

From: Mayor
To: Mayor
Subject: COVID-19 Update: Playgrounds are open; wash your hands!
Date: Friday, June 5, 2020 4:04:45 PM
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Spokane

The City of Spokane COVID-19 News Update for June 5

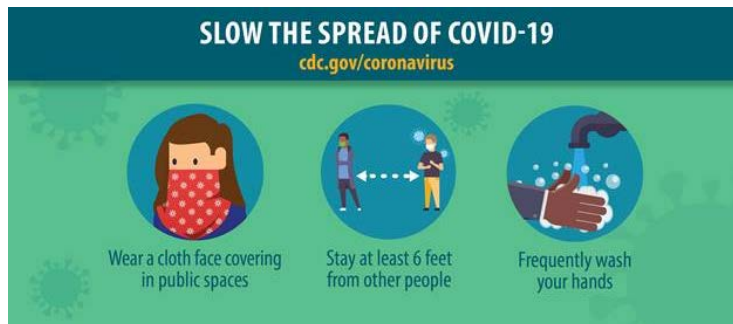
Information about Coronavirus Disease 19 (COVID-19) is evolving rapidly. We want to make sure our City employees have up-to-date information. We will provide this update, as needed, to communicate what you need to know, while we work to reduce the spread of this disease in our community and continue to provide critical public services.

Staying Safe as Cases of COVID-19 Rise

Today, Spokane County reported the largest number of COVID-19 cases since we began testing and reporting—with 57 new cases. Spokane County Health Director, Dr. Bob Lutz, responded to media questions and said that the high number is due to new outbreaks and increased testing.

Spokane is tracking outbreaks at long-term care facilities, adult family homes and at least two new workplaces. In Spokane we have conducted 3,900 tests in the last two weeks, compared to 2,300 tests collected the two weeks before that.

For all of us, this information requires that we continue to adhere to health practices that help slow the spread of COVID-19. Wash your hands, stay 6 feet away from other people and wear a mask in public spaces.



Playgrounds Have Reopened & Watch for Info on Team Sports

Today, 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, existing signs, and swings removed 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. We hope you continue to enjoy park spaces!

Youth team sports and adult recreational team sports: Governor's updated guidance

Today, the Governor issued additional [guidance](#) on youth team sports and adult recreational team sports. Our Parks & Recreation team is reviewing these new guidelines and will be in touch with user groups and our program participants next week.

Understanding the Protests & More

Protests have continued in Spokane and around the country, following concerns about racial and social justice in our nation.

The Spokane Public Library created [a reading list](#) to help explain issues regarding race and equity, and to stand with the Black community and amplify their voices. Reading one, some, or all of these books is a step toward dismantling prejudice.

Lincoln between Spokane Falls & Main to Close

Construction work is ramping up, and here is a change that City Hall employees may be interested in. Final work on the last of the City of Spokane's projects to reduce overflows from combined sewers to the Spokane River is scheduled to begin on Monday, June 8.

Lincoln Street between Spokane Falls Boulevard and Main Avenue will be closed starting Monday and continuing into September. Spokane Falls Boulevard will remain open to traffic, and access to the River Park Square parking garage on Lincoln will be maintained.

The closure on Lincoln is needed as crews make the final sewer pipe connection to a huge underground storage tank. The tank sits under a new public plaza located along Spokane Falls Boulevard across from the Downtown Library. The plaza opened in late May.

More Information to Assist Our Employees

Here are some more resources from our Employee Assistance Program:

- [Healthy Communication During Conflict](#)
Disagreements are a normal part of life. We are not always going to see eye to eye with people. Ongoing conflict can be a sign of an underlying unmet need, so it is essential to step back and ask yourself what is really at the core of some disputes. A disagreement can be triggered by something trivial, like how your partner loads the dishwasher when you have been feeling disrespected and undervalued. If you can examine what is beneath the conflict, you can start to communicate about that unresolved issue or feeling, versus the seemingly surface-level complaint.
- [Balance-A newsletter to help employees maintain a healthy work-life balance.](#)
Uncertainty about what will happen with COVID-19 and its impact on everyone can have you feeling anxious. Whether you are concerned about your job or an elderly family member, getting food and supplies, or even getting sick yourself.

To access more topics related to COVID-19 visit: [EAPHelpLink.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.