

From: [Mayor](#)
To: [Mayor](#)
Subject: COVID-19 Update: Mayor letter; time to pay for parking
Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 4:30:28 PM



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

The City of Spokane

COVID-19 News Update for May 26

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.

In Case You Missed It ...

An open letter of community appreciation

Collaboration and teamwork are necessities when meeting any community challenge. The better part of the past three months has delivered both. Taking on a significant part in fighting a global pandemic is the greatest collective challenge many generations have faced. The tests have been unique in scope, duration, and severity; pushed us physically, mentally, and financially; and impacted every one of us.

Let me express my sincerest thank you and gratitude to the community on behalf of everyone working so hard to keep our community safe. The reality is, you have been – and continue to be, the best line of defense in slowing and ultimately stopping the spread of COVID in our region and protecting our healthcare system.

We have reached an important milestone in our region's response because of your efforts – and we ask for your continued support. Your resilience is even more impressive because it has very likely come at the cost of several missed paychecks, significant disruption to your personal and professional lives, and sustained anxiety and uncertainty.

Spokane has worked extremely hard, shown great dedication, and practiced amazing discipline while making tremendous sacrifice. You are now entering a third month of putting your community first by maintaining physical distancing, practicing good etiquette and hygiene, staying home when sick, limiting trips to essential activities, and wearing masks when you visit public places.

This began as an effort to save lives and you have done that. **As time has passed, it has evolved into saving lives *and* livelihoods.**

Your work helped us make a tremendous Inland Strong case for reopening Spokane more rapidly than other parts of the state. It is important to remember that we are in the second phase of the governor's four-part Safe Start Washington Plan, which will reopen industries that account for about half of our jobs regionally, and provide much-needed relief to businesses and employees.

You have done amazing work to get us to this point. We are grateful to the Governor and State Secretary of Health for allowing us to make this case on your behalf and for providing a way to evaluate your good work. In doing so, they have placed their trust in all of you to keep putting your loved ones, friends, people you have not yet met, and our economy first.

Our challenge now is to keep our businesses open and the community gradually and smartly restarting public life. That means exercising the same discipline you have shown. **Your behavior today is making our case to progress to the third phase of the governor’s plan, ultimately, to the fourth and final phase.**

Our region has done so much work to get us to the point of starting our recovery. Please stay disciplined and continue to follow the conditions of the current phase. You never know whose life – or livelihood – you might be saving.

With deep appreciation,



Mayor Nadine Woodward
City of Spokane

As published in The Spokesman-Review on Sunday, May 24, 2020

Boxing in the Virus

Spokane saw a large spike in the number of COVID-19 positive cases in our community over the last several days. The Spokane Regional Health District has told local media that the increase in cases is the result of work to contain an outbreak at a local macaroni plant through contact tracing. About one-third of the workers at the plant have tested positive for COVID-19, and now the SRHD’s contact tracers have been testing others to stop that outbreak. They have found some people without symptoms who have tested positive.

Such spikes will occur, especially as our community deploys contact tracing to contain potential outbreaks. Here’s [a great blog on contact tracing](#) and how it fits in to an overall strategy to “Box in the Virus,” by testing widely, isolating rapidly, identifying contacts, and then quarantining those contacts.

#InlandStrong Merchandise Available

Some of our employees working at the Emergency Operations Center have purchased #InlandStrong clothing, as they have worked on the community’s response to coronavirus.

We thought other City employees also might like to purchase such items. There are jackets, polos and T-shirts available through a local business. Here is a [link to the online store](#) for the items. Orders are due by May 31.

Time to Pay for Parking

With businesses beginning to reopen as part of Phase 2 of the Safe Start Washington Plan, it's time to [restart our downtown parking system](#). That means employees who have been parking in on-street parking spaces near City Hall, the Public Safety Building or other places downtown for free need to rethink their parking options. Watch for courtesy notices this week, and full enforcement of paid parking on June 1.

We'll be keeping the 10-minute parking zones for restaurants and other businesses to complete curbside transactions and takeout service, as part of ongoing work to help our businesses. [See our latest CityCable 5 video on that work.](#)

"Use of on-street parking downtown is really a measure of business activity," says City Administrator Wes Crago. "In the last few days, we have taken an important step in the right direction for our economic health, and we are bringing back paid parking in support of renewed activity."

More Information to Assist Our Employees

Here are some more resources from our Employee Assistance Program:

- [Refocusing at Work After COVID-19](#)
Orders to quarantine or stay-at-home are gradually being lifted in our nation. Companies are making plans to resume operations. It is likely to be a slow process that varies greatly depending on where you live and the type of job you have. You may be excited, or even a little apprehensive about returning to your workplace. Your workday may not look the same as it did before, and there will likely be new procedures to follow.
- [Avoid Tobacco-Use Relapse During COVID-19](#)
Are you a former smoker or a person who used tobacco by chewing or vaping? Is stress making you think of your old habits? You worked hard to become tobacco-free. Don't let COVID-19 derail you. COVID-19 may be new, but managing stress and the cravings can trigger a challenge you already conquered at least once.

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.

