

**From:** [Mayor](#)  
**To:** [All City Users](#); [All Police](#); [All SFD](#); [Chanse, Andrew](#); [Amanda Donovan](#)  
**Subject:** Child Care Survey, Emergency Declaration  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2020 3:27:35 PM



# The City of Spokane COVID-19 News Update for March 16 (#2)

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. This chart, from the Washington State Department of Health, provides a look at the levels of a health emergency and indicates where we are as a community. (Currently, we are at Level 4.)

Current Level				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase handwashing and use of alcohol-based sanitizer</li><li>• Respiratory Hygiene/ Cough Etiquette</li><li>• Keep distance from others (&gt;6 feet)</li><li>• Frequently clean and disinfect personal surfaces (doorknobs, phones, keyboards, etc.)</li><li>• Remain home through the duration of respiratory illness</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Voluntary isolation of sick persons</li><li>• Voluntary quarantine of contacts of sick persons</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Involuntary isolation of sick persons</li><li>• Involuntary quarantine of contacts of sick persons</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Order cancellation of major public and large private gatherings</li><li>• Order closure of schools, childcare facilities, workplaces, and public buildings</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prevent non-emergency travel outside of the home</li><li>• Establish a cordon sanitaire</li></ul>

Source: Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Nonpharmaceutical Intervention (NPI) Implementation Guide

### Child Care Survey

The City would like to assess the need for child care among our employees. Here is the link to the online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L7RM9MT>. We are asking employees to respond **no later than Wednesday, March 18, at noon**. For employees without access to email, department heads and managers will reach out to their employees to gather this information. Human Resources has sent department heads the information they need to proceed with collecting that data.

### Emergency Declaration

Mayor Nadine Woodward signed an emergency declaration today related to the COVID-19 situation. Spokane County and the City of Spokane Valley also signed emergency declarations, and smaller cities throughout the County are making plans to do the same. The Mayor was part of a [joint news conference this afternoon hosted by the Spokane County Department of Emergency Management to announce these actions](#).

The declarations speed up the processes for county and city organizations to rapidly deploy funding and resources; seek state and federal resources; and grant greater flexibility to work with existing local labor agreements.

### Suspending Water Shut-Offs

[The City is suspending water service shut-offs](#) for non-payment of City utility bills and won't charge fees for late utility payments until further notice. The changes are part of the City's efforts to ease the strain on City

utility customers during widespread closures of schools and small businesses because of COVID-19.

“Today, we are helping to ensure that our citizens will have access to clean and safe water for drinking, hand washing and keeping their families safe,” says Mayor Nadine Woodward. “Our lives have become very different in the last few days, and at the City, we recognize that our families may face financial hardships as a result of the changes being implemented to slow the spread of this disease.”