

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

**To: All VPD Employees - Civilian and Sworn
COVID-19 Update: April 22, 2020**

The following will provide an update on key developments and reminders for April 22, 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 22, 2020

- Effective April 19, 2020, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth, announced new ticketing measures to discourage the reselling and price gouging of essential goods. **Members are to consult with Car 10 prior to taking any enforcement action.**

Operational Considerations

At this time, the VPD will not be taking the lead on any enforcement action regarding Federal, Provincial, and Municipal COVID-19 related orders. **Any enforcement action in relation to COVID-19 orders requires Car 10 approval.**

Emergency Program Act

On April 19, 2020, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth, announced new ticketing measures to discourage the reselling and price gouging of essential goods. Police officers are empowered to issue \$2,300 violation tickets for contraventions of British Columbia Emergency Program Act (EPA) Orders:

- Ministerial Order #84 – Must not engage in secondary selling with respect to essential goods and supplies.
- Ministerial Order #115 – Must not sell or offer to sell essential goods and supplies in a retail environment at an unconscionable price (price gouging).

Essential goods and supplies includes, but is not limited to, food, water and other beverages, fuel and gasoline, health care goods, pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, personal hygiene, sanitation and cleaning goods.

Calls for service for unconscionable prices (i.e. price gouging) will be screened by E-Comm and forwarded to the BC Consumer Protection Branch for enforcement. Also, note that the legal standard for price gouging is untested at this time. As such, members should expect that a high standard will be applied to prove that price gouging is occurring.

Please note that education remains the VPD's priority as a means of supporting the provincial COVID-19 response. As such:

- Members should only consider writing violation tickets when absolutely necessary;
- Members are reminded to gather evidence, and make notes that will detail the facts underlying the issuance of the ticket, as they may have to disclose it and rely on it in court; and
- **Car 10 is to be consulted before any enforcement action is taken.**

If issuing tickets, members are to use their current Provincial Violation Ticket books under the Emergency Program Act (EPA) as follows:

Contravention of the Emergency Program Act
Ministerial Order 84/2020, section 9(2):

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE(S)	ACT/REG	SECTION	TICKETED AMOUNT
Engage in secondary selling with respect to essential goods and supplies, Order 84/2020 sec. 9(2)	EPA	27(1)	\$2300

Contravention of the Emergency Program Act
Ministerial Order 115/2020, section 3 (retail price gouging):

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE(S)	ACT/REG	SECTION	TICKETED AMOUNT
Sell or offer to sell essential goods and supplies at unconscionable prices, Order 115/2020 sec. 3	EPA	27(1)	\$2300

Kiosk Notification of COVID-19 Exposed Vehicles

REMINDER: As per the VPD Protocol for COVID-19 Exposure, which was developed in consultation with medical experts, members are reminded that if they are decontaminating due to suspected exposure to COVID-19, **they are to advise the Kiosk that they have dropped off a police vehicle that is suspected to have been contaminated with COVID-19.** This will ensure that members and their fellow co-workers remain safe while on duty.

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 VPDeemerg.ca . Password: Nitro

SERGEANT TYRONE SIDEROFF

PANDEMIC WORKING GROUP | VPD DOC – INFORMATION OFFICER

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