

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

November 16, 2020 at 2 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

On November 13, our Medical Officer of Health issued an Order under section 22 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.

This order strengthens COVID-19 protections in Toronto, in order to prevent the further spread of the virus and prevent our healthcare systems from becoming overwhelmed.

Notice of this order is available publicly at toronto.ca/covid19

The penalties associated with being found guilty of an offence, under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, range from up to \$5,000 per day for an individual and up to \$25,000 per day for a Corporation.

Under normal circumstances, Orders issued under the Health Protection and Promotion Act are enforced by Toronto Public Health Inspectors.

However, as part of our coordinated COVID-19 enforcement efforts, both Toronto By-Law Enforcement Officers and Toronto Police Officers have now been delegated the authority to enforce these additional Orders.

This change has been implemented to ensure that our enforcement efforts remain coordinated and to ensure that we are able to effectively enforce these additional Orders.

Over the course of the weekend, our enforcement teams were active across the City.

This included proactively inspecting for compliance with the requirements of the recently amended Regulations and Orders that came into effect on Saturday, as well as responding to complaints.

One of our proactive inspection initiatives this weekend, focused on the Entertainment District in downtown Toronto.

Our enforcement teams inspected approximately 80 restaurants and bars in this area.

71 were found to be in compliance with the Regulations and Orders. 5 charges were laid for non-compliant indoor dining and 4 warning letters were issued.

Also this weekend, 31 tickets and 13 cautions were issued for illegal activity on Toronto beaches. We extinguished 30 illegal bonfires on Toronto beaches this weekend, including 3 that had been left unattended.

We responded to 25 complaints relating to gatherings on private property this weekend.

This included responding to a large birthday party, being held in a commercial storage unit, in the Kipling and Bloor area of Etobicoke.

Upon arrival, Toronto Police Officers observed in excess of 100 people in attendance.

In addition to this party being shut down as a result of violations of the COVID-19 Regulations and Orders, charges under the Reopening Ontario Act were also laid against the organizer of this party.

Further, the storage unit that had been rented to host this party was not designed nor equipped for this purpose.

As such, follow up inspections are ongoing with respect to compliance with Ontario Building Code and Ontario Fire Code requirements.

It is important to note that, in our experience, the vast majority of the businesses in Toronto have been, and continue to be, in compliance with the Regulations.

For example, between June 27 and November 10, our enforcement team inspected 4,104 restaurants, bars and other eating and drinking establishments for compliance with the Reopening Ontario Act.

Of those, 376 or approximately 9%, were found to be non-compliant with the COVID-19 regulations.

Perhaps more importantly, 91% of these restaurants, bars and other eating and drinking establishments were determined to be in compliance with the requirements of the COVID-19 Regulations, Orders and By-Laws.

I want to thank every resident and business owner of the city who continues to do the right thing, as we all work together to stop the spread of COVID-19.

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

Thank you.