



## CPS Response to COVID-19 Pandemic Verbal Update

**Date** | 2021 MARCH 23

### Commission Role

Information only  Approval

### Type of Meeting

- Full Commission meeting
- Governance and Personnel (G&P) Sub-Committee
- Finance and Audit (F&A) Sub-Committee
- Complaint Oversight (COC) Sub-Committee

### Purpose

Select the appropriate category (below) to explain “why” the Commission is receiving this report and (if applicable) insert a narrative here identifying the report’s alignment to the 2019-2022 CPS Service Action Plans (Strategic Priority/Objective/Action Plan).

- Obligation under the Police Act
- Update on progress
- Other: Status Update

### Recommendations

It is recommended that the CPC:

- 1) Receive this written summary for information as requested in the interests of efficiency for the verbal report at the upcoming Commission meeting.**

## Reporting Update

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### ***Incident Management Team (IMT)***

The IMT continues to provide a coordinated response for the CPS with operational and investigative support, monitoring, planning, communication, and the long-term goal of transition to recovery and normalization of operations.

The IMT is beginning to demobilize and COVID functions absorbed into the regular duties of the Real Time Operations Centre (RTOC). The move of the 24-hour Operations phone line is already underway and is scheduled to be completely transitioned by the beginning of May. The Investigative Branch and Occupation Nurse Support are not scheduled to demobilize at this time.

### ***COVID Enforcement***

- To date, the CPS has issued 87 Mask Bylaw and 142 Public Health Act tickets issued. Moving forward, CPS will be increasing Bylaw ticketing enforcement measures based upon feedback from prosecutions.
- CPS continues to support enforcement partners by attending Alberta Health Services complaints, both commercial and residential.
- Public Health Compliance Team (PHCT) has been reduced to one team due to operational constraints. The PHCT will remain in place for the next three months.
- Work pertaining to Queens Bench orders is ongoing.
- Authorities under the Mandatory Isolation Order No. 2 and the Federal Quarantine Act is being examined and going forward, a protocol will be developed.
- Continued collaboration with Cadillac Fairview, who are the operators of Chinook mall for enforcement options related to demonstrations in contravention of the public health orders.

### ***COVID Crime Trends***

- COVID related calls are, on average, 5% of all calls for service daily.
- The total number of calls for service are reduced and while there is an overall decrease in violent crimes, rates have almost doubled for homicides and firearms related offences. There has been an increase in harassing communication, cyber-related offences, and threats.

### ***COVID Protests and Social Disorder***

- “Freedom” or “Anti-mask” related protests encouraging non-compliance with COVID measures continue weekly particularly on weekends. Protest groups have commenced gatherings at indoor public venues such as shopping malls. Community dissatisfaction with ongoing protests, general non-compliance, and perception of low enforcement rates is increasing. There is an increase in media requests and reporting on non-compliance with quarantine measures specific to international travel and quarantine hotels. CPS has received confirmation from the Calgary Crown Prosecutor’s Office supporting Bylaw Offence ticketing. Further planning in relation to indoor protests informed by this development is ongoing.

### **COVID Alberta Health Numbers**

- The reduction in COVID hospitalization numbers has resulted in initiation of Step 2 of the “Alberta Path Forward” plan. Restaurants, pubs, cafes, one-on-one fitness training and school related sports and performance activities are permitted since Feb 8, 2020. (<https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx#PathForward>)
- COVID rates in Calgary are 1,887 positive cases, 89 hospitalizations and approximately 300 - 400 new cases daily. The “R” value (reproduction number) is reducing at less than 1 meaning a reduction in transmission.
- There are currently 1,078 cases of the United Kingdom variant in Alberta with 401 in Calgary and 17 cases of the South African variant in Alberta with 15 in Calgary. (<https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-alberta-data.aspx>)

### **IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON CPS:**

#### **Human Resources:**

- Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been a total of 76 employees (both sworn and civilian) confirmed COVID positive and 427 employee isolations. Current COVID related absences (as of 2020.03.18) are less than 1%, with five current active COVID positive cases and 24 employees in isolation.
- Vaccination plans for several scenarios have been developed, however remains outstanding due to the vaccine availability. Following the advocacy of the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police and the Alberta Federation of Police Associations, Frontline officers are now included in phase 2c of vaccine rollout.
- Teleworking continues with approximately 19% of employees working remotely. Human Resources is tasked with devising a return to workplace plan.
- The training and professional development of employees has been significantly impacted during the pandemic resulting in changes to training delivery methods and class sizes. Recruit classes are reduced to 12 persons per class doubling the training resource requirements. Issues continue with fitness testing and mandatory requalification training.
- Fitness facilities have re-opened, as per the provincial exemption, in a limited capacity to Sworn and civilian members (designated gym for civilian members).
- Inquiries continue in relation to concern for sick family members, child-care issues and non-COVID related illnesses impacting office attendance.
- During the week of March 14, one of the CPS Units experienced an outbreak of COVID including five COVID positive members and an additional twenty-one employees in isolation. The initial exposure is believed to have resulted from a non-work-related contact. IMT and the Occupational Health Nurse has been liaising with Alberta Health and all protocols and responsibilities are complete.
- To date, the mental health impact to the service has resulted in twenty-four sworn, eight civilian, forty-seven family, one retired sworn and one family member of a retired sworn member recommended for individual therapy (81 total). The highest intake (16) was observed in January 2021. Issues identified by new clients included health anxiety,

relationship, child, and financial stress in relation to COVID and isolation related stressors.

### ***Business Challenges***

- Districts 5, 7, 8, as well as CPS Headquarters (WW-E) continue to offer walk-in front counter services to citizens for all police-related inquiries and reporting.
- There have been impacts to investigations including limitations regarding the use of specialized resources, interview strategies being altered due to the requirement for PPE and COVID measures, postponement of interviews, and delays in forensics and DNA processing due to increased volumes.
- Arrest Processing Services have reduced prisoners to one person per cell and COVID outbreaks at the Calgary Remand Centre have impacted prisoner movement.
- Victim support services are significantly reduced with alternative delivery methods.

### **Conclusion**

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The CPS will continue to monitor and support operational, investigative, human resource and communication impacts in relation to COVID to ensure the health and safety of its employees and the citizens it serves.

*Prepared by the IMT:*

*For: Chad Tawfik, Deputy Chief, March 18, 2021 for the Chief's update to CPC March 23, 2021*