

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

December 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Good morning.

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 enforcement teams have been working diligently to enforce the Regulations relating to COVID-19.

The City has taken formal enforcement action 1,795 times to date, in response to COVID-19.

Since our last update, our enforcement officers have continued to monitor compliance with the Reopening Ontario Act.

As a result of violations of the Reopening Ontario Act, 33 charges were laid and 21 notices were issued against owners/operators of entertainment establishments, personal service settings, a badminton centre, restaurants, bars, and retail stores.

Additionally, 13 charges were laid and 93 notices of violation were issued as a result of large gatherings on private property.

This included a liquor establishment, a rental property, a gaming house, and gatherings on private property and in private residences.

Toronto Police also responded to a protest resulting in 1 charge being laid.

Unfortunately, we continue to experience issues with use of outdoor ice rinks after hours.

In response, we have increased the number of paid-duty Police Officers and Corporate Security personnel assigned to outdoor rinks, to assist in preventing issues and protecting public health and safety.

Toronto Police officers were engaged and assisted in dealing with these issues, resulting in 19 charges being laid under the Trespass to Property Act.

We are also responding to issues and concerns relating to the use of closed ski and snowboard hills for various activities, including tobogganing.

While we continue to do all we can to support safe outdoor activities, the use of closed ski and snowboard hills poses a significant risk of injury.

Our Municipal Licensing and Standards team is working in collaboration with Parks, Forestry and Recreation on addressing these concerns.

For a list of designated tobogganing hills, please access Toronto.ca for the most up to date information.

Amidst all of the difficulty and challenges associated with the restrictions that have been put in place, in response to COVID-19, it is important to remember that we continue to be hard at work, preparing for the launch of the COVID-19 mass immunization campaign.

Along with our essential and critical frontline service workers, our Immunization Task Force worked through the holidays and continues to work every day to ensure that we are ready to launch Mass Immunization Clinics as soon as vaccines are made available to us by the Province of Ontario.

Our goal is clear: to be ready to go as soon as the Province of Ontario is able to provide the City of Toronto with vaccine for local administration.

As I close, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to each and every resident and business owner who has given so much this year. The impacts on our City are unparalleled and have impacted us all deeply.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank each of our City divisions, agencies and corporations for their tireless service in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It still seems surreal to report that today marks the 295th continuous day of Emergency Operations Centre activation.

This has been a year like no other, yet I remain confident that we will get through this together.

I wish each of you a happy, healthy and safe new year and all the very best for 2021, as we all put COVID-19 behind us, once and for all.