

From: [Mayor](#)
To: [Mayor](#)
Subject: COVID-19 Update: Put Community First
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020 5:21:01 PM



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valerie Hoodward".

The City of Spokane COVID-19 News Update for June 18

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 the Mayor

Economic health is top of mind as we near the end of our third month of statewide limitations on public interaction and movement in the interest of limiting the spread of illness and protecting healthcare system capacity. A lot has been asked of you and more is needed from you as we prepare to advance. That has created significant sacrifices and financial burdens for businesses and employees and left us balancing public and financial health.

These are extremely stressful times. At the same time we are having a difficult conversation about race reconciliation in our community and country. The intensity of both can leave you feeling isolated and frustrated.

Please know that even on the most difficult days, Spokane will listen and support each other as we work collectively toward a better, healthier tomorrow. The challenge is to dig deep, evaluate priorities, and put community ahead of self, which can be difficult and extremely personal.

No matter where you are in your journey, please remember to wear a mask, practice physical distancing social etiquette, and limit your trips. Be respectful, listen intently, speak thoughtfully, and always practice kindness. *We will get through this together.*

Post Street Impacts on Friday

Repeating some information from the City Administrator for tomorrow. For those of you who plan to work in City Hall tomorrow, Friday, June 19, you should avoid parking on Post Street. Employees coming to City Hall on Friday should use the employee entrances on the loading dock or the Skywalk entrance. **The Post Street employee entrance will be closed.** As always, please don't let people—beyond your known co-workers—into the building behind you.

We are anticipating some public gathering outside of City Hall on Friday. Tomorrow is a holiday called Juneteenth, commemorating the end of slavery. On June 19, 1865, enslaved African-Americans in Galveston, Texas, were told they were free, and the day has been celebrated since. With heightened interest in racial and social justice issues, this day is important to many people.

Post Street will be closed to vehicular traffic while people are gathered outside City Hall, which is anticipated to begin around noon. Additionally, the contractor on the Post Street Bridge reconstruction

project will be bringing a crane onto the bridge construction site along Post tomorrow afternoon, making use of the area even more challenging.

As always, we are respectful of people's rights to assemble and speak. We just wanted to provide you with some information in advance so you can plan your day accordingly.

CSO Plaza on Spokane Falls Boulevard

Through Friday, pedestrians walking through the CSO Plaza are detoured to the lower level while construction crews get some equipment in place. After that, the sidewalk along Spokane Falls Boulevard will be available for employees to use as they walk in and out of City Hall.

More Information to Assist Our Employees

Here are some more resources from our Employee Assistance Program:

- [Stress management: Examine your stress reaction](#)
One of the first steps toward proper stress management is understanding how you react to stress and making changes. Take an honest look at how you react to stress and then adopt or change stress management techniques to make sure the stress in your life does not lead to health problems.
- [COVID-19: Who is at higher risk?](#)
People of any age, even children, can catch COVID-19. But it most commonly affects middle-aged and older adults. The risk of developing dangerous symptoms is higher in people age 65 and older. The highest rate of mortality from the disease is in people age 80 and older. Risks are even higher for older people when they have underlying health conditions.

To access more topics related to COVID-19 visit: [EAPHelpLink.com](https://www.eaphelp.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](https://covid19.spokanecity.org/) 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.