

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

**To: All VPD Employees - Civilian and Sworn  
COVID-19 Update: March 26, 2020**

The following will provide an update on key developments for March 26, 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.**

According to Health Canada, though the risk varies between and within communities, given the increasing number of cases in Canada, **the COVID-19 risk to Canadians is now considered high**. This does not mean that all Canadians will get the disease. It means that there is already a significant impact on our health care system. If we do not flatten the epidemic curve now, the increase of COVID-19 cases could impact health care resources available to Canadians.

Critical information related to member safety and procedures are distributed by VPD Pandemic Working Group. The current health emergency is a rapidly evolving situation and members are advised to access this information on a daily basis.

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>From your desk:</b>       | VPD's CoVID-19 Information & Updates webpage via the Intranet<br><a href="http://references.sharepoint01.vpd.bc.ca/COVID19/default.aspx">http://references.sharepoint01.vpd.bc.ca/COVID19/default.aspx</a> |
| <b>From your email:</b>      | Daily Situation Reports distributed to your VPD email address                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>From the road:</b>        | VPD GO 2020-54066 accessible by MDT                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>From your cell phone:</b> | Go to <a href="http://vpdemerg.ca">vpdemerg.ca</a> . Password: Nitro (effective March 27, 2020)                                                                                                            |

**Key Updates for March 26, 2020**

- At this time, **VPD member's enforcement authorities remain unchanged** in relation to federal, provincial, and municipal government COVID-19 orders. **Members shall not take enforcement action unless approved by Car 10.**
- Effective Friday March 27, 2020, the VPD's COVID-19 Internet website will be password protected – the password will be **Nitro** (with a capital N).
- The Provincial Courts have suspended regular operations and have issued new practice directions in relation to judicial authorizations and the Justice Centre.
- Intranasal Narcan (Naloxone) remains a treatment option for Opioid Overdose in subjects with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. Proper PPE use is required when administering Naloxone.

- VPD members can now access the South Vancouver CPC.
- Dr. Mackoff has provided suggestions below to help members and their families cope with the stressors posed by self-isolation.

## Government Updates for March 26, 2020

### Federal Update – Mandatory Isolation

- Effective midnight March 25, 2020, under the Federal Quarantine Act, anyone returning to Canada must self-isolate for two weeks, with the exception of some essential service workers.
- **At this time, VPD member's enforcement authorities remain unchanged – Members shall not take enforcement action unless approved by Car 10.**

### Provincial Update – Remains in State of Emergency

- There have been 66 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the current British Columbia total to 725 since the outbreak.
- **At this time, VPD member's enforcement authorities remain unchanged – Members shall not take enforcement action unless approved by Car 10.**

## COVID-19 Internet Website for Staff

Effective Friday March.27, 2020, the VPD's COVID-19 Internet website will be password protected.

- The new password will be **Nitro** (with a capital N).

The website allows all staff without remote access capabilities to remain informed with pertinent COVID-19 updates as well as to access important resources related to the pandemic.

## Operational Considerations

### PPE Requests

**IMPORTANT:** Effective immediately, **all requests for PPE will be made through the chain of command to your Staff Sergeant who will distribute supplies as needed.** All efforts must be made to plan and request supplies to your Staff Sergeant prior to end of day. After hours requests can be made to the DOC Liaison Officer until 2000 hours. After 2000 hours, requests can be made through the Spyglass Kiosk. Compliance is required to properly track inventory levels and assess future PPE needs.

Exceptions include:

- **ERS member requests** will go through their Section Assistant Olivia Kajander [olivia.kajander@vpd.ca](mailto:olivia.kajander@vpd.ca) – (604-717-3278).
- **Fleet Services member requests** will go to either Hailey Lam [hailey.lam@vpd.ca](mailto:hailey.lam@vpd.ca) – (604-717-3595) or Peter Parmar [peter.parmar@vpd.ca](mailto:peter.parmar@vpd.ca) – (604-717-3594).

In an emergency only, the Duty Officer may provide PPE supplies.

