

**FORWARDED ON BEHALF
OF
SILVER COMMAND
(INSPECTOR IAN UPTON AND INSPECTOR RANDY BELL)**

**To: All VPD Employees - Civilian and Sworn
COVID-19 Update: April 6, 2020**

The following will provide an update on key developments and reminders for April 6, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the VPD's response remains fluid and adaptive, it is important that all VPD staff continue to follow the developing situation on a daily basis.

At this time, **VPD member's enforcement authorities remain unchanged** in relation to federal, provincial, and municipal government COVID-19 orders. **Members shall not take enforcement action unless approved by Car 10.**

Key Updates for April 6, 2020

- New infographics on Sudden Death protocols and Hospital Attendance guidelines are now available on the Pandemic Working Group's various information platforms.
- Effective April 8, 2020, vehicle access to Stanley Park will be closed to the public, with only authorized staff, stakeholders, and emergency personnel granted entrance.
- Vancouver School Board (VSB) schools remain staffed with building engineers and custodial staff, who are on-site for both day and evening shifts.
- In addition to CISM/Peer Support, a reminder is provided on various other support mechanisms available to all VPD staff including psychological services covered under Green Shield, Homewood Health Counselling Services, and family support through Vancouver Beyond the Blue.

Government Updates for April 6, 2020

Provincial Update – Remains in State of Emergency

- There have been 63 new COVID-19 cases since the last update on April 4, 2020, bringing the British Columbia total to 1,266 since the outbreak.

New COVID-19 Infographics

The Pandemic Working Group has developed infographics to aid members in responding to sudden death calls and while attending hospitals during the COVID-19 Pandemic. These infographics be accessed from your home or mobile device via the VPD's COVID-19 vpdemerg website or on the COVID-19 Intranet page.

While at a sudden death call where COVID-19 is present or suspected, members are reminded:

- To don the proper PPE
 - Eye protection

- Gloves
- Long Sleeve Uniform
- Surgical Mask or Respirator
- To limit handling and exposure to the deceased if possible and remove themselves from the scene if contained, while awaiting the coroner.
- To only seize items from a sudden death scene when absolutely necessary. When seizing items:
 - Ensure gloves are worn;
 - Seal items in a clean plastic bag;
 - Use a two person system whenever possible and designate one officer as the clean officer and one as the dirty officer.

These procedures would be similar to the current drug handling procedures, in an effort to avoid contamination.

IMPORTANT: Immediately prior to decontamination, please leave your keys and radio in your vehicle, and DO NOT ATTEND THE KIOSK. Please also discard PPE in a separate, sealed bag for disposal.

While attending hospitals, members are reminded that:

- They are to don the proper PPE
 - Eye protection
 - Gloves
 - Long Sleeve Uniform
 - Surgical Mask or Respirator
- Consideration should be given to exposing the least number of members to the hospital environment while still maintaining officer safety.
- They can request that hospital staff provide them with a face mask to wear with their eye protection, gloves, and mask.

Of note: Dr. Vu has arranged for expedited attention for sec. 28 MHA arrests that require attendance at VGH and St. Paul's.

Stanley Park Vehicle Access Closure

Effective April 8, 2020, to reduce traffic and crowding in Stanley Park, vehicle access will be closed to the public, with only authorized staff, stakeholders, and emergency personnel granted entrance.

- The closure will be implemented via physical barriers and signage at key access points to the Park, primarily by Park Rangers and Securiguard.
- The Stanley Park Causeway (Highway 99) will remain open.

VSBC Schools Staffing Update

All Vancouver School Board (VSB) schools remain staffed with building engineers and custodial staff, who are on-site for both day and evening shifts. While E-Comm has also been advised, this is important for front-line members to be aware of while attending calls for service at schools.

Health and Wellness

CISM/Peer Support

As an ongoing and important 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>

Psychological Services

In addition, to CISM/Peer Support, VPD sworn and civilian members are provided with some coverage for confidential, registered psychological services under their respective extended health plans. For full details, please visit: <https://greenshield.ca>.

Members are encouraged to reach out to Peer Support with any questions regarding psychological services.

The following links provide you with access to a list of occupationally aware registered Psychologists:

- https://www.psychologists.bc.ca/find_psychologist
- VPD Intranet: [M:\Everyone\Employee Wellness Unit\Psychologist List 2020](#)

Homewood Health

Furthermore, Homewood Health is available to all VPD sworn and civilian members.

- Certified counsellors are available 24-7 by phone, email, text, or in-person.
- This service is confidential and accessible by family members who reside with employees of the City of Vancouver

Homewood Health can be reached at 1-800-663-1142 or at: www.homeweb.ca

Vancouver Beyond the Blue

We also continue to encourage members and their families to reach out to *Vancouver Beyond the Blue* (VBTB) - a peer-led, non-profit organization supporting and strengthening police families.

- Erica McKeddie is the contact person and can be reached at 778-229-3950 or by email info@vancouverbeyondtheblue.com.
- VBTB has a secure Facebook page where spouses/partners can connect and a website that provides resources.

Reminder: Accessing Key COVID-19 Information

Critical information related to member safety and procedures are distributed by the VPD's Pandemic Working Group. The current health emergency is a rapidly evolving situation and members are advised to access this information on a daily basis.

From your desk:	VPD's CoVID-19 Information & Updates webpage via the Intranet http://references.sharepoint01.vpd.bc.ca/COVID19/default.aspx
From your email:	Daily Situation Reports distributed to your VPD email address
From the road:	VPD GO 2020-54066 accessible by MDT
From home or cell phone:	Go to vpdemerg.ca . Password: Nitro

SERGEANT TYRONE SIDEROFF

PANDEMIC WORKING GROUP | VPD DOC – INFORMATION OFFICER

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