

From: [Feist, Marlene](#)
To: [Feist, Marlene](#)
Subject: COVID-19 Update: Post Street Bridge
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Nadine Woodward

The City of Spokane COVID-19 News Update for May 29

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.

Mayor Woodward Talks About Progress

Mayor Nadine Woodward chatted with *The Spokesman-Review* on Thursday as part of a program called Northwest Passages. She talked about progress being made in our community on containing illness, supporting businesses and moving forward.

- **Containing illness:** We are doing the hard work to contain illness, even though we've watched COVID-19 cases rise in the past week. As we increase testing capacity and triple the number of contact tracers following up on cases, we anticipated that we would see an uptick in cases. What's important, though, is that we contain community spread. We also need to watch numbers around hospitalizations and deaths, which remain low.
- **Supporting Businesses:** We need to continue to be creative in helping our local small businesses. Yesterday, the Mayor launched the [Restaurant and Retail Recovery Plan](#). This plan paves the way for local restaurant and retail shops to gain access to sidewalks, on-street parking stalls and parking lots to expand dining and retail sales areas to meet social distancing requirements.
- **Moving Forward:** The Mayor repeated her encouragement to citizens to wash their hands, wear masks in public, and maintain social distancing. These are the steps that got Spokane to Phase 2, and it is what will allow our community to move forward. We all have to do our part.

What You Need to Know about Post Street Bridge Reconstruction

Reconstruction of the Post Street Bridge is scheduled to begin as early as June 15. We are excited to begin this project, which is the largest single construction project that will start this year. The work will change how our employees—and eventually our visitors—will get to City Hall.

Here's what happens once construction begins:

- 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.

City Hall – When Will It Reopen?

We've gotten some questions in the last few days on when City Hall will reopen for visits from the public. Government buildings are included in Phase 3 of the Safe Start Washington reopening plan, so that opening won't happen until then. Other City public counters in the Public Safety Building, for example, will be on the same schedule.

The state Department of Health has indicated that each phase will last at least 3 weeks, which means Spokane can't enter Phase 3 until at least June 12. Lots of uncertainty remains around a Phase 3 date. The state has not provided any guidance on how counties can move to Phase 3, even the very small counties that moved to Phase 2 before Spokane did.

In the meantime, though, work is underway to prepare City Hall for reopening. Plexiglass dividers are being

installed at public counters, distancing dots are being placed on floors to maintain appropriate social distancing, and an overall building cleaning is being planned prior to reopening. More to come!

Last Chance: #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.

More Information to Assist Our Employees

Here are some more resources from our Employee Assistance Program:

- [How Managers Can Support Organizational Recovery](#)
As the world returns to work following COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, managers are critical to a company's success in the resumption of something like normal operations. It can seem overwhelming, but you've got this!
- [Agoraphobia](#)
Agoraphobia (ag-uh-ruh-FOE-be-uh) is a type of anxiety disorder in which you fear and avoid places or situations that might cause you to panic and make you feel trapped, helpless, or embarrassed. You fear an actual or anticipated situation, such as using public transportation, being in open or enclosed spaces, standing in line, or being in a crowd.

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

