

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

**To: All VPD Employees - Civilian and Sworn
COVID-19 Update: March 31, 2020**

The following will provide an update on key developments for March 31, 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 March 31, 2020

- The Chief has released a video via VPD email to address all VPD staff regarding the ongoing COVID-19 situation. The video can be accessed from your home or mobile device via the VPD's COVID-19 VPDemerg website (vpdemerg.ca - Password: **Nitro**)
- 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.**
- COVID-19 exposures have now been categorized as either Close Contacts or Non-Close Contacts, each necessitating different follow-up protocols.

- Moving forward, if VPD members can't practice proper social distancing due to operational necessity, it is recommended that PPE is used, which includes wearing a surgical mask.
- The VPD Protocol for COVID-19 Exposure Flow Chart has been updated to include Close Contact and Non-Close Contact exposure guidelines, as well as social distancing considerations (attached).
- As a reminder, the Pandemic Working Group continues to provide direct support for the Operations Division at the Annex and 2120 Cambie HQ.

Government Updates for March 31, 2020

Provincial Update – Remains in State of Emergency

- There have been 43 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the current British Columbia total to 1,013 since the outbreak.

Operational Considerations

Exposure Definitions

As a result of the developing COVID-19 situation, further details have been outlined by medical experts regarding what constitutes exposure to COVID-19. For the purposes of member actions and protocols following potential or confirmed COVID-19 exposures, all exposures will now be categorized as **Close Contact** or **Non-Close Contact**.

Close Contact occurs when someone has:

- Been face-to-face for at least 15 minutes without PPE; or
- Physically contacted someone else without PPE; or
- Been in the same closed space for at least two hours with someone else who has tested positive for COVID-19 while that person was infectious; or
- Lived with or otherwise had close prolonged contact (within two meters or six feet) with someone else while this person was symptomatic; or
- Had direct contact with infectious body fluids (e.g., was coughed, spat or sneezed on) while not properly and appropriately using recommended PPE, or if a breach in PPE occurred during the incident.

Non-Close Contact is:

- An encounter when social distancing was maintained (greater than two meters or six feet); or
- Living or otherwise having prolonged interaction with someone else, but maintained a distance of two meters or six feet while this person was symptomatic; or
- Close physical contact with someone else while consistently and appropriately using PPE, and where no breach of PPE occurred.

Members are to follow different follow-up protocols for *Close Contact* potential or confirmed exposures than they are for *Non-Close Contact* potential or confirmed exposures.

Social Distancing Protocols

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 procedure now applies:

- 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.

Updated COVID -19 Exposure Flow Chart

Medical experts have been assessing the COVID-19 situation as it develops. Accordingly, in ongoing consultation with those experts, the VPD Protocol for COVID-19 Exposure Flow Chart has been updated to include the new **Close Contact and Non-Close Contact** exposure categories and associated follow-up protocols. In addition, new **social distancing considerations and PPE requirements** are also outlined. The updated Flow Chart (effective March 31th) has been attached to this bulletin, and can also be accessed on the COVID-19 intranet page, on vpdemerg.ca, and on the VPD PRIME Report GO# 2020-54066.

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

PPE Supply

REMINDER: All requests for PPE will be made through the chain of command to your Staff Sergeant who will distribute supplies as needed. All efforts must be made to plan and request supplies to your Staff Sergeant prior to end of day. After hours requests can be made to the DOC Liaison Officer until 2000 hours. After 2000 hours, requests can be made through the Spyglass Kiosk. Compliance is required to properly track inventory levels and assess future PPE needs.

Exceptions include:

- **ERS member requests** will go through their Section Assistant Olivia Kajander olivia.kajander@vpd.ca – (604-717-3278).
- **Fleet Services member requests** will go to either Hailey Lam hailey.lam@vpd.ca – (604-717-3595) or Peter Parmar peter.parmar@vpd.ca – (604-717-3594).

In an emergency only, the Duty Officer may provide PPE supplies.

Pandemic Working Group Office Locations and Hours

Effective immediately, the Pandemic Working Group (PWG) will be providing direct support for the Operations Division and all staff at 2120 Cambie HQ and now also at the Annex, as per the following hours of operation:

2120 Cambie HQ

PWG Office: Room 510
Hours: 06:30- 20:00 (7 days a week)
Number: (604) 717-2761

Annex

PWG Office: 3rd Floor next to station NCO
Hours: 06:00-16:00 Tues-Fri
06:30-16:40 Sat-Mon
Number: (604) 717-9100

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.