

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

**To: All VPD Employees - Civilian and Sworn
COVID-19 Update: March 23, 2020**

The following will provide an update on key developments for March 23, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff are reminded that during this developing situation, the VPD's response will remain fluid and adaptive. As a result, **information and updates may change daily.**

Effective March 21, 2020, the VPD's Pandemic Working Group will be providing direct on-site support for the Operations Division and all staff at 2120 Cambie moving forward. The Pandemic Working Group can also be reached by email at vpdpandemicworkinggroup@vpd.ca.

In order to get information where it needs to go efficiently, Section managers and Unit supervisors are encouraged to share the information with their members.

For additional information and resource links, please refer to VPD COVID-19 intranet site.

<http://references.sharepoint01.vpd.bc.ca/COVID19/default.aspx>

Key Updates for March 23, 2020

- At this time, **VPD member's enforcement authorities remain unchanged** in relation to provincial and municipal government COVID-19 orders. **Members shall not take enforcement action unless approved by Car 10.**
- TELUS Health is offering a **Medical Help Line to quickly connect all VPD staff members and their immediate families with a medical doctor.**
- There are still no operational reassignments of staff across divisions; however, options are currently being reviewed. Members must be ready to be deployed into uniform.
- Modified procedures for Approved Screening Devices (ASDs) have been outlined to reduce potential exposure to frontline members.
- Temporary Forensic Services Section operational changes have been implemented.

Government Updates for March 23, 2020

Provincial Update – Remains in State of Emergency

- There have been 48 new COVID-19 cases since March 22, 2020, bringing the British Columbia total to 472 since the outbreak.

- Effective immediately, restaurants can sell and deliver packaged alcohol with their take-out meal services. Dining-in services were discontinued for all restaurants as of midnight March 20, 2020.
- **At this time, VPD member's enforcement authorities remain unchanged – Members shall not take enforcement action unless approved by Car 10.**

Municipal Update – Remains in State of Emergency

- Vancouver City Council has amended its emergency by-law to be able to punish non-compliant businesses and individuals. Currently, primary enforcement will be conducted by by-law officers.
- Effective at 8PM on Monday, March 23, all non-essential businesses and non-profit entities in Vancouver must close all in-office personnel functions.
- **At this time, VPD member's enforcement authorities remain unchanged – Members shall not take enforcement action unless approved by Car 10.**

Health and Wellness: VPD Medical Help Line

VPD Medical Help Line

IMPORTANT: Effective immediately, TELUS Health is offering a Medical Help Line to quickly connect all VPD staff members and their immediate families with a medical doctor to help answer COVID-19 exposure related questions and other general medical matters.

- If you have an urgent medical question (and you do not have a Family Physician or are unable to access your usual Family Physician), please **use the link below**. You will then be asked to complete an Online Form.
- You will be **contacted by phone by a Healthcare Professional** who will ask you some additional questions. The Healthcare Professional will either address your concern or forward your information to the next available Medical Doctor.
- The Doctor will call you and **complete an assessment over the phone and make recommendations**.

<https://info.copemanhealthcare.com/telus-medical-help-line>

REMINDER: Staff who are absent from work on their own accord, and who have not been medically directed to self-isolate or who are not self-isolating due to travel directives, **are required to use their own time banks**.

COVID-19 Exposures – Guidance for Staff

The Pandemic Working Group has been regularly consulting with medical experts to provide all staff with the latest guidelines on how to address all potential exposures to COVID-19, including confirmed cases. **Please see the UPDATED attached flow chart on the VPD's COVID-19 intranet page if you have come in contact with someone experience flu-like symptoms, or has been confirmed to have COVID-19.**

<http://references.sharepoint01.vpd.bc.ca/COVID19/default.aspx>

IMPORTANT: The following interim decontamination measures have been developed in consultation with medical advisors. Members must:

- Wash their hands as soon as possible after the contact and avoid touching their mouth.
- Drive their police vehicles to the P1 Level of Graveley and park in a stall on P1.
- Use the designated showers on the P1 Level of Graveley to the south of the bike storage room.
- Place their clothing in a bag and leave it outside the washroom door with their badge number.
- Leave their keys in their vehicle and call for another patrol unit to transport them back to 2120/BET.
- Advise fleet that they have left a police vehicle at Graveley and it is suspected of having been infected by COVID-19.
- White suits will be provided for the member to wear back to 2120/BET.
- Wipes will be provided in the washrooms to sanitize all police equipment.
- If Patrol believes a vehicle may have COVID-19 contamination, they must advise the kiosk attendant. The vehicle will then be removed from service and held for decontamination by 1st Trauma.

Operational Considerations

Municipal/ Provincial Orders – Guidance for Frontline Members

At this time, the VPD is not enforcing the emergency municipal/provincial orders. The situation with by-law and health order enforcement is fluid and subject to change. Primary enforcement is to be conducted by CoV by-law officers. VPD will continue to respond to CoV by-law requests to keep the peace and for any Criminal Code matters that may result from CoV by-law enforcement.

