

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

November 12, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

From the outset of COVID-19, we have been doing all we can to stop the spread of the virus in our city.

This includes both proactive inspection and enforcement, as well as complaint-based response and enforcement.

Our COVID-19 enforcement team includes our municipal licensing and standards team and our Toronto Public Health team, who are supported by the City's Legal Services division. The City's enforcement team works closely and in coordination with the Toronto Police Service team.

Immediately upon becoming aware of the upcoming changes in both Provincial Regulations, as well as the additional Orders that Toronto Public Health is implementing in Toronto, our enforcement teams went to work to ensure that we are both coordinated and ready.

Our COVID-19 enforcement strategy includes two primary means of ensuring public safety – proactive inspections and enforcement and inspections in response to a complaint.

Our overarching strategy will not change, as a result of the amended Regulations and Orders that come into effect on Saturday.

Our teams will continue to be active across the City, proactively inspecting for compliance with the requirements of the Regulations, by-laws and all applicable public health orders.

Our residents and business owners should expect to see our enforcement officers active across the city each day and night.

In reviewing our enforcement experience to date with our enforcement team, I am pleased that the vast majority of the businesses in Toronto have been and continue to be in compliance with the Regulations.

First and foremost, thank you to every business owner who continues to operate in compliance with the COVID-19 related requirements.

In addition to proactive inspections and enforcement, we will also continue to respond to complaints that are received.

Anyone who wishes to make a complaint, relating to non-compliance with the COVID-19 related Regulations and Orders, should contact 3-1-1.

Complaints are received and processed by 3-1-1, forwarded to our enforcement teams and are responded to on a triaged and prioritized basis.

Whether through proactive inspection, or in response to a complaint, our enforcement team will investigate and will continue to take any required enforcement action.

This will also include the enforcement of the Orders being made by the Medical Officer of Health under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

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.

At present, the Orders being made by the Medical Officer of Health include:

- All indoor dining, in any restaurant, bar or other food or beverage establishment, is prohibited;
- All indoor group fitness classes are prohibited, though gyms are permitted to remain open;
- All indoor meeting spaces and event spaces are ordered closed;
- All casinos, bingo halls and gaming establishments are ordered closed; and
- All indoor and outdoor Hookah Cafés are ordered closed.

I would also like to take a few minutes to remind everyone of the requirements for outdoor dining, especially relating to the use of tents and other such structures:

The outdoor dining area must be configured so that patrons seated at different tables are separated either by a distance of at least two metres, or by plexiglass or some other impermeable barrier.

No more than 4 people may be seated together at any one table.

If the outdoor dining area is covered by a roof, canopy, tent, awning or other element, at least two full sides of the outdoor dining area must be open to the outdoors and must not be substantially blocked by any walls or other impermeable physical barriers.

If the outdoor dining area is equipped with a retractable roof, and the roof is retracted, at least one full side of the outdoor dining area must be open to the outdoors and must not be substantially blocked by any walls or other impermeable physical barriers.

If these requirements are not met, then the dining area is considered to be indoors, and is therefore prohibited.

I remind everyone that additional information relating to the COVID-19 Regulations, Orders and Recommendations can be found on our website at [Toronto.ca/covid-19](https://toronto.ca/covid-19).

I extend my sincere appreciation and thanks for every resident, business owner and visitor in Toronto who does their part to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our City.

Thank you.