

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

**To: All VPD Employees - Civilian and Sworn  
COVID-19 Update: April 18, 2020**

The following will provide an update on key developments and reminders for April 18, 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.

**Key Updates for April 18, 2020**

- If members come in contact with an individual (from the public) with suspected COVID-19, consider requesting and escorting the individual to be voluntarily tested - there is a procedure in place with St. Paul's Hospital.
- Members are reminded to maintain social distancing in patrol parades and elevators.
- Assault charges may be recommended for intentional spitting/coughing incidents where the suspect claims to have COVID-19.

**Operational Considerations**

At this time, **VPD members' 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.**

**Voluntary Testing of Individuals (from the Public) with Suspected COVID-19**

Currently, there is no viable legal framework for police to force an individual (from the public) to test for COVID-19. However, if members come in contact with an individual suspected to have COVID-19, or who is displaying flu-like symptoms, members may request and escort the individual to be voluntarily tested.

- St. Paul's Hospital is the designated site for this testing and has a procedure in place.
- Further details can be found on VPD GO 2020-54066 or on the VPD's COVID-19 intranet page:

<http://references.sharepoint01.vpd.bc.ca/COVID19/Bulletins/Voluntary%20Testing%20of%20Public%20Individuals.pdf>

**Patrol Parades and Elevators – Social Distancing Reminder**

Members are reminded that social distancing is necessary for the safety of everyone. It has been observed that social distancing has eased in patrol parades and elevators. The Pandemic Working Group is suggesting that:

- PPE should be worn in elevators if social distancing cannot be maintained.

- Parades should be conducted under 15 minutes if members are in close contact, and that:
  - Surgical masks be worn in parades if members cannot be 2 meters apart.
- If squads are unable to maintain social distancing or abide by PPE recommendations during their parades, it is advised that squads modify the location of their parades so social distancing may be maintained.

Complete Social Distancing Considerations are outlined in the VPD's *Protocol for COVID-19 Exposure Flow Chart*:

<http://references.sharepoint01.vpd.bc.ca/COVID19/Bulletins/COVID-19-EXPOSURE-FLOWCHART.pdf>

### **Intentional Spitting/Coughing against Public and Assault Police Officer Considerations**

- Any members of the public who are victims of people spitting and/or coughing on them, while claiming to be infected with COVID-19, should be made aware that the police will investigate for the purpose of recommending charges for assault. Spitting/Coughing on someone intentionally for the purpose of infecting them or to instill fear of contamination, amounts to assault.
- Where the spitting/coughing victim is a police officer, charges may be brought under Section 270 (Assault, Peace Officer) or Section 270.01 (Assault, Peace Officer, with weapon or causing bodily harm).
  - If Assault PO with a weapon or causing bodily harm is considered, it would be necessary to prove that the accused is infected with the virus.
  - This may involve a Production Order and consultation with the Investigation Division.
- Aggravated Assault PO charges are not recommended, as it would be extremely difficult to establish Endangering Life, Causation, Intent, and sufficient Charge Approval Standards.

## **Health and Wellness**

### **CISM/Peer Support**

Members are reminded that if they require support during the COVID-19 crisis they can contact CISM/Peer Support and *Vancouver Beyond the Blue*. Information on these services and other supports and can be found on the COVID-19 intranet website and on [VPDemerg.ca](http://VPDemerg.ca).

### **Accessing Key COVID-19 Information**

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

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