

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

**To: All VPD Employees - Civilian and Sworn
COVID-19 Update: March 29, 2020**

The following will provide an update on key developments for March 29, 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.

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 your cell phone:	Go to vpdemerg.ca . Password: Nitro

Key Updates for March 29, 2020

- No government updates impacting the VPD were provided today. 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.**
- Guidelines for the transportation of victims and witnesses during the COVID-19 pandemic have been created and can be found in VPD PRIME Report GO# 2020-54066.

Operational Considerations

Witness Transportation Guidelines

In order to protect members from exposure to COVID-19, new procedures are in place for the transportation of witnesses. Some key items include:

- Files where an investigative section will take the lead, **patrol will take direction from the on-call detectives as normal;**
- **No witnesses who are ill will be transported;**
- **Only witnesses critical to the investigation** should be transported, such as eye witnesses or victims in violent offences;
- **Only one witness will be transported per police vehicle** and as much social distancing as possible will be maintained; and
- At the conclusion of the transportation, **the transporting officer shall disinfect their vehicle.**

Members should access VPD PRIME Report GO# 2020-54066 for complete procedures in relation to witness transportation.

Temporary Emergency Childcare Available to VPD Employees

On March 27, 2020, the City of Vancouver launched the **Temporary Emergency Childcare for Essential Workers** program in response to COVID-19:

<https://vancouver.ca/news-calendar/temporary-emergency-childcare-referral-system-for-essential-workers-launches.aspx>

- **NOTE: The childcare locations will be located in Vancouver.**
- The referral system will connect all VPD employees and other essential service workers meeting the program's criteria, with licensed childcare providers that are open and available for childcare during this public health crisis (for children ages 0 to 12 years, including those with special needs).

Essential workers will be among those given first priority for this childcare program.

- However, please note that the number of spaces made available for emergency childcare will be at the discretion of each operator, within their licensed capacity and under health protocols. As available spaces are limited, receiving a referral does not guarantee a spot. Fees are to be paid to the operator directly, at a rate defined by the operator.

Although essential workers will be prioritized, given the overall limited amount of spaces available, we encourage those VPD employees interested in this program to register with the Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre (WCCRC) as soon as possible.

- **To request a referral, please complete the [form on the WCCRC website](#).**
- You will receive an email list of potential childcare options within a few days, based on availability, your needs, and preferred location(s).

Health and Wellness

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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