

## Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

November 30, 2020 at 2 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

Before I begin this afternoon, I would like to extend my sincere condolences to the family, friends and all those impacted by the fatal fire on Cavell Road in Etobicoke this morning.

Our fire investigations team is fully engaged, working alongside Toronto Police and the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal in order to determine the origin and cause of the fire as well as the circumstances contributing to this tragic loss of life.

On behalf of all of us, I extend condolences on this tragic loss.

The enforcement of public health-related Regulations has been a top priority for the City of Toronto since the outset of COVID-19.

Our coordinated COVID-19 enforcement team, including Police, Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Toronto Public Health Enforcement Officers have been working tirelessly for the past nine months, enforcing the Regulations relating to COVID-19.

This includes proactive inspections, responding to complaints, educating the public and when necessary, issuing tickets and laying charges against those businesses and individuals found to be in violation of the law.

The City has taken formal enforcement action 1,660 times to date, in response to COVID-19.

This weekend, our enforcement officers continued to monitor compliance with the Reopening Ontario Act.

130 bars and restaurants were inspected this weekend resulting in a 98.5% compliance rate.

Only 2 were found to be non-compliant over the course of the weekend, with action being taken by the investigating officers.

We also received a number of complaints related to non-essential businesses.

In response to these complaints, and following inspection by our enforcement teams, 16 charges were laid in response to violations of the Reopening Ontario Act.

This included a number of different types of non-essential businesses including hair salons, restaurants and furniture stores.

Our enforcement teams were busy with proactive inspections of malls and I am pleased to report that no issues were identified, as each mall was found to be operating in compliance with the Act.

This includes operations on Black Friday.

In response to complaints relating to gatherings on private property over the course of the weekend, 1 charge was laid by Toronto Police under the Reopening Ontario Act.

We also continued to respond to issues in Toronto parks.

Approximately 15 bonfires were extinguished on the waterfront, including 2 that were left unattended.

One of these large bonfires in Prince of Wales park, in south Etobicoke, required response by Toronto Fire Services.

I want to thank the vast majority of residents and businesses who continue to do the right thing to help stop the spread of COVID-19 to save lives, prevent the transmission of COVID-19, and prevent the healthcare system from becoming overwhelmed. 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.

Thank you.