

**FORWARDED ON BEHALF
OF
SILVER COMMAND
(INSPECTOR IAN UPTON AND INSPECTOR KRIS WRATHALL)**

**To: All VPD Employees - Civilian and Sworn
COVID-19 Update: April 20, 2020**

The following will provide an update on key developments and reminders for April 20, 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 20, 2020

- A video update from the Operations Division addressing all staff was released today. Periodic video updates will continue moving forward featuring various VPD staff.
- The Justice Centre is closed for all in-person judicial authorization applications; new procedures are now in place to allow members to access judicial authorizations.
- The 2020 Celebration of Light event has been cancelled.
- Narcan will continue to be administered during the COVID-19 Pandemic, and operational guidelines have been revised.
- The VPD Marine Unit will be supporting the enforcement action of Transport Canada Marine Safety Inspectors regarding passenger vessel restrictions related to COVID-19.

Operational Considerations

At this time, direction to **VPD members regarding their enforcement authorities remain unchanged** in relation to federal, provincial, and municipal government COVID-19 orders. This will be updated accordingly if and when any direction changes regarding enforcement. **Members shall not take enforcement action unless approved by Car 10.**

COVID-19 Videos

Periodic video updates from the Operations Division and other VPD staff will continue. In today's video update, A/Staff Sgt. Tom McLean addresses all staff with a brief update. The latest video update is available via this link:

<http://references.sharepoint01.vpd.bc.ca/COVID19/Video/DailyVideoMessageEmbed.html>

Staff working remotely are encouraged to access the video from VPDemerg.ca (password **Nitro**):

<https://vpdemerg.ca/latest-updates/>

Updated Judicial Authorizations

Due to COVID-19, the Justice Centre is closed for all in-person judicial authorization applications. New procedures are in place to allow members to access judicial authorizations during the pandemic. All applications, including those which need to be read by a judge, will be managed by the Justice Centre with direction being provided to applicants over the phone. Members should note the following key takeaways:

- Regardless of who will be reading the application, all applications must be sworn/affirmed prior to submitting and can be done so with any other police officer as a “*Commissioner for Taking Affidavits*” - the signature line on the back page of the ITO will have to be changed to reflect this.
- Unless otherwise directed, all applications will be submitted by fax.
- The telewarrant process should be used for all applications where this is possible.
- For warrants and orders that must, by law, be done in-person, members will call the Justice Centre (604-660-3263) and advise them that it is an application that cannot be done via telewarrant.
- For Authorizations that can only be read by a judge and would normally go to 222 Main Street, members are to call the Justice Centre (604-660-3263) and advise them of such - NOTE: Members are NOT to contact the Judges Chambers.

Members can find more details on filing for applications on the VPD’s COVID-19 intranet page in the *Court Updates* document under the **Operations Guidelines** section:

<http://references.sharepoint01.vpd.bc.ca/COVID19/Bulletins/Court%20Updates.pdf>

For situations which are limited by technical issues (such as ITOs in excess of 100 pages) or require additional steps, the Justice Center will provide members with additional instruction.

Narcan Administration Guidelines

Narcan will continue to be administered during the COVID-19 Pandemic as a life-saving intervention measure in confirmed or suspected cases of opioid toxicity. Please note that, in consultation with medical experts, the operational guidelines for the administration of Narcan have been revised.

The revised guidelines are available on the VPD GO 2020-54066 or posted on the VPD’s [COVID-19 intranet page](#).

Passenger Vessel Restrictions

Law enforcement officers have been authorized to enforce compliance of the Interim Order issued by the Minister of Transport to help mitigate the risks of transmitting COVID-19 on board ferry vessels and similar commercial vessels carrying more than 12 passengers. However, as it currently stands, **enforcement (and laying of charges) will only be conducted by Transport Canada Marine Safety Inspectors**.

- The VPD Marine Unit’s role is to support enforcement activities by directing and gathering evidence only.
- Marine Unit and other VPD officers will not arrest, charter, or warn under this Interim Order; rather, members will make observations and send the observations to Transport Canada.

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.

Accessing Key COVID-19 Information

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

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*

3585 Graveley Street | Vancouver BC | V5K 5J5

T: 604.717.9183 | E: tyrone.sideroff@vpd.ca | www.vpd.ca

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