

**FORWARDED ON BEHALF
OF
SILVER COMMAND
(INSPECTOR ANDREW CHAN AND INSPECTOR IAN UPTON)**

**To: All VPD Employees - Civilian and Sworn
COVID-19 Update: March 19, 2020**

The following will provide an update on key developments for March 19, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff are reminded that during this developing situation, the VPD's response will remain fluid and adaptive. As a result, **information and updates may change daily.**

The VPD's Pandemic Working Group can be reached by email at vpdpandemicworkinggroup@vpd.ca.

For additional information and resource links, please refer to VPD COVID-19 intranet site.

<http://references.sharepoint01.vpd.bc.ca/COVID19/default.aspx>

Key Updates for March 19, 2020

Federal Update – Border Closures

- The border closure between Canada and the United States is likely to start **overnight Friday, March 20, 2020 and measures will remain in place until further notice.**
 - The supply chain will remain unaffected, including freight trucks.
 - People who work in essential services, and are crossing to work, can continue to do so.

Provincial Update – Remain in State of Emergency

- There have been 40 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the British Columbia total to 271.
- **At this time, that VPD member's enforcement authorities remain unchanged.**

Municipal Update – City of Vancouver Declares a State of Emergency

- On March 19, 2020, the City of Vancouver declared a State of Emergency. This supports the City's ongoing efforts to respond to COVID-19.
- **At this time, that VPD member's enforcement authorities remain unchanged.**

Public Health Officer – Statement to First Responders

On March 18, 2020, advice was given to all first responders by BC's Public Health Officer. The letter outlined the protocol for lower risk contacts with members of the public who are experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms.

Subsequently, the Pandemic Working Group has consulted with medical experts to provide all staff, including frontline members, with guidelines on how to address all potential exposures to COVID-19, including confirmed cases. **Please see the attached flow chart if you have come in contact with someone experience flu-like symptoms, or has been confirmed to have COVID-19.**

If a member of the public tests positive for COVID-19, public health will follow up with contacts of those people – this includes household contacts, first responders, and others that may have been in close proximity while they were experiencing symptoms. Public Health will then direct these contacts on what actions to take. Staff are advised to contact 8-1-1 or your health care provider for any questions about your personal health situation, available 24/7.

Operational Considerations

- **IMPORTANT:** The Pandemic Work Group continues to assess Departmental needs in response to the COVID-19 situation. At this time, there are no operational reassignments of staff; however, **members not assigned to the Operations Divisions must be prepared to be deployed in uniform as needed.**
- As a reminder, members are required to maintain their uniform and equipment in good condition at all times.
- At this time, **there will be no cancellation of annual leave.** If the situation changes, bargaining units will be consulted.
- All training courses are cancelled immediately, and the TTC is closed. The situation will be reassessed April 30th.
 - Updates on rescheduling courses will be provided as soon as they are available.
 - **This cancellation does not apply to online or e-learning courses.**
- All hearing and respirator tests have been cancelled until further notice.
- The sleeping rooms in all VPD facilities are closed indefinitely. Linens and pillows will be removed and cleaned.

Work Related Travel

Effective immediately, all work related travel outside the Metro Vancouver area, for all VPD staff, is being cancelled until further notice. Work related travel is to be limited to the Metro Vancouver area and only by vehicle or transit. VPD employees have the ability to opt out of work related travel and should consult with their supervisor if they have any concerns.

Staff who are affected by work related travel restrictions are asked to please contact VPD Finance-Travel so they can coordinate any ticket refunds/credits and any other related costs (vpdfinancetravel@vpd.ca).

Any exceptions to the current work related travel restrictions will require concurrence at the Deputy Chief level and final approval by the Chief Constable.

Health and Wellness: CISM/Peer Support

- REMINDER: The Critical Incident Stress Management Team (CISM)/Peer Support is available 24/7 should anyone be feeling anxiety or stress related to COVID-19.
 - Sworn members can reach out to Ali Gailus (778-847-5452), Michele McKnight (778-227-0789), Dave Moe (604-404-9303) or any other team member. Their names/contact information can be accessed on the intranet:

<http://references.sharepoint01.vpd.bc.ca/PeerSupport/Lists/Contacts/AllItems.aspx>

- Civilian members can reach out to Amanda Vetter (604-349-5713) or any other Civilian CISM team member. Their names/contact information can also be accessed on the intranet:

<http://references.sharepoint01.vpd.bc.ca/CISMCivilian/Lists/CivilianCISMTeam/AllItems.aspx>



Vancouver Police Department Protocol for COVID-19 Exposure

Effective: March 19th, 2020 *NOTE: This could change based on information from Public Health*

