

FORWARDED ON BEHALF OF THE PANDEMIC WORKING GROUP

To: All VPD Employees - Civilian and Sworn

COVID-19 Update: August 25, 2020

The following will provide an update on key developments and reminders for the week of August 25, 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.

Key Updates for August 25, 2020

- Use of appropriate PPE in situations where it is operationally unavoidable to maintain physical distance with each other and the public
- Enforcement Action/Operational Changes
- Work station cleaning
- Annex gymnasium use
- Weight room
- 811/Testing for members
- Detox re-opening

Use of PPE

Members are reminded to wear appropriate PPE in situations where it is operationally unavoidable to maintain proper physical distancing with each other and the public. The VPD has ample supplies of surgical masks, which are available to all members for operational use. As a reminder the existing procedures to obtain PEE are still in effect.

PPE Requests

Alternative face coverings such as bandanas/neck gaiters are NOT considered appropriate or effective PPE, and are not to be used for COVID-19 related police calls to service. Further bandanas/neck gaiters are not recommended or approved as a uniform item to be worn while on duty.

Enforcement Action/Operational Changes

Enforcement action for police related to COVID-19 has changed. As of August 21, 2020 the Minister of Public Safety, Mark Farnsworth announced changes via the *Emergency Program Act* which now give police authority to issue violation tickets under the **Covid-19 Related Measures Act (CRMA)**. Police are advised to use discretion and are encouraged to continue to employ an educational approach. Please see attached documents for further details and direction.

The following table outlines **COVID-19 Related Measures Act (CRMA)** Contraventions and suggested violation ticket information:

COVID-19 Related Measures Act (CRMA) Contravention	Provision	Fine	Victim Surcharge Levy	Ticketed Amount
Item 23.3 A contravention of the PHO Gatherings and Events Order	Section 2	\$2,000*	\$300	\$2,300
Item 23.3 Promote or encourage attendance at non-compliant gathering or event	Section 4	\$200	\$30	\$230
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Item 23.3 Fail to comply with patron distancing conditions	Section 7 (1)	\$200	\$30	\$230
Item 23.3 Fail to comply with patron conditions at drive-in	Section 7 (2)	\$200	\$30	\$230

(Obtained from Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, August 24, 2020)

Calls for Service / Answers to Questions Related to the Quarantine Act

When VPD staff is responding to police service calls, or speaking to members of the public, regarding quarantine issues (e.g.: a neighbor has returned from international travel and is not self-isolating), staff are advised to provide the following information, as per the Quarantine Act:

- 1) Contact the CBSA Warrant Response Centre at 1-800-523-5072;
 - a. They will advise if the subject of complaint is required to follow any requirements under the Quarantine Act.
- 2) If necessary, contact the SOC over the phone (if possible) and advise the SOC that it has been confirmed by the CBSA that they are supposed to abide by the requirements of the Quarantine Act. Inquire if they are aware of these requirements and advise them that officers may be attending their residence to check compliance;
- 3) As patrol, our response is purely "educational" and the SOC should only be advised. We do not have the ability to enforce the Quarantine Act without direction from the Public Health Officer;
- 4) Complete a report, flag it as Covid-19 related;
- 5) Send only the GO number and associated residential address to the following e-mail: E DEOC INTAKE@rcmp-grc.gc.ca – do not send the police report;

- 6) The Quarantine Team will then review the information and decide if and what further action will be taken.

Work Station Cleaning

It is essential that shared work stations are sanitized before and after each individual use to maintain cleanliness. Wipes and signage have been placed at each shared work station in all VPD facilities. Staff are reminded to clean their work stations before and after use to help maintain a clean and safe working environment.

Annex Gymnasium Use

Sworn and civilian members are reminded that the annex gymnasium is only to be used for individual exercise. Team sports and activities are not permitted in the annex gymnasium. The equipment stored in the POPAT equipment room is restricted access to Physical Health and Performance Team members.

Weight Rooms

Staff are reminded to follow the rules and guidelines set out for weight room use, including:

- You will only be able to sign-up for ONE SESSION per day.
- If you are late to your scheduled weight room time, your time does not get “extended” at the end.
- Please ensure you exit at or before your scheduled session time

Failure to comply may lead to reduced capacity or revocation of privileges.

The weight rooms have now returned to 24 hour access, with a closure daily from 2130 to 2230 hours for cleaning at Cambie and Graveley; the annex will be closed for cleaning from 0830 to 0930 hours.

Weight room capacities and hours are also strictly enforced:

- Cambie: **10 people**
- Annex: **6 people open**
- Graveley: **8 people open**

Suspected Exposure or Illness

Any members experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or requiring medical advice relating to COVID-19 should call 811 or their physician and follow the direction of a medical professional. Members directed to undergo a COVID-19 test should inform Human Resources at their earliest convenience.

