

**From:** [Mayor](#)  
**To:** [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Update: A Message from Mayor Woodward  
**Date:** Friday, March 27, 2020 6:27:43 PM  
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*Yulie Woodward*

## The City of Spokane COVID-19 News Update for March 27

*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**

To me, it feels like time has sped up and slowed down at the same time. Each day, our teams race to respond to new information—updated numbers of positive cases of COVID-19, revised orders to help slow the spread of the disease, and unanticipated needs and changes that have to be accommodated. Organization-wide, community-wide, we have changed how we operate and live our lives at a record pace.

At the same time, I look back and can hardly believe it has only been two weeks since the Governor announced the closure of schools, the first big step toward the significant social distancing order—“Stay Home, Stay Healthy”—that we have today. It feels like we’ve been dealing with this for so much longer.

That flurry of activity and the uncertainty around the ultimate timeline can take a toll on any of us, or really, on all of us.

I don’t think I can tell you enough how much I appreciate our City employees. I am the new kid here. And, every day, I gain more respect for our employees.

I want to send out special thanks to our “essential” employee teams who are coming to work every day. Our **public works teams** are delivering clean water, picking up and disposing of the garbage, managing wastewater, and taking care of the streets. **Fire and police** are out there on the front lines responding. And groups like our **Fleet** team are keeping things running, quite literally!

Our community appreciates our work, too. I’m getting positive comments every day. And this week, the Donut Parade gifted donuts to several of our groups in appreciation of their work.

During times of trouble and crisis, our community turns to us to help them. I am so proud to be a part of this organization. We are #InlandStrong!!

### **Staying Healthy – Watch your Posture; Don’t Crane your Neck!**

Many of us will be working from home for a while. At work, our employees probably have a reasonably good chair and a keyboard set at an appropriate height. While working at home, it’s important to think about those things, too. We don’t want to end up with back pain or other problems. Matt Lowmaster, our lead safety manager, offered up [this two-page information sheet](#). It provides great information on how to set up a home office and tips to maintain productivity. Check it out!

### **Keep the Kids Learning**

Any lengthy absence from school provides parents with a challenge. How do we keep the kids learning? KSPS—our local PBS channel—is providing a way to help. Beginning March 30, KSPS WORLD is broadcasting At-Home Learning Programs for students grades 6-12 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday

and providing thousands of associated educational resources from [PBS LearningMedia](#). [Lessons are available too](#). KSPS WORLD Channel is broadcast over the air on 7.2 and carried on Comcast Xfinity on channel 313 and in HD on channel 1155.

### **#OrderUpSpokane**

The weekend might be a great time to get some take out, so we left this info here for another day. We can do our part to help with economic recovery by ordering take out or delivery from Spokane's restaurants. So you don't have to dig up the information yourself, [here's a list of takeout and delivery options](#).

### **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.