

**From:** [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Update: Responding to Governor's Announcement  
**Date:** Monday, March 23, 2020 6:42:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [City of Spokane Staff Childcare Needs.pdf](#)

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A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Valerie Woodward".

## The City of Spokane COVID-19 News Update for March 23

*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.*

### **Governor Inslee issues “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order**

At 5:30 p.m. today, March 23, Washington State Gov. Jay Inslee addressed the residents of our state and issued a [“Stay Home, Stay Healthy”](#) order. Effective immediately, all Washingtonians must stay home unless they are pursuing an essential activity. Those include: Grocery shopping, Doctor appointments, and Essential work duty. The order will last at least 2 weeks.

### **Local Leaders Provided Unified Response to Governor Inslee’s Statement**

Spokane leaders, including Mayor Woodward issued a joint statement following the Governor’s announcement. “The order is about your safety, the safety of your family, neighbors, and our community. As partners, we want to assure you that we have been planning for tonight’s announcement. It’s understandable that there is a lot of uncertainty and anxiety; some may even be fearful. We will stand with you as we get through this together as a strong community.”

The Spokane leaders will hold a news conference at 10 a.m. that will be streamed live to provide additional information on our community’s actions. They also asked our residents to calmly and consistently follow the governor’s order.

### **Direction from the City of Spokane to Employees**

The Mayor, City Administrator, Cabinet, and Human Resources are working on additional clarification about the impacts of this order for City of Spokane employees. We will address how additional paid leave provided through the federal Families First Coronavirus Act can be accessed, among other things.

### **Child Care Support**

Additionally, we are working to determine how we can proceed with **child care assistance** with additional restrictions from the governor and continued reduced workers in City Hall. If you haven’t filled out an application form for child care, [we have extended the deadline until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 24, at noon](#). The application is attached once again. If your family circumstances are changing as a result of the Governor’s order, and you no longer need child care, tell us that, too. Applications and information should be sent to Human Resources at [erahrec@spokanecity.org](mailto:erahrec@spokanecity.org).

### **Employee Information Portal (<https://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.