

**FORWARDED ON BEHALF OF
THE PANDEMIC WORKING GROUP**

To: All VPD Employees - Civilian and Sworn

COVID-19 Update: March 18, 2021

The following will provide an update on key developments and reminders for the week of March 18, 2021 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. As the Vancouver Police Department'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 March 18, 2021

- AstraZeneca Vaccine Priority Distribution Update
- Emergency Program Act – *Enforcement Guidelines NEW UPDATE*
- VPD Mask Protocol – *NEW UPDATE*
- VPD Employees Test Positive for COVID-19

PROVINCIAL COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION PLAN – FRONTLINE PRIORITY WORKERS

Dr. Henry announced that starting in April, front-line priority workers can receive their first dose of the AstraZeneca/SII COVISHIELD (AZ/SII) vaccine. First responders (police, fire and emergency transport) were among front-line priority workers identified by the COVID-19 Workplace Task Group. See link for details <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/>.

Front-line priority workers should not call their local health authority. Employers will organize all AstraZeneca/SII COVISHIELD (AZ/SII) vaccine appointments. Appointment information will be communicated clearly and directly to each section and employee in the near future.

The PWG has contacted Police Services and the Provincial Health Authority regarding the eligibility of vaccinating VPD civilian employees.

The province has additionally approved the use of pharmacists, existing immunization clinics, and mobile clinics at some worksites to administer the AstraZeneca vaccine to front-line workers. Vaccines for frontline priority workers should begin in early April.

The PWG will provide updates regarding the VPD COVID-19 Vaccination Plan as information becomes available.

The PWG encourages all employees take the time to educate themselves on the current approved vaccines in Canada. Please click on this [link](#) to review information on each vaccine, as provided by the Government of Canada.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT – ENFORCEMENT GUIDELINES – NEW UPDATE

The EPA Enforcement Guidelines are updated to reflect changes to the Gathering and Events Order (related to groups of 10 people gathering outdoors). Please view the updated EPA Enforcement Guidelines [HERE](#). The EPA outlines all of the offences that can be used to issue a violation ticket for a Covid-19 related offences and instructions on how to do so.

VPD MASK PROTOCOL – NEW UPDATE

Per direction from WorkSafeBC, in conjunction with Public the VPD Mask Protocol has been revised and is in effect until further notice. The revised protocol can be viewed [HERE](#). The revised protocol will also be sent to every employee through PowerDMS for review and signing. Please review this protocol and the noted changes. This protocol adheres to province-wide measures, Public Health, and WorkSafeBC direction.

This protocol has been implemented in conjunction with several VPD sections including the Pandemic Working Group, Public Affairs, Professional Standards, Human Resources, the Vancouver Police Union, the Teamsters and the VPD Medical Director. All employees of the Vancouver Police Department must adhere to this protocol.

VPD EMPLOYEES TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

VPD employees have tested positive for Covid-19 this week. The employees are following medical advice and are self-isolating as per protocol. Human Resources and the Pandemic Working Group have taken all the necessary steps to ensure the exposure is contained. The Public Health Authority or Human Resources will contact any further employee who is required to self-isolate.

All employees are reminded to adhere to the VPD Operational Safety Guidelines, Mask Protocol, and to respect the occupancy capacity limits set for rooms and elevators for everyone's safety.

VPD PROTOCOL FOR COVID-19 EXPOSURE

All Vancouver Police Department employees must follow the [VPD Covid-19 Exposure Flowchart](#) if they believe they may have been exposed to someone who has or is suspected of having COVID-19. Any employee of the VPD who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or require medical advice

relating to COVID-19 should call 811 or their physician and follow the direction of a medical professional.

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 home or cell:	Go to VPDemerg.ca . Password: Nitro



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