

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

**To: All VPD Employees - Civilian and Sworn
COVID-19 Update: April 9, 2020**

In addition to today's earlier message on staff redeployment, the following will provide an update on key developments and reminders for April 9, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the VPD's response remains fluid and adaptive, it is important that all VPD staff continue to follow the developing situation on a daily basis.

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.**

Key Updates for April 9, 2020

- The Public Health Officer has expanded COVID-19 testing to a broader portion of the population, including first responders.
- Exposure protocol checklists have been developed to supplement the COVID-19 Exposure Flow Chart.
- Plastic mask extenders are available for members wearing a turban to keep masks firmly in place.

Government Updates for April 9, 2020

Provincial Update – Remains in State of Emergency

- There have been 34 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the British Columbia total to 1,370 since the outbreak.

Operational Considerations

Staff Redeployment Plan

As per today's earlier message, a staff redeployment plan has been developed, and implementation began yesterday, to provide rest and respite for our frontline members by engaging sworn members from all divisions to help keep the city safe during the pandemic. Additional information on the deployment plan will be provided in the coming days.

[Operational Staffing Plan Update – April 9, 2020](#)

Temporary Emergency Child Care Reminder

In light of the redeployment plan, members are reminded that they can access child care through the City of Vancouver's **Temporary Emergency Childcare for Essential Workers** program:

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

- The referral system connects 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).
- **NOTE: The childcare locations will be located in Vancouver.**

Essential workers are 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.

Those interested in this program are to register with the Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre (WCCRC) by completing 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).

Increased COVID-19 Testing Availability for First Responders

The Public Health Officer has expanded COVID-19 testing to a broader portion of the population, including first responders. VPD members can be referred for testing by a physician if they are symptomatic, which includes a fever over 38 degrees and the onset of coughing or shortness of breath. Members are reminded that if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 they should contact their family doctor or make use of TELUS Health.

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

VPD members are also advised to contact HR if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

If members are referred for testing, they may make use of the testing site located at 4875 Heather St, Vancouver. Please note the following information regarding this site:

- Hours: 0900-1600 hrs seven days a week.
- This is a drive through location and **members are to remain in their vehicles to be tested.**
- Members can be tested in their police vehicle or personal vehicle.
- The lineup for testing will be on 33rd Ave. between Cambie St. and Heather St.

In addition to any other instructions given by their physician, members should also be aware that:

- They will require the Personal Health Care number, found on their Driver's Licence or BC Services Card.
- If in plain clothes, they will require police ID.

Exposure Protocol Checklists

For members' convenience, exposure protocol checklists have been developed to supplement the three exposure categories (*Close Contact*, *Non-Close Contact*, and *Nature of Contact Unclear*) comprising the VPD's COVID-19 Exposure Flow Chart. These checklists rehash specific actions, in an easier to read format, that members should take upon potential exposures to COVID-19 – they do not change the existing flow chart guidelines.

These exposure checklists can be accessed on the COVID-19 intranet page, on vpdemerg.ca, and on the VPD PRIME Report GO# 2020-54066.

Handling of Property

Members are reminded to use appropriate PPE when dealing with all members of the public during this pandemic. Of note, it is recommended that members wear gloves when handling driver's licences, insurance papers, and other public personal property during routine traffic stops and other similar encounters.

PPE Recommendations for General Duties with no known COVID-19 concerns:

- Standard uniform with long sleeves
- Gloves
- Eye protection

PPE Recommendations for General Duties where COVID-19 is confirmed or suspected:

- Standard uniform with long sleeves
- Gloves
- Eye protection
- Surgical mask or an appropriately fit-tested respiratory mask (e.g. with P100 filter)

PPE – Mask Extender Now Available

For members wearing a turban, plastic mask extenders are available to keep masks firmly in place without having to put the loops of the masks around the ears.

- A limited quantity of extenders are available with DOC liaisons at the 2120 Cambie HQ and at the Annex, or at the Safety and Health office at Graveley St. Please only take what you need.
- As with any reusable item, the extenders should be disinfected after use.

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>

Vancouver Beyond the Blue

We also continue to 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 McKeddie 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.

Reminder: Accessing Key COVID-19 Information

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

SERGEANT TYRONE SIDEROFF

PANDEMIC WORKING GROUP | VPD DOC – INFORMATION OFFICER
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