

From: [Mayor](#)
To: [Mayor](#)
Subject: COVID-19 Update: A Message from the Mayor
Date: Saturday, May 2, 2020 1:18:29 PM



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

The City of Spokane

COVID-19 News Update for May 1

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

As expected, the Governor extended the state's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order through May 31. I was encouraged to hear the Governor's four-phase plan to reopening the economy. This is the first time we've gotten this kind of guidance on reopening from the Governor.

We still believe that it makes sense to open Spokane County on a different timeline than the West side of the state. Over the weekend, we will be working to finish our proposed plan to open up the Spokane economy, which integrates the input of our own public health officials, including Dr. Bob Lutz. I plan to present our plan to the Governor during a meeting on Tuesday. The Governor did provide a list of 10 counties that could work to open earlier, and I would like to see Spokane added to that list.

As I look at the metrics that the state is using to determine when it's right to reopen, Spokane is in a good position. Our daily new cases are in the single digits, we have hospital capacity, and we have surge capacity to treat additional COVID patients.

Our Spokane plan is being designed to be flexible and orderly and to have the support of industry sectors that will need to ensure they are operating safely. The safety and health of our community remains our priority, as we work to reopen businesses and get people back to work.

"Stay Home, Stay Healthy" Status

As part of his announcement the Governor laid out [a four-phase plan to reopen the economy](#).

Phase 1 should begin by about May 15 and subsequent phases will follow with at least three weeks between phases. The data must support the change to the next phase of reopening. Phase 1 will allow for curbside service for retail outlets and add car sales, car washes and a few other businesses to reopen.

Each phase is a little less restrictive, with Phase 4 allowing a return to most activities, including larger group gatherings. In all phases, enhanced cleaning, personal hygiene, and social distancing protocols will be needed. The state will allow some counties can move into phase 2 earlier than others, based on the low number of cases in those areas. Spokane was not among those counties at this time.

What's New Around the City

- Parks and Recreation is working to reopen golf courses starting on May 5. [See this great blog post](#) to figure out how to get back on the links.
- Water Department employees are out getting work done on behalf of citizens. [Check out this little video](#) on their request to give them some space when they are providing notification of water shutoffs.
- The Spokane Police Department teamed up with the Spokane Regional Domestic Violence Consortium to get important information out to the public. A [resource guide](#) is being inserted in the City's utility bills in May. Watch for it. Funding for the project came from the Spokane Police Guild and the Innovia Foundation's COVID-19 Response & Recovery Funds.
- With so many people focused on outdoor recreation and exercise, we're asking people what they think about a plan to extend the Centennial Trail through West Central. [Here's a link to the blog post with the survey.](#)

Latest Articles to Assist Our Employees

Here are some more resources from our Employee Assistance Program:

- [COVID-19 and your mental health](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has likely brought many changes to how you live your life and with it uncertainty, altered daily routines, financial pressures, and social isolation. One may worry about getting sick, how long the pandemic will last, and what the future will bring. Information overload, rumors, and misinformation can make your life feel out of control and make it unclear on what to do.

- [Mental Health Providers: Tips on Finding One](#)

If you have never seen a mental health provider before, you may not know how to find one who suits your specific needs. Here are some things to keep in mind as you search for a mental health provider.

To access more topics related to COVID-19 visit: EAPHelpLink.com, using company code: **CITSPO**

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.