

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

January 25, 2021 at 2 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

One year ago today, the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in our city.

This unprecedented emergency has taken a devastating toll on many, including the more than 2,300 residents who have lost their lives as a result of COVID-19.

I offer my sincere condolences to those who have been impacted so heavily, as a result of COVID-19.

Since before the arrival of the first case in Toronto, our teams have worked tirelessly to save lives, prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our City and to do all we can to protect our healthcare system.

With those goals in mind, our coordinated enforcement teams continue to work diligently to enforce the Regulations relating to COVID-19.

The City has taken formal enforcement action 2,066 times to date.

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

As a result of violations of the Reopening Ontario Act, 6 charges were laid, and 8 notices were issued, against owners and operators of retail stores, personal service settings, and grocery stores.

Our officers also inspected 90 bars and restaurants, resulting in a 98% compliance rate. Two charges were laid as a result of violations of the Act.

I want to thank the vast majority of residents and businesses who continue to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in our City by complying with the public health restrictions and Regulations.

Over the course of the weekend, 40 charges were laid, as a result of the investigation of complaints relating to large gatherings on private property and in private residences.

This weekend Toronto Police also responded to protests and rallies in both Nathan Philips Square and Yonge Dundas Square, and issued a total of 24 charges as a result.

This includes 14 charges under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and a further 10 charges under the Criminal Code.

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

Our Municipal Licensing and Standards team, working in collaboration with Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Toronto Police continue to work together to support safe outdoor activities while protecting public safety.

Attempting to access and/or use outdoor rinks, outside normal operating hours, is both illegal and dangerous.

We also remind residents that when using parks, to practise physical distancing, to wear a mask as much as possible, and of course whenever effective physical distancing is not possible.

We are continuing to work hard to ensure that we are ready to roll out a city-wide immunization program that effectively prioritizes our most vulnerable communities, as very soon as vaccines are available for administration in our City.

The administration of COVID-19 vaccine represents hope in the fight against the virus, and moves us closer to the day when COVID-19 is behind us and where we can resume all the things we all miss so much.

For more information on the response to COVID-19 in Toronto, please visit toronto.ca/covid19 for the most accurate and up to date source of information for city residents and businesses.

Thank you.