

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

December 9, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

Since the outset of COVID-19, the City of Toronto has built and operated robust and nimble incident management systems, which have enabled us to both plan proactively, and respond effectively, to COVID-19.

In keeping with our commitment to ensure that we are well prepared, the City created and launched the COVID-19 Immunization Task Force to ensure that we are ready to deliver for Toronto residents.

The COVID-19 immunization campaign will be the largest such deployment we have ever seen.

More importantly, it also represents the light at the end of the tunnel that we are all so eagerly awaiting.

Mayor Tory and I were on a call with Premier Ford and General Hillier this week and were advised that the first doses of the vaccine will be received and administered by the Province.

The delivery of the COVID-19 immunization campaign requires the well-coordinated work of all three levels of government.

The Government of Canada is responsible for approving, procuring and distributing COVID-19 vaccines to each of the Provinces and Territories, and in our case, to the Province of Ontario.

And, of course, we are all very pleased to learn that Public Health Canada has now approved the Pfizer vaccine for use in Canada.

The Province of Ontario is responsible for receiving approved vaccines from the Government of Canada, establishing the vaccine distribution priorities, and distributing the vaccines across the Province.

Once the City of Toronto is provided with COVID-19 vaccines, by the Province of Ontario, we will be responsible for the administration of these vaccines in accordance with the prioritization framework that will be provided by the Province of Ontario and under the authority of Toronto Public Health.

We are directly connected with the Provincial Immunization Task Force and are working together to ensure an efficient and effective administration of vaccine for Toronto residents.

The very core of the COVID-19 immunization campaign in Toronto is the establishment of public trust and confidence and that we are able to deliver for our residents when the time comes, and I have every confidence that we will meet that objective.

The City of Toronto will be ready to go, without delay, once vaccines are made available.

As the information relating to the COVID-19 vaccine develops, toronto.ca/COVID-19 will be your best source of credible information.

As I conclude, I would like to thank Mayor Tory for drawing important attention to the issue of mental health.

Undoubtedly, we are all feeling the impacts created, or exacerbated by these abnormal times.

Feelings like frustration, anxiety and fear are normal reactions to abnormal situations.

It is okay not to be okay and seeking out help to both stay and get healthy are signs of strength and not weakness.

Thank you for drawing attention to these important issues.

Thank you.