

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

January 20, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Good morning.

Before I provide my update today, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the family, friends and all those impacted by the tragic fatal fire, last night, on Gladstone Avenue.

As always, our Toronto Firefighters give their all to save lives, and at times, place themselves in harm's way in the performance of their duties – especially rescue.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our extraordinary Toronto Paramedics, along with the nurses and doctors in Hospital, who treated our injured Firefighters.

I am relieved to report that each of our Firefighters have been treated and released, and we are sincerely thankful for that.

The investigation into the origin, cause and circumstances of this terrible fire is underway in collaboration with Toronto Police and the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal.

Yesterday, our emergency and essential services operated with an average unplanned absence rate of 14.6%.

Between December 24th and January 19th, our emergency and essential services operated with an average unplanned absence rate of 12.5%.

Our team continues to implement their mitigation plans effectively, thereby ensuring that these essential services continue to be delivered across the City.

From a City-wide perspective, yesterday, we operated with an average unplanned absence rate of 6.7% across all the City divisions.

Yesterday, Toronto Paramedic Services operated with 116 Ambulances on the road and an unplanned absence rate of 16.7%.

Chief Raftis continues to work with hospital partners to quickly release paramedics from hospitals, so that they are available to respond to emergency calls as very quickly as possible.

This work and these discussions are continuing.

Also, yesterday, Toronto Fire Services operated with 120 frontline trucks and crews in service and an unplanned absence rate of 11.3%.

Fire Services are continuing to respond to additional low priority paramedic calls each day, where there is no clear indication of a patient or injury.

Each of our other emergency, essential and critical services, including Toronto Police, Toronto Water, TTC, Shelter Support and Housing, Senior Services and Long-Term Care, Children's Services and our City-operated COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics also continue to provide exceptional service to Toronto residents, and I thank them also.

Each of these teams continue to do an exceptional job of managing through the challenges associated with increased numbers of staff being unable to report for duty as a result of COVID-19.

Our COVID-19 Strategic Command Team continues to work every day in order to ensure that all aspects of our City-wide response to the pandemic remain responsive and effective.

As the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve, so will our planning and response.

As always, I encourage you to continue to make [Toronto.ca/covid19](https://toronto.ca/covid19) your first choice for up to date, accurate and timely information on all aspects of COVID-19 response in Toronto.

Thank you.