

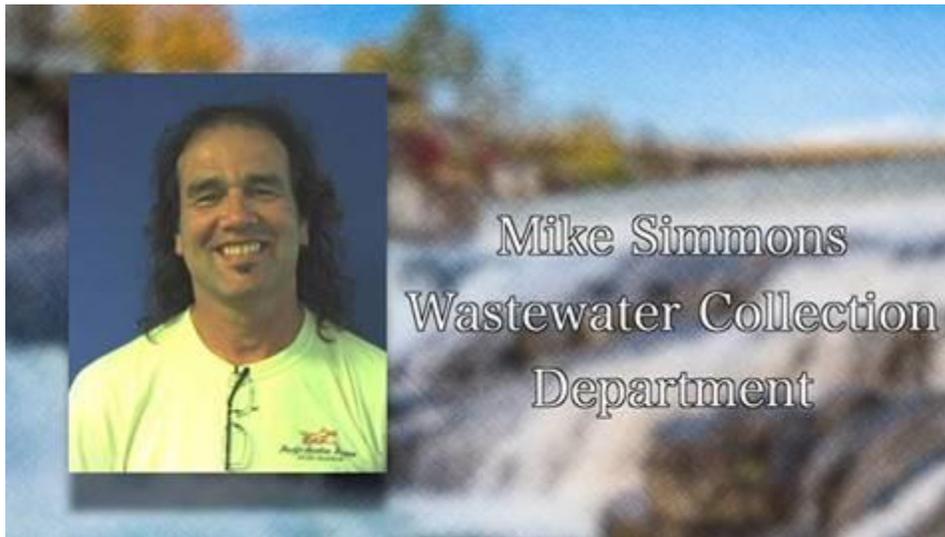
The City of Spokane

Weekly News Update for Feb. 23

Information about COVID-19 is evolving rapidly, and our important work as a City is continuing. We want to make sure our City employees have up-to-date information on both COVID and employee news. 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

Congratulations to Mike Simmons on being named the [Employee of the Quarter!](#)



Masking Update

State masking guidance is evolving quickly in recent days. Changes and implementation dates have been announced for both outdoor and indoor mandates and both have workplace implications. Each of those situations as they relate to you as an employee in City facilities, worksites, and vehicles is summarized below for clarity.

- State indoor mask mandate ends March 21. The governor announced that masks will no longer be required in most public places, which includes City facilities, beginning on March 21. It is important to note that further definition and guidance is anticipated over the next four weeks from state Labor & Industries and potentially the state Department of Health regarding updated workplace rules. New information will be communicated as City policy is updated to reflect state workplace regulations. Until then, masking remains a requirement that will be strictly enforced in the

workplace except when you are alone in your immediate workstation or assigned work vehicle. Remote working options, where practical, remain available if arranged through your supervisor.

- State outdoor mask mandate. The mandate, which covered large outdoor gatherings, has ended. However, masks are still required in the workplace, which includes field worksites, unless physical distancing is possible.

The only constant through the pandemic has been change, which has added to the challenge for each of us as City employees and individuals in managing the disruptions to our daily lives and routines. Thank you for your continued attention and understanding as we continue to communicate the latest information.

UPDATE: In-Person Meetings

Cases of positive COVID tests have been steadily improving regionally and across the organization. The positive signs we began to see toward the end of last month have become a trend of significant decrease in cases during the first half of February. During that period, the number of cases has dropped from four consecutive weeks of highs among employees to rates consistent with our organizational pandemic experience.

Effective next Monday, Feb. 21, meetings and training can once again be scheduled in person according to room capacities adjusted for social distancing. Masking remains a requirement in the workplace except when you are alone in your immediate workstation or assigned work vehicle.

Compliance will be strictly enforced until the statewide indoor mask mandate is lifted. Repeated violations can result in a record of counseling and entering into the progressive discipline process. KN95 masks are available for City staff. Requests should be made to your supervisor, who will [contact Thea Prince](#) in Purchasing.

Thank you for your continued patience and willingness to adjust to periodic changes in guidance.

Spokane COVID-19 Testing Sites

Drive-up and walk-up [COVID-19 testing sites](#) are open to the community. These testing sites offer free testing and are open to anyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or has recently been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

Spokane Falls Community College

3410 W. Whistalks Way, Spokane, WA 99224

Hours: Mon, Tue, Thur, & Fri, 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

[Appointments are recommended](#) but not required.

Spokane County Fair and Expo Center

5100 E. Broadway Ave., Spokane Valley, WA 99212

Hours: Mon, Tue, Thur, & Fri, 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

[Appointments are recommended](#) but not required.

Mead Union Stadium

12509 N. Market St., Mead, WA 99021

Hours: Wed – Fri, 4 – 8 p.m.

Sat & Sun, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

[Appointments are recommended](#) but not required.

CHAS Health Denny Murphy Clinic

1001 W. Second Ave., Spokane, WA 99201

Hours: Tue – Fri, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sat, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

[Appointments are recommended](#) but not required.

As of January 15, 2022, your insurance will cover the purchase of at-home COVID-19 tests. Make sure to keep your receipt! If you are a **Premera member** [click here to be reimbursed](#). If you are a **Kaiser member** [login to the Member Portal](#) then click on COVID-19 Resources and “Submit a Claim.”

More Information to Assist You

Here are some more resources from our Employee Assistance Program:

- [COVID-19 and Domestic Violence](#)

Domestic or intimate partner violence happens globally in the best of times. The World Health Organization has warned that COVID-19 creates a situation—due to stress, the disruption of social and protective networks, and decreased access to services—that increases the risk of violence in the home. [Click here](#) for tips to help you or someone you know in situations of domestic violence.

- [Effects of Domestic Violence on Children](#)

Many children exposed to violence in the home are also victims of physical abuse. Children who witness domestic violence or are victims of abuse themselves are at serious risk for long-term physical and mental health problems. Children who witness violence between parents may also be at a greater risk of being violent in their future relationships. If you are a parent who is experiencing abuse, it can be difficult to know how to protect your child.

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.