[Exposure Flow Chart](#)

Detox Re-Opening

Detox will be re-opening on August 25, 2020. The new hours will be 1600 to 0800 hours daily. Staff will conduct a preliminary COVID-19 exam on clients outside of the facility entrance and then they will be admitted in the regular manner. All VPD members transporting clients to Detox must wear a mask while at Detox as per their policy. Wagons are now stocked with masks and wipes.

Health and Wellness

CISM/Peer Support

Members are reminded that if they require support during the COVID-19 crisis they can contact CISM/Peer Support and *Vancouver Beyond the Blue*. Information on these services and other supports and can be found on the COVID-19 intranet website and on VPDemerg.ca.

Accessing Key COVID-19 Information

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:	Weekly Situation Reports distributed to your VPD email address
From the road:	VPD GO 2020-54066 accessible by MDT
From home or cell:	Go to VPDemerg.ca . Password: Nitro



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EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT ENFORCEMENT - PATROL

PURPOSE

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General along with Emergency Management BC have introduced new measures to enforce public safety with respect to COVID-19. The VPD will now be relying on patrol members to conduct enforcement when calls for services are received through E-COMM.

MISSION

VPD Patrol Members will ensure compliance with the new measures outlined in the Emergency Program Act.

PROCESS FLOW

1. Callers phone ECOMM about social distancing and they are re-directed to call 311;
2. 311 staff obtain all of the relevant information;
3. 311 staff make an assessment on whether the response requires education through other city staff or if it requires possible enforcement through the VPD;
4. If enforcement considerations are needed, 311 will send an email to ECOMM;
5. ECOMM staff will create a CAD call in the respective district;
6. An NCO within the district will be notified of the call and it will be assigned when a unit is available based on priority;
7. Irrespective of attendance and enforcement action, a General Occurrence report should be completed.

ENFORCEMENT:

Members are reminded that they have discretion when making decisions enforcement action if any. The following enforcement measures can be utilized through our existing VT books:



Owners, Operators and Organizers

The enforcement focus will be on \$2,000 fines to owners, operators and organizers for contraventions of the provincial health officer's order on gatherings and events. This includes hosting a private party or public event in excess of 50 people, failing to provide appropriate hand sanitation and washroom facilities, failing to provide sufficient space in the venue for physical distancing, failing to obtain a list of names and contacts at large event or having more than five guests, in addition to the registered occupants, gathered in a vacation accommodation.

ACT: ☒ OTHER: COVID-19 Related Measures Act (CRMA)

COVID-19 Related Measures Act (CRMA) Contravention	Provision	Fine	Victim Surcharge Levy	Ticketed Amount
Item 23.3 A contravention of the PHO Gatherings and Events Order	Section 2	\$2,000*	\$300	\$2,300

*Under the YJA the maximum fine is \$1000 for youth.

Individuals

- A person must not promote a social gathering or event or encourage another person to attend such a social gathering or event that would contravene the provincial health officer's order on gatherings and events.
- A person who attends or promotes such a social gathering or event must comply with any direction given by a law enforcement officer, including a direction to disperse.
- A person must not engage in abusive or belligerent behaviour towards another person:
 - at a social gathering in vacation accommodation,
 - at an event, or
 - in any premises, as defined in the provincial health officer order on restaurants, coffee shops, cafes, cafeterias and licensed premises, including pubs, bars, lounges, nightclubs and tasting rooms.



ACT: ☒ OTHER: **COVID-19 Related Measures Act (CRMA)**

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Item 23.3 Fail to comply with patron conditions at drive-in	Section 7 (2)	\$200	\$30	\$230

Repetition or Serious Offences

If violation tickets do not act as a deterrent or in cases of particularly egregious contraventions or for repeat offenders, police can recommend charges in relation to the offence. On conviction, judicial penalties of up to \$10,000 may be levied.

Release Document : Provincial Appearance Notice (PAN)

Offence Description: SEE ABOVE TABLES

Act: ACT: ☒ OTHER: **COVID-19 Related Measures Act (CRMA)**

Section: SEE ABOVE TABLES

Appearance Dates: Same as other offences act appearances at 222 Main (E.g. MVA)

REPORTING:

CAD CALLS:

Cad calls for social distancing will be categorized as "BYLAW" by ECOMM.



UCR in PRIME Reports:

We are asking all calls for service are documented in PRIME. The UCR code that will be used this weekend will be: **7300-24 Other Provincial Statutes**

At this point, we cannot enter anyone as charged since the charging section has not been included in to PRIME yet. If a violation ticket is issued, the role code for the accused can be **SUSPECT**.

