

**FORWARDED ON BEHALF OF  
THE PANDEMIC WORKING GROUP**

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

The following will provide an update on key developments and reminders for the week of November 19, 2020, 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 FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2020**

- Direction from 811, Medical Provider and/or the Public Health Office
- Provincial Health Order – *Updated Enforcement Authority*
- Social Distancing in Public Areas of VPD Facilities
- Covid-19 – Sick Time Pay Codes
- Gym Scheduling Compliance – Risk for Gym Facilities Shutting Down
- VPD Members Wearing Masks in Public Businesses and City Facilities
- Visitor Protocol for Entering Secure Areas of VPD Facilities – Covid-19 Screening
- Requests for VPD Laptops

**Direction from 811, Medical Provider and/or the Public Health Office**

Please be advised that all employees of the Vancouver Police Department are to take medical direction from 811, their medical provider and/or the Public Health Office in relation to all Covid-19 matters. There are several factors that influence the medical direction an employee will receive. If an employee is concerned about the direction that they have received, the employee should request clarification from 811, their medical provider and/or the Public Health Office.

811 is considered a first point of contact for Covid-19 related matters. The Public Health Office generally will only get involved once a person tests positive for Covid-19 and the contact tracing process begins. The Public Health Office's direction is the result of a more thorough and robust process – their direction supersedes that of 811.

The person who administers your Covid-19 test is not the public health nurse. Direction does not come from this person – direction comes from 811, your doctor and/or the Public Health Office.

### **Provincial Health Order – Updated Enforcement Authority**

There are no new enforceable Provincial Health Orders at this time. A new written order is anticipated in the coming days, and updates will be provided accordingly.

Members are encouraged to visit the VPD Intranet Covid-19 Website for daily updates.

### **Social Distancing in Public Areas of VPD Facilities**

VPD employees are encouraged to avoid congregating in areas of VPD facilities that are accessible to the public, such as the main foyers and Public Service Counter areas. If meeting in these areas is unavoidable, employees are reminded to wear appropriate PPE and maintain their social distance.

### **Covid-19 – Sick Time Pay Codes**

The following link provides the Absence Pay Provisions relating to Covid-19 Sick Leave: [Absence Pay Provisions](#)

### **Gym Scheduling Compliance – Risk for Gym Facilities Shutting Down**

Gym capacity practices are in place for the prevention of Covid-19 and adherence to Provincial Health Orders and WorkSafeBC Guidelines is not optional. If VPD is found to be in non-compliance with these orders, the Gym Facilities will be ordered closed.

All employees are reminded they must sign up for gym times in order to use the VPD Gym Facilities. If members do not sign up for a time, they *cannot* use the Gym during any time slot (regardless if employee does a visual check in on gym, and sees there is capacity). Please stop exceeding gym capacities.

See the link below for gym sign up page:

<http://ipar.vpd.bc.ca/BookedScheduler/Web/>

### **VPD Members Wearing Masks in Public Businesses and City Facilities**

VPD officers are not exempt from complying with private businesses mandating mandatory mask usage within their workplaces. When operationally feasible, members must comply with public businesses and civic buildings requiring you to wear a mask while in their premises.

When a business requests a VPD member to wear a mask during routine interactions, the response “we are the police, we’re exempt” is not considered an appropriate reply.

### **Visitor Protocol for Entering Secured Areas of VPD Facilities – Covid-19 Screening**

All visitors entering the secured areas of VPD Facilities, including contract workers and COV employees not employed by the Vancouver Police Department, are required to wear a non-medical or surgical mask and to practice physical distancing.

All visitors entering the secure areas of VPD Facilities are required to first check in at the Public Service Unit front counters to complete a Visitor Self-Assessment and provide contact information for Covid-19 contact tracing. If members are pre-scheduling visitors (i.e. suspect/witness interviews, training with outside agencies, other guests etc.) it is requested that members pre-advise their visitors to attend the Public Information Counter (PIC) in order to streamline the process and minimize group gatherings inside VPD lobbies.

### **Requests for VPD Laptops**

At the beginning of the pandemic, the PWG was responsible for the approval of administering VPD laptops for remote working capabilities in an effort to streamline the process and balance the supply of hardware and licenses with the demand from users.

Throughout the course of the pandemic, protocols and processes have been developed and implemented and, as a result, the PWG will no longer be responsible for asset approval or delegation. Any VPD employee requesting a laptop will need to fill out a VPD 1350 detailing the hardware requested, and the reason for the request then submit the form to the Information and Communications Technology Section through their usual chain of command.

### **Suspected Exposure or Illness**

Any members or civilians 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.

See the [Exposure Flow Chart](#) for protocol on suspected exposure.

### **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](http://VPDemerg.ca).

#### Accessing Key COVID-19 Information

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>From your desk:</b>    | VPD's CoVID-19 Information & Updates webpage via the Intranet<br><a href="http://references.sharepoint01.vpd.bc.ca/COVID19/default.aspx">http://references.sharepoint01.vpd.bc.ca/COVID19/default.aspx</a> |
| <b>From your email:</b>   | Weekly Situation Reports distributed to your VPD email address                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>From home or cell:</b> | Go to <a href="http://VPDemerg.ca">VPDemerg.ca</a> . Password: Nitro                                                                                                                                       |

**John Gibbons**

Sergeant 2399

**Support Services Division**

**Vancouver Police Department** – *Beyond the Call*

**604 717-9263** | [john.gibbons@vpd.ca](mailto:john.gibbons@vpd.ca)