

From: [Mayor](#)
To: [Mayor](#)
Subject: COVID-19 Update: K-12 School Closure Extended
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:56:58 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)



A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Julie Hoduard".

The City of Spokane COVID-19 News Update for April 6

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.

Closure of K-12 Schools Extended through June

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal announced today that they are extending the [closure of on-site instruction at K-12 public & private schools](#) through the end of the **school year in June**. Schools will include distance learning through the end of the school year. Schools will continue to provide meals to students who need them throughout the spring.

Schools were one of the first things to be closed as the state began to respond to the spread of COVID-19, with an initial closure period to last through April 24. Last week, the Governor also extended the state's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order to May 4.

Because of this extended time period, Human Resources will be taking a renewed look at how the closure of schools is affecting our employees and what else can be done to assist employees with school-age children. The [FMLA benefit under the Families First Coronavirus Act](#) is one option for some employees to consider to cope with the longer time frame for school closure. Watch for more information from HR, including a survey on needs and possibilities for support.

Driver's License Renewals

Washington state Department of Licensing Driver License Offices closed effective April 1. To assist citizens who cannot renew their driver license or ID card using the state's online services, driver's licenses and ID cards expiring from March 1 through June 30 are extended 90 days from their expiration dates.

Most Washington residents are now eligible to renew their licenses, identification cards, or vehicle registration [online](#). We encourage everyone to take advantage of those services if at all possible.

Many rules have been relaxed to accommodate greater use of online services. Persons under age 24 and over 70 may renew online for the next 30 days, or longer if deemed necessary. Additionally, DOL is also suspending the requirement to visit a licensing office every other renewal. Mail-in options are also available for a number of transactions, such as [vehicle registration](#), [original title transactions](#), and [driver's license renewal](#).

For our employees with CDLs, commercial driver license expiring from March 1 through June 23 also are extended to June 30.

Helping our Community

The campaign designed to help citizens with their energy bills and their City utility bills for water, sewer and garbage services has gotten a great deal of support in our community. Project Share and UHelp, two important local programs supported by public donations that provide assistance with utility bills, teamed up to assist community members facing hardship because of COVID-19.

Since the campaign launched on March 31, more than 370 people have provided more than \$27,600 in donations that are being matched by the City and Avista, bringing the total amount available to help families pay their utility bills to nearly \$83,000.

There's still time to help. [Provide a donation online in any amount](#). For every dollar you give to help people with their utility bills, the City of Spokane and Avista will each match it. That means for every \$1 donated, \$2 more will go to support our community. Matching funds are available for up to \$50,000 in community

donations.

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.