

From: [Mayor](#)
To: [Mayor](#)
Subject: COVID-19 Update: Schools and tech tools
Date: Friday, June 12, 2020 4:44:28 PM



Valerie Howard

The City of Spokane COVID-19 News Update for June 12

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.

What's Happening with K-12 Schools

Yesterday, Gov. Jay Inslee issued a [proclamation](#) outlining the state's plan to work to re-open schools for in-person instruction in the fall for the 2020-2021 school year. The plan follows the state's [Safe Start](#) phased approach to reopening.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal, meanwhile, unveiled the [Reopening Washington Schools 2020 Planning Guide](#) authorized under the proclamation. The planning guide details significant safety precautions, but acknowledges that students will be better served in the classroom than attempting to learn from home in large numbers. If you have a child in school—public or private—take a read through the planning guide, which addresses everything from drop off to lunch to learning environments.

IT Asks for Feedback on Virtual Tools

IT is asking employees to fill out a survey about the use and effectiveness of virtual collaboration tools—WebEx and Microsoft Teams (which is replacing Skype). Here is the link to take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J8KGP5Q> IT is asking for responses by Wednesday, June 17.

Parks Provides Updates

The Parks and Recreation Department has been working to keep everyone up to date on activities that are allowed. More activities will be allowed in Phase 3, but here's a recap of the some of the most recent changes:

- **Play structures:** The Spokane Regional Health District's Health Officer re-opened playgrounds! Parks staff are moving around our nearly 90 parks to remove closure tape from play structures. You may still see some tape up in places we haven't reached yet with our small team. Please keep in mind that we don't routinely sanitize play equipment, picnic tables, and similar amenities, so continue to use CDC precautions to avoid the spread of germs.
- **Dog parks:** Dog parks in the City are re-opened! We are working to remove the eco blocks placed at High Bridge Dog Park and add trash cans back. Please continue to follow CDC guidelines to slow the spread of germs.
- **Field rentals:** The Governor provided updated [guidelines](#) that allow outdoor youth and adult recreational sports to hold modified practices! Our field rentals will resume Monday, June 15, for modified practices only. (Games and scrimmages aren't allowed until Phase 3.) Players are limited to groups of five in separate parts of the field, separated by a buffer zone and with social distancing

between all players. Parents and household members must not congregate on the sidelines. To inquire about reserving fields, please email us at athleticfields@spokanecity.org.

Post Street Bridge Closure set for June 17!

Reconstruction of the Post Street Bridge is scheduled to begin on **Wednesday, June 17, and continue for the next 2 years**. Please plan accordingly if you use this bridge to get to City Hall or other destinations downtown or on the North Bank.

Here's what to expect:

- The **bridge will be closed completely** to all users—that means pedestrians and bicyclists since the bridge has been closed to vehicular traffic for the last year.
- People who park on the north side of the Spokane River and work in City Hall will need to walk across the **Monroe Street Bridge** or the **Howard Street Promenade** in Riverfront Park to get to City Hall.
- The **east half of the Bosch lot** (Riverfront Lot 7 at Summit Blvd & Lincoln) will be closed to serve as a lay down area for the construction. That means only the west half of the lot will be available for parking.
- **Parking will be limited on Post Street** and **Lot 6 in Riverfront will be closed**. Don't expect to be able to park close to the building, as result.
- We have routed the **Centennial Trail around the construction** and have included a paved path through the Bosch lot to connect people from Lincoln, around the construction and to the trailhead in Veterans Park, on the south side of Summit Blvd. between Lincoln & Monroe.

[Our detour map shows this all visually](#). Thanks for your patience.

More Information to Assist Our Employees

Here are some more resources from our Employee Assistance Program:

- [Anger: Events, Cues, and Control](#)
When you get angry because you have encountered an event in your life that has provoked your anger, these sensitive areas, or red flags, referred to as long-standing issues that can lead to anger. Events you experience in the here, and now, you may also recall an event from your past that made you angry. Just thinking about these past events may make you angry now.
- [When a Child Is Angry](#)
Helping children learn to handle their angry feelings can be a frustrating problem for most parents and teachers. Young children have not yet learned how to express anger in acceptable ways. When they get angry, they are likely to take it out on another person: to blame someone else, scream, hit others, or display some other inappropriate behavior.

To access more topics related to COVID-19 visit: [FAPHelpLink.com](https://www.faphelp.com), using company code: **CITSP0**

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.