

FORWARDED ON BEHALF OF THE PANDEMIC WORKING GROUP

To: All VPD Employees - Civilian and Sworn
COVID-19 Update: August 14, 2020

The following will provide an update on key developments and reminders for the week of August 14, 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 August 14, 2020

- Use of appropriate PPE in situations where it is operationally unavoidable to maintain physical distancing with each other and the public
- Calls for Service / Answers to Questions Related to the Quarantine Act

Operational Considerations

As an ongoing reminder, 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.**

Use of appropriate PPE in situations where it is operationally unavoidable to maintain physical distancing with each other and the public

Members are reminded to wear the appropriate PPE in situations where it is operationally unavoidable to maintain proper physical distancing with each other and the public. The VPD Safety and Health Unit has ample supplies of surgical masks, which are available to all members for operational use.

Alternative face coverings such as bandanas/neck gaiters are NOT considered appropriate or effective PPE, and should not be used for protection in COVID-19 related police calls to service. Further, bandanas / neck gaiters are not recommended or approved as a uniform item to be worn while on duty. Finally, a recent study testing masks and face coverings for stopping droplets while people are talking found that, in some cases, bandanas and fleece face coverings were less effective than wearing no mask or coverings at all.

(see: <https://nationalpost.com/health/fleece-neck-gaiters-and-bandanas-are-less-effective-at-stopping-covid-19-droplets-study-finds>)

Calls for Service / Answers to Questions Related to the Quarantine Act

When VPD staff is responding to police service calls, or speaking to members of the public, regarding quarantine issues (e.g.: a neighbor has returned from international travel and is not self-isolating), staff are advised to provide the following information, as per the Quarantine Act:

- 1) Contact the CBSA Warrant Response Centre at 1-800-523-5072;

- a. They will advise if the subject of complaint is required to follow any requirements under the Quarantine Act.
- 2) If necessary, contact the SOC over the phone (if possible) and advise the SOC that it has been confirmed by the CBSA that they are supposed to abide by the requirements of the Quarantine Act. Inquire if they are aware of these requirements and advise them that officers may be attending their residence to check compliance;
- 3) As patrol, our response is purely “educational” and the SOC should only be advised. We do not have the ability to enforce the Quarantine Act without direction from the Public Health Officer;
- 4) Complete a report, flag it as Covid-19 related;
- 5) Send only the GO number and associated residential address to the following e-mail: E_DEOC_INTAKE@rcmp-grc.gc.ca – do not send the police report;
- 6) The Quarantine Team will then review the information and decide if and what further action will be taken.

Vehicle cleaning

Members are reminded to wipe down their vehicles at the start of every shift and throughout their shift as needed. PPE and cleaning supplies continue to be available at the kiosk.

Patrol vehicles are sanitized once a day with Vital Oxide, which has been confirmed as effective against COVID-19. A yellow sticker on the wheel indicates that the vehicle has been disinfected. Any vehicle suspected to have been in contact with the virus will be removed from service and professionally decontaminated by First Trauma before being returned to service.

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:	Weekly Situation Reports distributed to your VPD email address
From the road:	VPD GO 2020-54066 accessible by MDT
From home or cell:	Go to VPDemerg.ca . Password: Nitro

Sgt. 2048
Vancouver Police Department
Professional Standards Section
Alternative Resolution Team
Desk: 604-717-2961