

From: [Mayor](#)
To: [Mayor](#)
Subject: COVID-19 Update: New Police Precinct Opens Downtown
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Julie Woodward

The City of Spokane

COVID-19 News Update for Sept. 22

Information about Coronavirus Disease 19 (COVID-19) is evolving rapidly. We want to make sure our City employees have up-to-date information. We will provide this update, as needed, to communicate what you need to know, while we work to reduce the spread of this disease in our community and continue to provide critical public services.

A Message from Mayor Woodward

Today we celebrated the opening of the new downtown Spokane Police Department precinct. This is an exciting day for us as we increase community policing and visibility downtown. Our priority is to keep downtown a place that everyone can safely enjoy. Opening a precinct in the heart of downtown and the regional center for employment, higher education, entertainment, and public transit deepens officer connections with the neighborhood.

Members of the SPD's Behavioral Health Unit and Neighborhood Resource Officers will be among the team that works out of the precinct. Capt. Dave Singley is the precinct commander and oversees a lieutenant, two sergeants, and a detective. A civilian mental health specialist also works out of the precinct.

While we are still unpacking, the enthusiastic welcome we have gotten has been humbling and inspiring. We are deeply appreciative of the downtown businesses, the Downtown Spokane Partnership, and Spokane Transit Authority for their support with furnishings and parking. Community policing is a community effort and the support of our neighbors has been incredible.

Our officers take their responsibilities as new neighbors very seriously and have already been working hard in and around the downtown core to establish relationships.

Relationships are extremely important to any success and policing is no different. Opening this precinct was one of my top priorities for the community coming into office, and we are thankful to be able to support the neighborhood and everyone who uses it. This central location creates new opportunities for proactive, positive interactions.

Thank you for support you have shown as we created this new precinct, and say hello when you see our officers out and about in the community.

Spending for COVID-19 response & supplies

As we have reached the six-month mark of the COVID 19 pandemic, our funding to pay for COVID 19

response has gotten limited, and federal funders are imposing additional restrictions for costs to be eligible for reimbursement.

For that reason, all spending for COVID-19 response activities, including PPE, cleaning and sanitization, telework costs, and all other COVID 19 related costs must be requested through central Purchasing by contacting Thea Prince tprince@spokanecity.org or Sally Stopher sstopher@spokanecity.org.

This will give us the ability to appropriately manage the spend down of remaining available funds, and allow for eligibility requirements to be verified. Staff costs other than those incurred by the Spokane Fire Department must be approved in advance if reimbursement will be requested. Any cost incurred that does not follow this path will not be included in reimbursement requests.

The intent is to ensure that all departments have the goods and services they need to appropriately respond to the pandemic and keep employees safe and healthy, while also ensuring that there is funding to pay for these needs. Questions can be sent to Thea or Sally.

Parking at City Hall

Two parking spaces in front of City Hall on Post Street have been designated for City Council Members. There has been a constant stream of unauthorized vehicles parking in these spaces, many of them City of Spokane vehicles or vehicles owned by City employees. These spaces are NOT reserved for City vehicles, and they will be ticketed. Parking is tight around City Hall because of ongoing construction, but please be sure to use appropriate spaces.

Flu Shots Available Starting Oct. 6

Annual flu shot clinics for City employees start Oct. 6 and run through Oct. 15. The shots are available at no cost to any employee eligible for health benefits. If employees are currently in a telework or remote work status, they can visit any City facility for a flu shot clinic. Employees may participate in City flu shot clinics during regular work, including those on telework or remote working. Access flu shots through non-City flu clinics is subject to the normal rules and conditions for sick leave. [Here is the full list of flu clinics available.](#)

Consider adding information to Spokane Community Connect

Throughout 2020, The City of Spokane Fire Department has been working closely with technology partner *First Due* to refine *Community Connect*, an application focused on protecting City residents and their property. Phase one is nearly complete. As we transition to phase two, where the information our community shares will go directly into the hands of responders, Spokane Fire Department encourages community members to create their free account today with [Spokane Community Connect](#).

“In fire and medical emergencies every second counts” stated Spokane Fire Department Chief Brian Schaeffer. “Community Connect gives our residents the power to keep us informed, by providing the individualized details they deem important. From COVID-19 history, access and functional needs considerations, or primary languages spoken in the home, to where water, power and gas shutoffs are located. People can share the information that is important to them. As little or as much as they want,” Schaeffer continued.

Residents are individually able to decide what information they are comfortable sharing. Community members simply create a free profile and enter pertinent household information which is then made available to Spokane Fire Department personnel for planning and response. Data provided by residents

within Community Connect is 100% secure and used for the purpose of better serving the resident during emergency situations.

Create a profile for your household at [Spokane Community Connect](#).

More Information to Assist Our Employees

Our Employee Assistance Program has put together a couple of third quarter newsletters with a variety of tips and articles that our employees might find useful. Here are links to those newsletters:

- Third Quarter newsletter on [balancing work, home and other needs](#).
- Third Quarter newsletter offering [solutions to a variety of current concerns](#).

To access more topics related to COVID-19 visit: [EAPHelpLink.com](#), using company code: **CITSPO**

Employee Information Portal ([covid19.spokanecity.org/](#))

Remember, this Employee Information Portal is a great resource for employees to stay current on what's happening with the COVID-19 response. The [Employee Information Portal](#) can be accessed from work or home, using a computer or mobile device. All of the emailed information we have sent to employees is archived here.