The following guidelines will assist members when they have on-view by-law offences or breaches of health orders/recommendations:

- Consider the risks of entering confined/crowded spaces and or crowds in public areas prior to engaging the public on any type of enforcement or conversation related to Covid-19. Attempt to meet owners/property representatives or group leaders away from the group/gathering and outside if possible.
- For business non-compliance with by-laws and health regulations where there is no voluntary co-operation, VPD members may advise the owner/operator that ceasing table service is mandatory as per by-law No. 12661 and punishable with a fine from \$1,000 - \$50,000. Encourage them to move to take-out only and not to allow customer seating. Log such interactions in a PRIME GO using the UCR Code for “**Bylaw Other**” and email the GO number to Inspector BYRNE for consideration of the Pandemic Working Group. **Do not take enforcement action at this time.**
- For groups of people congregating in public places, identify a leader or communication representative from the group and have a similar conversation encouraging them to disperse. Remind them of the provincial health recommendations in place and the safety of them and the community at large. Document these interactions in the same way as above. There is no provision to ID such people at this time; members are encouraged to gain cooperation, ID if voluntary, and have groups disperse voluntarily. **Do not take enforcement action at this time.**
- Street Vending of medical equipment and supplies has been observed. Use by-law 2849 Section as your grounds for a check. Attempt to gain voluntary compliance. Obtain ID and document

what they were selling, again logging such interactions in a PRIME GO using the UCR Code for “Bylaw Other” with the same parameters as above. **Do not take enforcement action at this time.**

- Notwithstanding the above points, consideration shall be given to observed criminal offences such as possession of stolen property, fraud, theft, etc. Members are asked to use their discretion and consider the risk to the public and themselves prior to taking criminal enforcement action.
- Calls for service related to by-law offences should be re-directed to 311 for a response.

Forensic Services Section: Operational Changes

Please be advised that effective immediately, temporary changes will be made to operational practices of the Forensic Services Section until further notice. See the March 23, 2020 Operational Bulletin for full details. Key updates include:

Forensic Identification Unit

- Victim injury photos - victim injury photographs will only be taken at the Graveley studio. Exceptions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. If needed, please consult with the on-duty FIU member.
- Suspect injury photos at hospital - serious cases only will be assessed on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the on-duty FIU member.
- Photos of dog bite injuries - Patrol NCO Cameras should be considered in the first instance. Each District NCO should have a camera in their vehicle as they are generally at the scene sooner than an FIU member. If a patrol camera is not available, FIU will attend but prefer taking photos at the scene instead of inside a hospital.
- Break & enter investigations - priority will be given to recent B&Es while all other B&Es will be assessed on case-by-case basis in consultation with the on-duty FIU member. Patrol members on scene will be in a position to ask relevant screening questions to assess and COVID-19 concerns.

Forensic Video Unit

- Extractions - investigators are respectfully asked to assess exposure risk at all premises that require video extractions. If property representatives pose a high exposure threat for a low priority crime, the extraction may be delayed until it is safe. There will be no change for serious crimes as long as proper protective equipment is available for video analysts.
- FVU Cambie Office - staffing will be reduced and the door will be closed but operations will continue. Patrol investigators can knock on the door for help or just use the drop box as before.
- FVU Graveley Office - analysts will continue to be present for archiving and other video requests. When possible, some analysts will work from home but will be available for investigator follow-up or deployments by the NCO.

Approved Screening Device (ASD) Recommendations

As posted on the March 23, 2020 Operational Bulletin, the following recommendations and modified procedures in relation to ASD use have been put forward by Dr. Erik Vu **to minimize potential enhanced exposure to COVID-19:**

- It is not known if use of ASD will increase potential exposure to subjects exhaled breath, though subject matter experts feel the risk is low.
- Use common sense and preform a risk assessment, including asking the subject if they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (e.g. fever, short of breath, cough).
- If no symptoms, conduct yourself and use ASD per standard protocol.
- If there are concerns for symptoms, take a moment to don appropriate PPE: gloves, eye protection, and consider use of a mask/respirator.
- Use the following steps to minimize exposure to exhaled breath from ASD:
 - Hold the ASD at a full arms reach standing 90 degrees to the person being tested
 - Turn the ASD perpendicular to the ground so that the breath is being exhausted 180 degrees away from the member.
 - Stand up wind when collecting the sample.
 - Have the driver remove the straw from the ASD after collection has been completed.
 - After removing your gloves sanitize your hands.

Event Cancellations

The VPD is currently adhering to Provincial and Municipal directives regarding social distancing and social gatherings. As it stands, a total of 53 events involving VPD members have now been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further cancellations are expected.

One-hour Emergency Internet Maintenance - Tuesday, March 24, 2020

ICT will perform an upgrade to our Internet connection on March 24, 2020, between 12:00 and 13:00. During this 1-hour maintenance window, there will be network interruptions where the following services will be unavailable.

- Remote Access to Virtual Desktop through SSL VPN
- File Transfer (transfer.vpd.ca)
- WebEx (Meeting.vpd.ca)
- Internet Branch Offices (kits Fairview and MCC)
- Delay in external mail flow (all mail will be queued and delivered)
- Remote connectivity for Executive Surface Pro's and NetMotion enabled devices
- Access to PRIME and MDT are not affected during this maintenance window.

CISM/Peer Support

As an ongoing and important reminder, the Critical Incident Stress Management Team (CISM)/Peer Support is available 24/7 should anyone be feeling anxiety or stress related to COVID-19.

- Sworn members can reach out to Ali Gailus (778-847-5452), Michele McKnight (778-227-0789), Dave Moe (604-404-9303) or any other team member. Their names/contact information can be accessed on the intranet:

<http://references.sharepoint01.vpd.bc.ca/PeerSupport/Lists/Contacts/AllItems.aspx>

- Civilian members can reach out to Amanda Vetter (604-349-5713) or any other Civilian CISM team member. Their names/contact information can also be accessed on the intranet:

<http://references.sharepoint01.vpd.bc.ca/CISMCivilian/Lists/CivilianCISMTeam/AllItems.aspx>



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