### Narcan Use

**IMPORTANT:** Intranasal Narcan (Naloxone) remains a treatment option for Opioid Overdose in subjects with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. Health professionals have advised that intranasal devices would

not be classified as devices that generate aerosols. However, when administering Narcan, frontline members must ensure:

- Use of the proper PPE, and
- Use of the prescribed technique for the delivery of the Naloxone.

As a reminder, PPE includes:

- Eye protection
- Gloves
- Uniform with long sleeves
- Surgical Mask (or Issue Respirator)

As a reminder, PPE information can be found at the COVID Intranet site on VPD PRIME 2020-54066.

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

### **Revised Provincial Court Operations: Judicial Authorizations**

Until further notice, all applications for judicial authorization that can be made by telecommunication should be made by telecommunication for judicial consideration. Key takeaways include:

- Applicants seeking judicial authorization for matters that must (by law) be applied for in person are to give consideration to the investigative urgency of the matter and only seek judicial authorization where the matter is a priority.
- For all warrants, including judge only warrants, peace officers should contact the Justice Centre.
- For bail and judicial authorizations at the Justice Centre that require an in-person appearance, the police agency or counsel must call the Justice Centre and a Provincial Court Judge or Judicial Justice will determine next steps.
- Affiants with an in-person application to be made at the Justice Centre must swear their affidavits before attending at the Justice Centre and will then drop off the document at the front counter without a personal appearance before anyone at the Justice Centre.
- Do not attend your local courthouse in person.

### **Community Policing Centres (CPCs)**

VPD members can now access the South Vancouver CPC, though it will remain closed to the public. Effective March 2020, all the CPCs were closed to the public. There are a total of seven CPCs that are currently allowing access to police members:

- Collingwood
- Grandview Woodlands
- Kerrisdale/Oakridge/Marpole
- Kitsilano Fairview
- South Vancouver
- Strathcona
- West End Coal Harbour

Visit VPD GO 2020-54066 for further information on accessing CPCs.

### **Donations**

If staff encounter or come across any member of the public or business that wish to donate or support the VPD during this time, they are encouraged to remind them that all donations and offers of support should flow through the Vancouver Police Foundation (VPF).

Information regarding the VPF can be found at [www.vancouverpolicefoundation.org](http://www.vancouverpolicefoundation.org), and they can be reached at 604-717-3700 or [info@vancouverpolicefoundation.org](mailto:info@vancouverpolicefoundation.org).

## **Health and Wellness: Family Support and CISM/Peer Support**

During self-isolation, some people feel a degree of guilt that their intimate partner has to shoulder more household responsibility. However, according to the medical experts, doing the right thing to keep your family safe is encouraged and is something that people should embrace and be proud of.

Dr. Mackoff offers some suggestions to help members and their families cope with the potential burdens and stressors posed by self-isolation:

- Let your family know that you have to keep two meters apart.
- Be imaginative and try to make the household have “fun” in coming up with creative ways of keeping physical distance.
- With younger kids you can make it a game by putting down a skipping rope to show them what constitutes 2 meters.
- Wipe down surfaces that are touched.
- Have everyone wash his or her hands for 20 seconds.
- With younger children, sing a song for 20 seconds while they wash their hands, and if possible have them sing along.
- Remember that physical distance it is not social distance, keep talking with those you love.

Furthermore, as a reminder in helping to deal with any additional stressors, we encourage members and their families to reach out to *Vancouver Beyond The Blue* (VBTB) - a peer-led, non-profit organization supporting and strengthening police families.

- Erica McKeddy is the contact person and can be reached at 778-229-3950 or by email [info@vancouverbeyondtheblue.com](mailto:info@vancouverbeyondtheblue.com).
- VBTB has a secure Facebook page where spouses/partners can connect and a website that provides resources.

In addition, 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>

Moreover, for your reference, the World Health Organization (WHO) has put a together a useful guide for *"Mental Health and Psychosocial considerations during COVID-19 outbreak."*

<https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/mental-health-considerations.pdf>



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