FORWARDED ON BEHALF OF
THE PANDEMIC WORKING GROUP

To: All VPD Employees - Civilian and Sworn
COVID-19 Update: July 15th, 2021

The following will provide an update on some key developments for the week of July 15th, 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Vancouver Police Department'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

- **NEW** – Mask Usage at Health Care Facilities
- Mask Protocol at VPD Facilities
- **NEW** – Ride-Along Restart
- Returning to the Workplace

Mask Usage at Health Care Facilities

VPD employees are reminded that businesses, private dwellings and medical care facilities may still require the wearing of a face covering. If operationally feasible, all VPD employees **MUST** adhere to these requirements.

Currently, medical-grade masks are required at the following facilities:

- St. Paul's Hospital
- Mount St. Joseph's Hospital
- Vancouver General Hospital
- University of British Columbia Hospital
- Lions Gate Hospital
- Richmond Hospital
- BC Women's Hospital
- BC Children's Hospital
- Sunny Hill Health Centre
- Burnaby General Hospital

As these requirements could change at any time, it is expected that VPD employees will follow all entry requirements or the direction of medical staff with respect to communicable disease prevention when attending a medical facility.

Mask Protocol at VPD Facilities

In Step 3 of BC's Restart Plan, please be reminded that **the wearing of masks is no longer required at the VPD.** This includes all public spaces, common areas, gyms and workspaces in all VPD facilities. Key points from the mask protocol are as follows:

- Mask wearing is recommended in indoor public spaces for all people 12 and older who are not yet fully vaccinated;
- Fully vaccinated means 14-days after receiving your second dose;
- Some people may choose to continue to wear a mask as a personal choice and are encouraged to practice any safety measures that make them feel comfortable.
    - A respectful workplace is essential at the VPD. Please respect all employees' personal choices should they include the wearing of masks and physical distancing.

The VPD Mask Protocol can be viewed HERE on the COVID-19 section of the VPD Intranet.

VPD employees should also consider wearing a face covering when physical distancing cannot be maintained and if employees are in contact with individuals where there is an unknown vaccination or COVID-19 status. It is recommended that VPD employees wear a mask when in a vehicle with multiple people.

Ride-Along Restart

With the transition into Step 3 of BC's Restart Plan, many of the functions that were paused due to COVID-19 will soon resume.

As of July 15, 2021, Ride-Alongs that were paused due to COVID-19 can recommence. The Pandemic Working Group is providing the following guidance for VPD members and Ride-Along participants:

1. All Ride-Along participants must complete the VPD Self-Assessment Checklist immediately prior to the commencement of the ride-along;

   http://references.sharepoint01.vpd.bc.ca/COVID19/Bulletins/VPD-Self-Assessment-Protocol.pdf

2. All non-VPD or non-VPD Police Board members are required to wear a mask while in a VPD vehicle with a VPD member (members of a shared household would be excluded);

3. Ride-Along participants should strongly consider wearing masks in situations where there is an interaction with the public and the risk of communicable diseases is unknown and/or transmission may be a concern;

4. It is recommended that Ride-Along participants be limited to adults only at this time, pending further review.

Section 1.14.1 Ride-Along of the RPM guides all employees regarding the policy and procedures of the Ride-Along program.

Returning to the Workplace

Working from home is managed on a case-by-case basis and at a supervisory level. If a manager or supervisor has established that an employee can work from home (particularly during COVID-19) it will also be that manager's responsibility to determine when that employee should return to their workplace. Managers must also ensure there is sufficient physical space for all returning employees.

Section managers are reminded that the Pandemic Working Group does not determine if and when an employee can work from home and when that employee will return to their workplace.

Additional information will be communicated in the coming weeks regarding this topic.

Health and Wellness

CISM/Peer Support

Members are reminded that if they require support during the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 home or cell:	Go to VPDemerg.ca. Password: Nitro

ACTING SERGEANT 2733 TREVOR SKATES
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