

**FORWARDED ON BEHALF
OF
SILVER COMMAND
(INSPECTOR IAN UPTON AND INSPECTOR GLENN NEWMAN)**

**To: All VPD Employees - Civilian and Sworn
COVID-19 Update: April 2, 2020**

The following will provide an update on key developments for April 2, 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 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 the VPD's 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 cell phone:	Go to vpdemerg.ca . Password: Nitro

Key Updates for April 2, 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.**
- A video with DCC Howard Chow addressing VPD staff regarding the ongoing COVID-19 situation has been released today. These videos will be shared periodically as the COVID-19 situation develops.
- A video with the VPD's Medical Director, Dr. Erik Vu, was released today. In this video, Dr. Erik Vu addresses all VPD staff about COVID-19 and what it means for the VPD.

- Both videos can be accessed from your home or mobile device via the VPD's COVID-19 VPDemerg website (vpdemerg.ca - Password: **Nitro**) or on the COVID-19 Intranet page:

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

Staff working remotely are encouraged to access the video from the vpdemerg.ca website.

Government Updates for April 2, 2020

Provincial Update – Remains in State of Emergency

- There have been 55 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the current British Columbia total to 1,121 since the outbreak.

Operational Considerations

Overtime Eligibility

All staff are reminded of [RPM Policy 3.2.4](#) which outlines the eligibility for working overtime. Members are particularly reminded that for the health and well-being of our members, the following guidelines will apply unless there are extenuating circumstances or recognized operational needs:

- That members have at least 8 consecutive hours free from duty between shifts;
- That members have at least 1 day off (no overtime call-out) per weekly leave cycle; and,
- That members do not accept overtime while on Annual Leave to fill shifts they would normally work within their Division.

Social Distancing Guidelines

REMINDER: VPD staff are reminded, whenever possible, to please keep a physical distance between each other of at least two meters (or six feet) apart. Along with frequent hand washing, social distancing is proven to be one of the most effective ways to reduce the spread of illness during an outbreak.

During the course of members' duties, they may come across situations which make it operationally unavoidable to maintain the social distancing limit of two meters (or six feet). This may occur while in training, responding to calls, or working in two-officer units.

For members who are unable to maintain proper social distancing as a result of operational requirements, the following guidelines apply:

- Wear a surgical mask while on duty when in close proximity to others.
 - A single mask should suffice for the entire shift.
 - Masks do not need to be changed unless they are visibly soiled, wet, or damaged.
 - Masks should also be changed after an encounter with a subject with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. For all other interactions, a single mask is sufficient.
- Best attempts should be made to set boundaries on objects/items and within the car and minimize or eliminate sharing of areas (e.g. passenger controls laptop while the driver manages vehicle and switches, etc).
- Maintain increased cleaning of hard surfaces whenever possible (e.g. steering wheel, lap tops, radio, etc).
- Maintain meticulous and frequent hand hygiene as previously outlined.

Please note, that as per previous messaging, masks are more effectively used to prevent individuals with COVID-19 from transmitting the virus to other people rather than used to protect yourself from transmission. In any case, given the social distancing limitations, particularly among frontline members, wearing a mask will be helpful in preventing the spread of the virus from an otherwise asymptomatic carrier to another member who works in close proximity.

Additionally, medical experts encourage wearing eye protection, and suggest that while gloves do not need to be worn in the police vehicle, they should be used for encounters with individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

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>

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.
- VBTB has a secure Facebook page where spouses/partners can connect and a website that provides resources.



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