

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

February 22, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

Our coordinated enforcement teams continue to work diligently to enforce the Regulations relating to COVID-19.

The City has taken formal enforcement action 2,158 times to date.

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

As a result, 1 charge was laid against the owner and operator of a restaurant/bar and 33 charges were laid related to large gatherings.

Toronto Police Officers, from 52 Division, also responded to a complaint of bottles being thrown from the balcony of a residential unit at a condominium on York Street.

Officers attended the unit, which was being operated as a short term rental unit, and located 14 people having a party.

All 14 people were charged under the Reopening Ontario Act, 4 people were charged under the Criminal Code and 1 person was charged with offences relating to drug possession.

Toronto Police also responded to an anti-mask protest at Queens Park this weekend, resulting in 3 charges being laid under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, 3 charges being laid under the Criminal Code and 2 arrests being made.

Toronto Police are on the line this afternoon, should you have specific questions for them relating to these incidents.

Our Immunization Task Force continues to be hard at work, preparing our network of City-operated clinic locations, such that we are ready to go when the availability of vaccine permits the opening of these clinics.

The location for all nine of the City-operated immunization clinic sites have been confirmed, and to date, onsite set up has been completed in 5 of the nine sites.

Setup operations are now underway in the 6th clinic and will continue weekly until each of the 9 sites are ready to go.

Staffing of these clinics is also well underway, and we are in the process onboarding and training the staff required to operate the clinics.

The target set for us, by the Province of Ontario, is to be ready to open our 9 city-operated COVID immunization clinics by the 1st of April, to coincide with the forecasted availability of vaccine.

All aspects of our clinic deployment plans are on target and I am confident that we will be ready to go on or before the target date of April 1.

Our Immunization Task Force continues to work alongside our hospital and community partners on the larger city-wide immunization plan, including the plans to administer vaccine to those prioritized in accordance with the Provincial prioritization framework.

We are pleased to see that the vaccine supply from the Province is enabling the continuing efforts with respect to immunization rollout of frontline health care workers.

This includes the resumption of vaccination efforts for our frontline Paramedics, which will resume tomorrow, in collaboration with Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and Humber River Hospital.

Also in accordance with Provincial prioritization, the vaccination of front-line firefighters who are directly involved in the response to emergency medical incidents, commenced this morning, in collaboration with Michael Garron Hospital.

In addition to frontline paramedics and firefighters, the following groups of healthcare workers will also begin to receive their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine this week:

- needle exchange and supervised consumption staff working in various treatment locations across the City;
- mobile COVID-19 testing teams;
- community health centre staff;
- acute care workers that have not yet been vaccinated and who continue to be within the prioritized groups; and,
- home and community care workers.

Our hospital partners will be reaching out to each of these groups of people as vaccine operations get underway this week.

I appreciate that there are a number of questions relating to when other members of our communities will be vaccinated, where that will happen and what the process will be.

As very soon as this information is provided to us, by the Province of Ontario, we will ensure that it is communicated widely and transparently.

I continue to encourage everyone to monitor www.toronto.ca/covid-19 for the most accurate and up to date information relating to both COVID-19 response and vaccine in Toronto.

Thank you.