

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

**To: All VPD Employees - Civilian and Sworn
COVID-19 Update: March 24, 2020**

The following will provide an update on key developments for March 24, 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 now 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 VPD 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 your cell phone:	Go to vpdemerg.ca . Password: vpd

Key Updates for March 24, 2020

- At this time, **VPD member's enforcement authorities remain unchanged** in relation to provincial and municipal government COVID-19 orders. **Members shall not take enforcement action unless approved by Car 10.**
- A new VPD GO has been created to provide PRIME-accessible COVID-19 related messaging to frontline members deployed on the road (2020-54066).
- To aid in tracking COVID-19 related incidents in PRIME new UCR Codes and a new CV study code have been added.
- Community Safety Officer duties have been revised in response to the evolving COVID-19 situation.

- The South Vancouver CPC is no longer accessible to VPD members.
- All traffic or bylaw ticket matters scheduled from **Wednesday March 18 to May 16, 2020 will be adjourned** without the disputant having to attend Court. These matters will be rescheduled to a later date.
- A private internet website, intended only for VPD members, has been created for staff to access important COVID-19 related information and updates from home (vpdemerg.ca).

Government Updates for March 24, 2020

Provincial Update – Remains in State of Emergency

- There have been 145 new COVID-19 cases over the last two days, bringing the current British Columbia total to 617 since the outbreak.
- Health officials continue to adamantly instruct everyone to practice social distancing to slow the spread of the virus.

Municipal Update – Remains in State of Emergency

- The City's directive to close all in-office personnel functions in relation to all non-essential businesses and non-profit entities in Vancouver is still pending. This was delayed from the CoV.
- **At this time, VPD member's enforcement authorities remain unchanged – Members shall not take enforcement action unless approved by Car 10.**

Operational Considerations

New COVID-19 General Occurrence (GO) Number

IMPORTANT: A VPD GO# 2020-54066 has been created to provide frontline members with PRIME- COVID-19 related messaging. While the COVID-19 intranet site remains the primary source of information, this allows members to have instant access to pertinent operational information in the field:

- Operational guidelines/procedures will be placed into the GO to assist frontline members with quick access information regarding their personal safety, legal authorities, and other processes.
- The GO will be updated daily with approved, finalized, and current messaging.

COVID-19 related PRIME Changes

IMPORTANT: Effective March 23, 2020 PRIME-BC added two new UCR Codes for Public Health Act and Quarantine Act incidents. These UCR codes are intended to be used for incidents related to COVID-19:

Action (A/M/D)	Off-Code	Ext	Translation (16 ch)	Expanded Translation (30 ch)	CCJS	RET	Pen	Pen Sort	FIP	VI CLAS	Effective Date	Expiry Date	Comments
ADD	7300	53	Pub Health Act	Public Health Act	7300	24	0	0	N				Related to COVID19 Health Minister Orders
ADD	6900	91	Quarantine Act	Quarantine Act	6900	120	3	3	N				Related to COVID19

In addition to these new UCR Codes, a '**CV**' Study Code has been added to assist in capturing the data for COVID-19 related calls. This is important to track VPD members' involvement in related incidents. The '**CV**' Study Code should be used when:

- The UCR Code for the Public Health Act or the Quarantine Act is used (e.g., in relation to large gatherings and businesses disobeying orders).
- A member is dispatched to an incident concerning COVID-19 (e.g., Sudden death).
- The subject of an on-view incident turns out to have COVID-19 (e.g., man down/casualty).
- A subject falsely claims to have COVID-19 (e.g., immediately after arrest in an effort to avoid jail and be sent to hospital).
- A 'routine call' evolves into a 'complex call' due to the possible involvement of COVID-19.
- Assisting other agencies such as Provincial Authorities and correctional institutes with COVID-19-related matters.

Updated Community Safety Officer (CSO) Duties

CSO duties have been revised in response to the evolving COVID-19 situation. All frontline members should be aware of the following updates to CSO duties:

- CSOs will still be deployed to assist Patrol members and investigators in the handling, transporting, and tagging of property that is in the possession of these members.
 - CSOs are asked to consider taking all necessary precautions, including use of PPE when handling property or evidence.
- CSOs will no longer be deployed to collect video for property offences where interactions with the public are expected, unless this request is from an NCO.
 - NCOs are advised to consider the totality of the offence, circumstances, and weigh the need to deploy a CSO in each circumstance.
- CSOs may be asked to assist in functions including video canvassing during an investigation involving more serious crimes (Person's offences).
 - When conducting these canvasses, CSOs should expect some contact with the public and thus should take the necessary precautions including considering using PPE.
 - The use of CSOs for video canvassing will be at the discretion and direction of a Patrol NCO or an investigator.
 - CSOs will not be deployed at the direction of Patrol constables or ECOMM staff.
- CSO members will no longer be conducting any transports of witnesses or victims.
 - If required to do so, consultation with Car 10 is required.
- CSO's are asked to read the COVID Blanket GO for daily updates prior to every shift deployment.

Traffic and ByLaw Courts

All traffic or bylaw ticket matters scheduled from **Wednesday March 18 to May 16, 2020 will be adjourned** without the disputant having to attend Court.

- These matters will be rescheduled to a later date.
- A notice of a new court date will be sent out at a later date.
- All members with traffic or bylaw matters before the courts between these dates are stood down until further notice.

Community Policing Centres

Effective March 20, the CPCs have been closed to the public. However, police members can still access five of the CPCs. Members accessing these the following CPCs are asked to please ensure that the spaces they have used are left tidy:

- Collingwood
- Grandview Woodlands

- Kerrisdale/Oakridge/Marpole
- Kitsilano Fairview
- Strathcona

Health and Wellness

COVID-19 Internet Website for Staff

To ensure that all staff have access to timely updates, even if they do not have remote access capabilities, the Pandemic Working Group and Public Affairs have created a website (vpdemerg.ca) that all members can access from their homes.

- The website allows all staff to remain informed with pertinent COVID-19 updates as well as to access important resources related to the pandemic.
- In the future, some information will be password protected, and this information will be disseminated to all staff.
- The website is not searchable and is intended for VPD staff only.

Website: vpdemerg.ca

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>



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