

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

**To: All VPD Employees - Civilian and Sworn
COVID-19 Update: March 21, 2020**

The following will provide an update on key developments for March 21, 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.

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 21, 2020

Federal Update – Border Closures

- The border between Canada and the United States **was closed at midnight on Friday, March 20, 2020 and measures will remain in place until further notice.**
 - The supply chain will remain unaffected, including freight trucks.
 - People who work in essential services, and are crossing to work, can continue to do so.

Provincial Update – Remains in State of Emergency

- There have been 76 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the British Columbia total to 424 since the outbreak.
- Effective March 21, 2020, all personal service establishments – like barbershops, salons, nail estheticians, health spas, massage parlours, tattoo shops and others – are ordered to close.
- Effective midnight March 20, 2020, all restaurants in British Columbia must discontinue dine-in option. Pick-up or delivery is still permitted.
- **At this time, VPD member's enforcement authorities remain unchanged.**

Municipal Update – Remains State of Emergency

- Effective midnight March 20, 2020, all restaurants in Vancouver must discontinue dine-in option. Pick-up or delivery is still permitted.
- Effective immediately, all playgrounds across the city have been ordered closed.

- At this time, VPD member's enforcement authorities remain unchanged.

Operational Considerations

IMPORTANT: Effective March 20, 2020, the Operations Division is implementing a reduction in officer attendance to certain call types (full guidelines on COVID-19 intranet page – link below). Key takeaways include:

- Patrol deployment will be adjusted to minimize unnecessary contact with the public and to decrease the risk of exposure to VPD members.
- The VPD will not be conducting follow-up investigations into theft, fraud, or mischief cases, unless the total value of the loss exceeds \$10,000 or there is an ability to ID the suspect.
- The VPD will not be attending traffic incidents where there are no serious injuries or significant property damage, unless there are other factors present that may support a charge (e.g., impaired driving).
- In cases where the VPD does not attend, a report will be taken via telephone.

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

IMPORTANT: At this time, **there are no operational reassignments** of staff. However:

- Deployable members not assigned to the Operations Divisions must be prepared to be deployed in uniform as needed.
- Non-deployable members may also be called upon to fulfill important non-operational roles.

REMINDER: Members are required to maintain their uniform and equipment in good condition at all times.

- Those members requiring new uniforms will be provided with the standard allotment by Stores for members if they do not have points.
- Points are not required to receive the standard allotment.

REMINDER: All VPD staff are reminded to submit WorkSafeBC forms for confirmed or potential COVID-19 exposures. Refer to the WorkSafeBC Claims page of the HR website for details.

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

As of March 21, 2020, the Pandemic Working Group **will be providing direct on-site support for the Operations Division and all staff at 2120 Cambie HQ:**

- Pandemic Working Group staff will be located in a satellite office (Room #510 on the 5th floor).
- On Saturday, March 21, 2020, the satellite office will be staffed from 1000hrs-1930hrs.
- On Sunday, March 22, 2020, the satellite office will be staffed from 0630hrs-1930hrs.
- Moving forward, the office will be staffed regularly to answer any related questions and ensure Protective Personal Equipment is readily available.

The Community Policing Centres (CPCs) have been closed to the public. Currently, police members can still access the following CPCs:

- Collingwood
- Grandview Woodlands

- Kerrisdale/Oakridge/Marpole
- Kitsilano Fairview
- South Vancouver
- Strathcona

Health and Wellness: Family Support and CISM/Peer Support

It is important to recognize the impact COVID-19 has on families of first responders. Fortunately, VPD sworn and civilian member's families have access to *Vancouver Beyond The Blue* (VBTB) - a peer-led, non-profit organization supporting and strengthening police families. During this pandemic, there may be some additional stressors within the family and we would encourage you to reach out.

- Erica McKeddy is the contact person and can be reached at 778-229-3950 or by email 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 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>

A reminder from the VPD Medical Director – Dr. Erik N. Vu, MSM, MD, FRCPC

As per the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC):

The most important thing you can do to prevent infection is to wash your hands regularly and avoid touching your face.

To help reduce your risk of infection:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Using soap and water is the single most effective way of reducing the spread of infection.
- If a sink is not available, alcohol based hand rubs (ABHR) can be used to clean your hands as long as they are not visibly soiled. If they are visibly soiled, use a wipe and then ABHR to effectively clean them.
- Do not touch your face, eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a disposable tissue or the crease of your elbow when you sneeze or cough.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Do not share food, drinks, utensils, etc.
- Handwashing poster: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/COVID19_Handwashing%20Poster_MD%20offices.pdf

Information & Communications Technology Section: Mobile phone disruption and conference calling

There are reports of members having issues making or receiving calls from their mobile phones. Unfortunately, this is a nation-wide issue as the carriers are experiencing an overload of their current infrastructure due to increased demand.

The carriers are currently working to add capacity as soon as possible and to assist in alleviating the issues they are asking customers:

- to wait 10 seconds between each retry when experiencing problems calling out
- schedule conference calls on the quarter-hour such as 1:15pm, 1:45pm, 2:15pm, etc.

The VPD also offers additional **conference call options** that can be accessed via a landline or even directly from a computer. For more information please see the link below:

<http://ipar.vpd.bc.ca/Telecomm/ConferenceCalling.htm>

SERGEANT ALVIN SHUM

ACTING INFORMATION OFFICER | PANDEMIC WORKING GROUP
VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*

T 604.717.2688

E alvin.shum@vpd.ca | www.vpd.ca

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