed resident cases of COVID-19, a combination of both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals, and 5 confirmed staff cases, originating in one specific area of the home.

As always, any staff members who test positive for COVID-19 self-isolate at home and are not in the workplace.

To mitigate further spread, Fudger House has been working closely with Toronto Public Health, the Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network, local hospital partners, and have medical experts on site to care for all residents.

The following outbreak management practices are in place at all 10 City-run homes:

- enhanced active screening practices are in place for anyone entering the building;
- all staff members and residents are being tested and re-tested as necessary;

- the co-horting of staff members, as well as isolation of residents, as necessary;
- general visitors are no longer permitted and both indoor and outdoor visits have stopped:
 - as per Ministry guidelines, visiting is restricted to essential visitors only, as comfort to those who are close to end of life and to essential caregivers, who provide essential support for a resident such as feeding, and regular assistance with activities of daily living
- essential end of life and palliative care visits for residents, including those with COVID-19, have been made possible throughout the pandemic, even if a home is in an outbreak;
- frontline staff are receiving additional support with personal protective equipment and with infection, prevention and control education and audits;
- enhanced cleaning and disinfection continue throughout the City's homes; and
- continued proactive communication with both residents and their families.

Overall, continuous monitoring and communication with Toronto Public Health will remain an ongoing priority.

We have the General Manager of Senior Services and Long-Term Care, Paul Raftis, on the line to respond to specific questions you may have this afternoon.

I encourage everyone to continue to follow the advice of Toronto Public Health, and maintain compliance with the important public health measures as we do all we can, to minimize the resurgence of COVID-19 in our city.

As always, I remind everyone that toronto.ca/COVID19 is the best source for reliable and timely information on COVID-19 in Toronto.

Thank you.