VIOLATION TICKETS:

Please write the General Occurrence number at the top of the Violation Ticket

All Violation Tickets will be given to the District assistant. These tickets will be delivered to Director Cathy MacPherson in IMS (via the District 1 assistant. A breakdown of all VT's will be compiled weekly by the D1 assistant and routed to OPS Management/Executive and Public Affairs for awareness.

PRE-REQUISITES FOR A PARTY UP TO 50 PERSONS:

An owner or operator of a place may permit up to 50 patrons to attend an event in a place if the following conditions are met:

- there is an organizer of the event;
- if the organizer is not the owner or operator of the place, the organizer must provide the owner or operator with the first and last names and telephone number, or email address, of the patrons who attend the event;
- access to the event is controlled;
- the number of patrons is closely monitored;
- there is sufficient space available to permit the patrons to maintain a distance of two metres from one another;
- the patrons maintain a distance of two metres from one another when standing or sitting, unless they belong to the same party;
- if there are tables provided for the use of patrons, no more than six patrons sit at a table, even if they belong to the same party, and there are at least two metres between the backs of the chairs at one table and the backs of the chairs at another table, unless the chairs are separated by a physical barrier;
- if a live performance is provided, or there is a presenter or a presider, a physical barrier must be installed between the performer, presenter or presider and the patrons which blocks the transmission of droplets from the performer, presenter or presider, or there must be at least a three metre separation between the performer, presenter or the presider and the patrons.
- hand sanitation supplies are readily available to patrons;



- there are washroom facilities available with running water, soap and a sanitary means for drying hands for hand washing purposes or hand sanitation supplies.
- The organizer must ensure that these conditions are met and:
 - collect the first and last names and telephone number, or email address, of every patron who attends an event or of every driver of a vehicle present at a drive-in event; and
 - retain this information for 30 days in case there is a need for contact tracing on the part of the medical health officer, in which case the information must be provided to the medical health officer.
 - If the event is a drive-in, the owner or operator may permit more than 50 patrons to be present, if the following conditions, as well as the conditions above, are met:
 - patrons only attend in a vehicle;
 - no more than 50 vehicles are present at the drive-in;
 - patrons are informed that they must stay in their vehicles except to use washroom facilities, and when outside their vehicles they must maintain a distance of two metres from other patrons, and this is monitored; and
 - no food or drink is sold.
- If the organizer is not the owner or operator, the owner or operator must:
 - satisfy themselves that the organizer is aware of the requirements listed above and has the capacity to fulfil them; and
 - retain the names of and contact information for the patrons provided by the organizer for 30 days, in case there is a need for contact tracing on the part of the medical health officer, in which case the information must be provided to the medical health officer.

VPD CONTACTS:

Sergeant Raj Mander D1T9

Staff Sergeant James Flewelling District 1, Odd

Staff Sergeant Jason High District 1, Even

OTHER CONTACT NUMBERS:

CoV 311 Supervisors Line: 604-829-4220

New Provincial Measures to Enforce Covid-19 Public Safety

As the number of cases of COVID-19 continue to rise in British Columbia, the Province announced new legislation aimed at combating the rise of COVID-19 on August 21, 2020.

Public Safety Minister, Mark Farnsworth announced that under the provincial state of emergency using the extraordinary powers of the *Emergency Program Act*, police officers would be given authority to issue violation tickets and in extreme circumstances, when violation tickets were not effective, charges could be recommended.

This new enforcement regime does not replace the current compliance-based approach to Provincial Health Officer (PHO) orders; however should be understood as an additional tool to promote compliance. Police maintain the ability to apply discretion when deciding whether a violation ticket is appropriate.

Officers are encouraged to use their discretion and contact an NCO if unsure about taking enforcement action. **Officers are also encouraged to wear appropriate PPE when interacting with members of the public.**

The order will allow police officers to issue violation tickets for offences such as:

- Hosting, organizing, or promoting a private event, party or gathering with more than 50 people
- For gatherings of 50 people or less, not following the stated PHO Order on Gathering and Events
- Refusing to disperse an event or gather after being instructed to do so by a law enforcement officer
- Being belligerent or uncooperative with the direction by an organizer, owner, operator to comply with terms of the PHO Order on Gatherings and Events

The order will allow for police officers to recommend charges by long form information to the BC Prosecution Service in relation to the offence provision under the *Emergency Program Act*.

- Upon conviction, judicially imposed penalties up to \$10,000 may be levied under s. 27 of the *Act*

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See attached Emergency Program Act Enforcement Instructions attached which outlines:

- The process of receiving and responding to such calls;
- Section, fine amounts and elements of the offence; and
- Workflow and reporting

Any questions can be directed to the Pandemic Working Group via email at VPDpandemicworkinggroup@vpd.ca

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